

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM
School of Arts and Humanities
Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures
Intermediate Spanish Composition and Conversation
SPA 233-2C: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00-12:15, HB 435
Fall Semester Syllabus 2009

Download syllabus at <http://www.uab.edu/foreignlang/spa-syllabi.html> or **BB VISTA**

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Dept. Contact Info.: UAB Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures,
 see <http://www.uab.edu/foreignlang/>

PREREQUISITE:

OJO: TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THIS COURSE YOU NEED TO SCORE A MINIMUM OF 350
 POINTS ON THE WEBCAPE EXAM (SPANISH). SEND ME YOUR SCORE ON THE FIRST DAY OF
 CLASS TO VERIFY YOUR PROPER PLACEMENT.

<http://www.uab.edu/foreignlang/placement.html>

I. COURSE MATERIALS

The instructor will furnish most course materials to students. We will use selections from the instructor's co-authored text book *Redacción y Revisión* (RR). There will be miscellaneous handouts. We will also use selections from my in progress co-authored textbook *Nexos Intermedie* (NI). Thank you for being in the pilot or test group for some of these materials in manuscript form. I welcome your feedback on these materials. You won't have to purchase a traditional textbook for our class! I strongly encourage you to purchase a notebook or binder in which you can organize these ad hoc materials.

Copias repartidas en clase o en BB Vista y un buen diccionario bilingüe/501 Spanish Verbs.

ON-LINE RESOURCES:

General Review: <http://www.studyspanish.com/studyspanish.com>

Diccionario de la Real Academia Española: <http://www.rae.es>

Word Reference: <http://www.wordreference.com>

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Course Description

This intermediate composition and conversation course will develop Spanish literacy skills through the process approach to writing and oral practice (discussions and debates). You will be expected to search for data/information on related topics to consider and analyze critically. We will focus on the Spanish-speaking world in a global context.

Expect to:

- discuss a variety of topics in groups, as a class, and individually with the professor.
- write about a variety of topics individually.
- research topics on the Internet outside of class.
- extend topics to your own personal experiences.
- develop written work in draft stages.
- peer-review written work and work collaboratively on a regular basis.
- present written work to peers formally and informally.
- refine, review and expand syntax and vocabulary.
- apply featured grammatical structures and vocabulary.
- respond to other relevant points of view on topics.
- analyze and think critically about topics and defend your assertions.

This course addresses the goal areas of the *National Standards for Foreign Language Learning*¹ -- Communication, Cultures, Comparisons, Connections and Communities.

Course Goals/Objectives

- To provide a communicative forum for improvement in speaking Spanish.
- To provide a communicative forum for improvement in writing Spanish.
- To improve formal academic writing and speaking by elaborating convincing arguments to an audience based on research and analysis.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Primary Outcomes

- write and speak with increased proficiency at the intermediate level²

¹ *Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the 21st Century*. Yonkers, NY: Standards for Foreign Language Education Project, 1999.

² The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages defines the intermediate level for speaking, see <http://www.actfl.org/files/public/Guidelinespeak.pdf> and for writing, see <http://www.actfl.org/files/public/writingguidelines.pdf>.

- apply grammatical/linguistic knowledge when using productive skills at the intermediate level
- recognize grammatical/linguistic structures when using passive skills at the intermediate level
- write a well-organized and argued academic composition in Spanish at the intermediate level

Secondary Outcomes

- increase knowledge of Spanish-speaking cultures
- make connections between Spanish and other disciplines
- compare Spanish-speaking cultures with non-Spanish-speaking cultures
- participate in Spanish-speaking communities at UAB beyond the classroom

Experiential Learning

Improving your spoken Spanish requires more oral practice than you can get during regular class meetings. To complete this course component, you will need to attend a minimum of **two** cultural events related to Spanish during the semester. Attend either **eight** meetings of Spanish Table or participate regularly in a Language Partner program or similar volunteer Spanish-speaking opportunity for eight sessions/hours or the equivalent outside of class. Please do this independently and keep a log of events in Spanish of the sessions and/or meetings in that document all **ten** activities. You must also state clearly what you learned from each outside experience. Ask the instructor if you need help finding/participating activities. There are many options listed on the department calendar on our website. Hand-in your formal write up of this course component on Dec. 1, 2009.

Consult: <http://www.uab.edu/foreignlang/>, click "Event Calendar".

