

The University of Alabama at Birmingham
School of Arts and Humanities
Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures
Tuesdays and Thursdays 5:30 - 6:45pm, HB 429
SPA 300-4B, ADVANCED GRAMMAR AND COMPOSITION, Fall 2009 Syllabus

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Dept. of Foreign Languages & Literatures Office: HB 407 Phone: (205) 934-5652 Email: foreignlang@uab.edu www.uab.edu/foreignlang	Foreign Language Media Services (FLMS) Where: HB 412 Phone: (205) 934-6035 On the web at: www.uab.edu/foreignlang/flmsite

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

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to prepare advanced undergraduate and graduate Spanish students to acquire advanced compositional skills in Spanish. The course will focus on some grammar aspects in which students, even at the most advanced level, find difficulties. The explanation of the grammar will be comprehensive, so that students can understand their own mistakes by analyzing their writing production.

TEXT: Dominicus, M.C.&Reynolds, J. *Repase y escriba*. Fifth edition (Textbook)

COURSE OBJETIVES

- To provide tools for a better understanding of Spanish grammar and its appropriate usage, especially when writing a composition.
- To enrich student’s composition through meaningful practice.
- To give students the opportunity to learn more about Hispanic culture through the readings that appear in the book.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Show an appropriate level of competence in grammar and its usage.
- Write compositions that incorporate relevant external sources, demonstrating academic integrity.
- Write accurately with respect to orthography, punctuation and the principal rules of writing: description, narration, dialogue, news...
- Enrich vocabulary through readings in each chapter.
- Understand and contrast Spanish-speaking cultures with the American culture.
- Recognize the importance of literature in learning about Spanish-speaking world cultures.

PROCEDURES

Students should complete the follow assignments:

- **Composition.** Each student will complete two compositions in Spanish, 1 page each. The first one will be related to one of the “Temas de Composición” listed at the end of each chapter. The second one will be a synopsis of a Spanish movie. The submission day will be provided during class. The compositions must be typed. No handwritten compositions will be accepted. Required format:
 - a. Margins: 1 inch
 - b. Font: Times New Roman
 - c. Size: 12
 - d. Double space
 - e. ONE page, one side

- **Group presentation. *Developing Oral Texts: El telediario.*** In groups of four, students will present a newscast. This news cast should include news (local and international) sports and weather. Groups must be creative and design a news program as “realworld” as possible. You can use maps, photos and other aids. Students will receive grade by:
 1. Fluency
 2. Accuracy
 3. Organization
 4. Imagination and creativity

EXAMS

You will take three exams during the semester, and one final exam. They will test your knowledge of the grammar and vocabulary studied during the semester, as well as your reading/comprehension skills. The dates of the two partials and the final exam are stated in the Schedule section of this syllabus.

DAILY ASSIGNMNETS

There will be daily assignments related to the material covered in class and/or included in the textbook. Most of them will have to be submitted through Blackboard. Students should bring a hard copy to class, where the assignments will be corrected. The evaluation of these assignments will be based on completion (submission of complete assignment= 100; no submission or incomplete = 0). The assignments will be posted on Blackboard in advance, and access to them will be automatically blocked at the beginning of the class period where they should be submitted. These assignments cannot be excused, and there is no make-up for them.

ATTENDENCE 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

CULTURAL EVENTS

Students must attend **two** cultural events. Students will sign in at the end of the event on the forms that will be provided. If you attend a cultural event in the community you must bring a one-page composition explaining the event. In any case, you must log your events in Blackboard. You can find an updated list of event at the Department Calendar. To access the calendar, go to www.uab.edu/foreignlang, and select the "Event Calendar" link.

