

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM
School of Arts and Humanities
Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

Conversation and Culture (SPA 210-2B)
Fall 2009
Tuesday/Thursday 09:30 a.m.- 10:45 a.m.
HB 429

You can download this syllabus at <http://www.uab.edu/foreignlang/spa-syllabi.html>

Professor: Carlos L. Orihuela, Ph.D.
Office hours: **Tuesday and Thursday**
08:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
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I. TEXTBOOK

Liskin-Gasparro, Judith E., Paloma Lapuerta, Elizabeth Guzmán, and Matilde Olivella de Castells. *Identidades. Exploraciones e interconexiones*. (Second edition). New Jersey: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2005, 1009.

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

The general goals of this course are to acquaint students with everyday spoken Spanish and with Spanish-speaking cultures, as well as to provide opportunities for language practice and cultural awareness. Specific objectives include the following:

- 1 To practice spoken Spanish based on chapter topics and vocabulary.
- 2 To provide opportunities for grammar and vocabulary practice.

- 3 To offer a venue to listen and speak in Spanish.
- 4 To acquaint students with a variety of Hispanic cultures.
- 5 To discuss a variety of chapter topics in Spanish.
- 6 To read Spanish passages based on chapter topics and vocabulary .
- 7 To reinforce theoretical knowledge of Spanish grammar, and to learn its correct use in daily Spanish speech.
- 8 To identify important elements of Spanish-speaking cultures throughout the world.
- 9 To create cultural awareness among students.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, the student will:

- 1 Converse in Spanish about selected information based on chapter topics.
2. Summarize the nature of various cultural phenomena.
- 3 Contrast different Hispanic cultures with one another and with their own.
- 4 Compare different Hispanic cultures with one another and with their own.
- 5 Describe cultural beliefs, traditions, etc.
- 6 Recommend solutions to problems.
- 7 Synthesize relevant cultural data.
- 4 Use Spanish in a variety of contexts outside the classroom.
- 8 Increase speed in spoken Spanish using a variety of oral techniques.
- 9 Connect the study of Spanish w/other disciplines.

IV. CLASSROOM POLICIES

1. Exams are ONLY taken on dates and times indicated on syllabus. Once the exam has started, students will not be allowed to leave the room unless they have finished and turned the exam in.
2. Absences –excused or not- will count against a student’s class participation grade and may also cause points to be deducted from the final grade.
3. The dates of assignments tests, presentations and paper deadlines will be strictly enforced.
4. Any absence due to illness can only be excused with the appropriate medical documentation.
5. Classes begin promptly at hours scheduled. More than ten minutes late to class will be considered one absence, as well as leaving early.
6. There is to be no eating in the classroom.
7. Phones and pagers should be turned off and put away while in class.
8. For better oral production, students will need to refrain from chewing gum in class.

V. THE UAB ACADEMIC HONOR CODE

UAB expects all students to function according to the highest ethical and professional standards. Academic misconduct undermines the purpose of education. Unacceptable behaviors such as abetting, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication and misrepresentation are serious violations of the UAB Academic Honor Code and are punishable by a range of penalties. For more information, please visit the UAB website at <http://www.catalog.uab.edu/UAB-Catalog2004-2006/>

VI. UAB DISABILITY SERVICES

UAB Disability Support Services (DSS) provides a broad array of services and technologies to make the UAB campus—and a UAB education—accessible for everyone. Please visit the UAB DSS website at <http://students.uab.edu/services/>

VII. EVALUATION:

Class preparation and participation	15%
Three written exams	30% (10% each)
Two oral exams	20%
Final oral exam	10%
Oral presentations	15%
Assignments	10%
Total	100%

Grading Scale

A = 100 – 90; **B** = 89 – 80; **C** = 79 – 70; **D** = 69 – 60; **F** = 59 – 0

VIII. ATTENDANCE AND CLASS PARTICIPATION

The University of Alabama at Birmingham recognizes that the academic success of individual students is related to their class attendance and participation. The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures complies with the official UAB Attendance and Excused Absence Policy for Undergraduate Programs and therefore allows, with anticipated proper official documentation, absences due to jury or military duty as well as absences due to participation in specific university-sponsored activities. In addition, the Department has its own Attendance Policy.

Regular attendance is necessary to learn a foreign language. Repeated absences, tardiness, passivity, and silence will definitely be reflected in your course grade. For semester-length classes*, the Attendance Policy of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures is:

Class participation, contribution and actual speaking in the target language is crucial in order to learn a language, therefore class attendance is mandatory. Any absence is going to affect students' class participation and final grade. If under special circumstances, students need to miss classes, the following attendance policy will be applied:

3-days a week classes: 2 % from the FINAL grade is deducted for EACH absence above 4. More than 9 absences will result in an AUTOMATIC "F".