SOME CULTURAL EVENT OPTIONS:

Preferred Event #1: Exhibit curator George D. Greenia will present a free, public lecture on the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela at **5:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24** in the UAB Hulsey Recital Hall. A free, public reception featuring Spanish wine and food will be held in the UAB Visual Arts Gallery at 7 p.m.

Greenia, a professor of modern languages at the College of William and Mary, has bicycled some 2,000 miles and walked another 1,500 on the pilgrimage trails of Europe. He helped found the national "Gathering of Pilgrims," which is held annually at sites throughout the United States and Canada. In 2007, King Juan Carlos awarded Greenia the Cross of Isabel the Catholic, Spain's highest honor for the interpretation and promotion of Spanish culture in other countries.

Preferred Event #2: Greenia also will speak in Spanish at the Hispanic Family Day celebration, a free, public event co-sponsored by the UAB Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures and the UAB Visual Arts Gallery. The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Saturday, Sept. 26** on the patio in front of the UAB Visual Arts Gallery. Greenia will speak at **12:30 p.m.** Latin American cuisine will be served, and the "Sacred Steps" exhibit will be open for viewing.

Other Options:

- **Films:** <http://www.uab.edu/foreignlang/Foreign-Film-Series-2009-10.html>; see Spanish Films scheduled Sept. 1 and Oct. 27
- **Please discuss other options with instructor.**

A WORD ABOUT WORKLOAD

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT ON DAYS THAT DRAFTS OF COMPOSITIONS ARE DUE, YOUR HOMEWORK LOAD WILL BE **MUCH HEAVIER** THAN OTHER DAYS AND PLAN ACCORDING.

IV. ATTENDANCE, CLASS PARTICIPATION AND CLASSROOM POLICIES

Active class participation, contribution and speaking in the target language is crucial in order to improve your language skills to support literary analysis and improved reading ability, therefore class attendance is mandatory. **Any absence is going to impact students' class participation and final grade. More than ten minutes late to class will be considered one absence as well as leaving early.** If under special circumstances, students need to miss classes, the following attendance policy will be applied: Students are allowed **3** absences during the semester. For EACH absence over 3, 2% is deducted from the FINAL grade. More than 9 absences will result in an AUTOMATIC "F".

Example:

Final grade = 90

5 absences (2 above maximum permitted) = $90 - 4 = 86\%$ final grade

9 absences = F

For additional information about departmental attendance policy, see:

<http://www.uab.edu/foreignlang/pdf/Attendance%20Policy.pdf>.

DUE TO H1N1, PLEASE CHECK THIS SITE AND BB VISTA FOR OUR COURSE WITH REGULARITY:

<http://www.healthsafe.uab.edu/pages/flu.html>.

V. 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 students.

VI. CLASS PREPARATION AND PARTICIPATION

You are graded on the following factors DAILY:

- being well-prepared for the class

- all HOMEWORK MUST BE WRITTEN BEFORE class
- making positive contributions to the class; alertness and positive attitude
- regular use of new vocabulary; using vocabulary from topics and chapters
- volunteering to answer and ask questions; always using Spanish in the classroom

VII. CLASSROOM POLICIES

1. All assignments are due on the designated date at the beginning of the class period. No credit will be given for homework turned in late.
2. There will **NO MAKE-UPS** for presentations or oral exams. Not showing up on those dates will result in an F for that particular assignment.
3. Classes begin promptly at hours scheduled. More than ten minutes late to class will be considered one absence, as well as leaving early. **NO** special accommodations will be made for latecomers.
4. Phones and pagers must be **turned off and put away** while in class.
5. Laptop computers may be used **only to facilitate in-class work**.

VIII. 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://main.uab.edu/Sites/undergraduate-programs/general-studies/academic-success/university101/33896/>.

IX. 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/>.

X. GRADING

3 Written Essays (drafts and final; @ 10% each)	30%
2 Oral Exams (@ 10 each)	20%
2 Written Quizzes (Grammar and Vocabulary @ 5% each)	10%
2 Oral Presentations (Power Point Presentations @ 2.5% each)	5%
Written Homework (in-class written activities, disc. forum, etc.)	10%
Oral Participation (in-class conv., lead, listen, debate, etc.)	10%
Experiential Learning (supplemental oral/cultural exposure)	5%

100%

[Subtract Unexcused Absences]

Total **100%**

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

XII. ADDITIONAL COURSE/GRADING INFORMATION

BB VISTA, PROTOCOLS AND DISCUSSION BOARD (FORO DE DISCUSIÓN)