2-days a week classes: 2 % from the FINAL grade is deducted for EACH absence above 3. More than 7 absences will result in an AUTOMATIC "F".

1-day a week classes (seminars): 2 % from the FINAL grade is deducted for EACH absence above 1. More than 3 absences will result in an AUTOMATIC "F".

Example for 3-day classes:

Final grade = 93

6 absences (2 above maximum permitted) = $93 - 4 = 89\%$ final grade

10 absences = F

Example for 2-day classes:

Final grade = 90

6 absences (3 above maximum permitted) = $90 - 6 = 84\%$ final grade

8 absences = F

Example for 1-day classes:

Final grade = 95

2 absences (1 above maximum permitted) = $95 - 2 = 93\%$ final grade

4 absences = F

XIX. UAB EARLY ALERT SYSTEM (EAS)

EAS is designed to help students to succeed academically at UAB. If you receive an email with EAS in the title, please open it, read it and take advantage of the support that UAB offers to all students. UAB is committed to ensuring that students receive academic support and are aware of the resources available that will help assist them in successfully completing their degree program.

CLASS SCHEDULE

DATE	CONTENT
Week 1	
08-18	Introduction to course. Capítulo 1: ¿Quiénes somos y de dónde venimos?.- pp. 2-8.
08-20	Capítulo 1: ¿Quiénes somos y de dónde venimos?.- pp. 9-19
Week 2	
08-25	Capítulo 1: ¿Quiénes somos y de dónde venimos?.- pp. 20-27.
08-27	Prácticas: Hablar y escuchar. -“Los Incas”: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Albw5IEU8AQ -Presentación grupal
Week 3	
09-01	Prácticas: Hablar y escuchar. -“Amigo” de Roberto Carlos: www.youtube.com/watch?v=V_-SWzvxGX4&feature=related -Presentación grupal
09-03	Capítulo 2: Nuestra lengua.- pp. 41-52.
Week 4	
09-08	Capítulo 2: Nuestra lengua.- pp. 53-61.
09-10	Prácticas: Hablar y escuchar -Presentación grupal.

Week 5

09-15 Capítulo 3: Las leyendas y las tradiciones.- pp. 74-93.

09-17 **Written Exam 1**

Week 6

09-22 **Oral Exam 1**

09-24 Capítulo 4: La cultura y el arte.- pp. 108-111

Week 7

09-29 Prácticas: Hablar y escuchar
-“Los mayas”: www.youtube.com/watch?v=9fC5XTDJOns
-Presentación grupal

10-01 Capítulo 4: La cultura y el arte.- pp. 118-124

Week 8

10-06 Capítulo 5: Los deportes y las actividades de ocio.- pp. 142-144

10-08 Prácticas: Hablar y escuchar
-“Es la lluvia que cae” de Los Iracundos:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4OWHW54yPY
-Presentación grupal

Week 9

10-13 Capítulo 5: Los deportes y las actividades de ocio.- pp. 153-159

10-15 **Fall Break**

Week 10

10-20 Prácticas: Hablar y escuchar

-“Las grandes culturas americanas”:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=6J-y19Ba7zw&feature=channel
-Presentación grupal

10-22 Capítulo 6: La comida.- pp. 178-180

Week 11

10-27 **Written Exam 2**

10-29 **Oral exam 2**

Week 12

11-03 Capítulo 6: La comida.- pp. 187-192

11-05 Prácticas: Hablar y escuchar
- “Un mundo mejor” de La Oreja de Van Gogh:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=VmgyDLf10Rg&feature=related
-Presentación Grupal

Week 13

11-10 Capítulo 7: Las relaciones humanas.- pp. 207-211

11-12 Capítulo 7: Las relaciones humanas.- pp. 219-223

Week 14

11-17 Capítulo 7: Las relaciones humanas.- pp. 219-223

11-19 Prácticas: Hablar y escuchar
-“La llegada de Hernán Cortés a México”:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=xHbUbCbu0L4&feature=related
-Presentación grupal

Week 15

11-24 Capítulo 8: “Cambios sociales y políticos”.- pp. 236-238

11-26 **Thanksgiving Holiday**

Week 16

12-01 Repaso.

12-03 **Written exam 3**

Final: **ORAL EXAM** Thursday, December 10, 8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Revised: 8/26/09