All students must use BB VISTA to access course materials. Please enter and check BB VISTA site several times weekly. The class discussion board is mandatory weekly. The purpose of the discussion board is to exchange ideas on days that we do not meet face to face throughout the course. Many topics for oral debate and composition will require additional research and information to be able to explore and discuss them fully. Please post comments/questions and information that you believe is relevant. The instructor will suggest topics and pose questions as well. Students are expected to research topics on the Internet, offer summary and analysis of this information, raise questions and think critically about how these topics relate to the course content in general. Your active participation in the *foro* will be part of your "written homework" grade. Communicating in Spanish is preferred, but English may be used for clarification purposes.

Students must participate in class Discussion Board (minimum 2 posts per week).

C A L E N D A R I O³

Fecha	En clase	Tarea
martes 18 agosto	Intro. al curso ¡A concocernos!	WEBCAPE/Student Profile RR: Capítulo 1 y prácticas 1.1 & 1.2
jueves 20 agosto	RR: Capítulo 1 Empezar RR: Capítulo 2	RR: Capítulo 2 y prácticas 2.10, 2.11, 2.12 & 2.15 Conv. Problema III
martes 25 agosto	RR: Capítulo 2 Conv. Problema III	RR: Capítulo 3 y prácticas 3.3, 3.6 & Composición A - Actividades A, B, C, D, E, F (only)
jueves 27 agosto	RR: Capítulo 3 RR: Composición A - La cena (Actividades)	RR: Composición I - La cena, Primer borrador Conv: Problema IV

³ Please note that assignments and assessments from late October will be provided by late September when NI *Capítulo 2* is fully drafted.

martes 1 septiembre	Composición I (taller) Conv. Problema IV	RR: Capítulo 4 y prácticas 4.2, 4.3, 4.5, 4.8, 4.16 Conv. Problema V
jueves 3 septiembre	RR: Capítulo 4 Conv. Problema V [Devolver Comp. I]	RR: Capítulo 5 y prácticas 5.2, 5.3 Conv. Problema X Segundo borrador (Comp. I)
martes 8 septiembre	Capítulo 5 Conv. Problema X Composición I (taller)	RR: Capítulos 6 y 7; prácticas 6.3, 6.5, 6.8, 7.6 Conv. Problema XVI
jueves 10 septiembre	RR: Capítulo 6 y 7 Conv. Problema XVI [Devolver Comp. I]	Borrador final (Comp. I) Conv. Problema XVII
martes 15 septiembre	Conv. Problema XVII Borrador final (Comp. I)	NI: Perspectivas internacionales, págs. 60- 64; Actividades
jueves 17 septiembre	NI: Perspectivas internacionales, págs. 60-64	NI: Investigar: págs. 64-66; Actividades
martes 22 septiembre	NI: págs. 64-66	NI: Composición II , págs. 64, 66; La educación global - Primer borrador
jueves 24 septiembre	Composición II (taller) La educación global	Repasar: Examen Oral
martes 29 septiembre	Examen Oral [en parejas] [Devolver Comp. II]	NI: págs. 1-12; Actividades
jueves 1 octubre	NI: págs. 1-12	NI: págs 13-23; Actividades Segundo borrador (taller)
martes 6 octubre	Composición II (taller) NI: págs. 13-23	NI: págs. 24-30; Actividades

jueves 8 octubre	NI: págs. 24-30 [Devolver Comp. II]	Borrador final (Comp. II) Preparar: Presentación Oral (PP 1)
martes 13 octubre	Presentación Oral (PP 1) Entregar Borrador final (Comp. II)	NI: págs. 31-46; Actividades
jueves 15 octubre	UAB Fall Break	UAB Fall Break
martes 20 octubre	NI: págs. 31-46	Repasar: NI: págs. 1-46; Prueba I
jueves 22 octubre	Prueba I	
martes 27 octubre	tba	
jueves 29 octubre	tba	
martes 3 noviembre	tba	
jueves 5 noviembre	tba	
martes 10 noviembre	tba	
jueves 12 noviembre	tba	

martes 17 noviembre	tba	
jueves 19 noviembre	tba	
martes 24 noviembre	tba	
martes 1 diciembre	Entregar documentación para la práctica oral/cultural fuera de clase	
jueves 3 diciembre	tba	

EXAMEN FINAL: martes, 8 diciembre, 10:45-1:15; EXAMEN ORAL II