Activities sponsored by the department of foreign languages and literatures (inter alia):

Students can gain extra practice and cultural learning by participating in the following activities:

El Club de Español: Join *el club de español* and participate in the activities that they offer. For a monthly schedule and more information visit the website at www.uab.edu/foreignlang/spanish

Foreign Language Film Series: A series of foreign movies with English subtitles is offered by the Department every semester (free admission). For the film schedule visit www.uab.edu/foreignlang/films.html

Tertulias: Schedule will be provided

Lectures and presentations: The Department usually sponsors two or three visiting scholars or cultural events during the semester. To find out when these events will occur, visit the Department's website www.uab.edu/foreignlang or notice the flyers on the fourth floor of the Humanities Building.

EVALUATION

The grading system will be as follows:

Final exam	10%
Partial exams (3)	30% (10*3)
Chapter composition (2 times)	20% (10*2)
“Telediarario”	20%
Daily Assignments	10%
Participation (attendance, class participation, etc.)	5%
Cultural events	5%
Total	100%

Grade scale

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

ATTENDANCE POLICY

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”.

The dates of assignments, tests, presentations and paper deadlines will be strictly enforced.

Any absence due to illness can only be excused with the appropriate medical documentation. For questions see the UAB Attendance and Excused Absence Policy for Undergraduate Programs:

http://www.app.uab.edu/policy_change.asp#Attendance%20and%20Excused%20Absence%20Policy

CLASS POLICIES

- First week of class you must take the placement test in the Foreign Language Media Services Lab. If you do your placement test from a different place than FLMS you should print your record and give to the teacher the next day.
- Exams must be taken on dates and at time indicated on syllabus.
- No test make-ups and late assignments will be accepted.
- No cell phones
- Important dates:
 - August 18th: Classes begin
 - August 25th: last day to drop/add the course
 - September 7th: Labor day
 - October 14th: last day to withdraw
 - October 15 – 18: Fall Break
 - November 25th: No classes held
 - November 26th – 29th: Thanksgiving holiday
 - December 3rd: Last day of the class
 - December 4th: Weather make- up
 - December 10th: Final exam (4:15 PM – 6:45 PM)

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 web site at <http://www.catalog.uab.edu/UAB-catalog2004-2006>

UAB DISABILITY SERVICES

UAB is committed to making academic programs and services accessible to students with disabilities. Qualified students with disabilities are protected from discrimination based on their disability, as guaranteed by the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. For more information, please visit: <http://www.students.uab.edu/services/>

SCHEDULE¹

Week	Dates	Material covered, Assignments/Examinations/ Holidays
1	Aug. 18	Course Introduction; Chapter 1
	Aug. 20	Chapter 1
2	Aug. 25	Chapter 1
	Aug. 27	Chapter 1; Chapter composition: List of Comp submission
3	Sept. 1	Chapter 2
	Sept. 3	Chapter 2
4	Sept. 8	Chapter 2
	Sept. 10	Chapter 2; Chapter composition
5	Sept. 16	Chapter 3
	Sept. 17	Chapter 3
6	Sept. 22	Chapter 3
	Sept. 24	Chapter 3; Chapter composition; Examen 1
7	Sept. 29	Chapter 4
	Oct. 1	Chapter 4
8	Oct. 6	Chapter 4
	Oct. 8	Chapter 4; Chapter composition
9	Oct. 13	Chapter 5
	Oct. 15	Fall Break
10	Oct. 20	Chapter 5
	!Oct. 22	Chapter 5: Examen 2
11	Oct. 27	Chapter 5; Chapter composition
	Oct. 29	Chapter 6
12	!Nov. 3	Chapter 6: Movie and Composition
	!Nov. 5	Chapter 6: Movie and Composition
13	Nov. 10	Chapter 6
	Nov. 12	Chapter 6
14	Nov. 17	Chapter 6; Chapter composition; Examen 3
	Nov. 19	Chapter 7
15	Nov. 24	Chapter 7
	Nov. 26	No Class; Thanksgiving Holidays
16	Dec. 1	Chapter 7
	Dec. 3 th	Chapter 7; Review
	Dec. 4	No class. Weather make-up day (if needed)
Final	Dec. 10th	Final Exam: 4:15pm – 6:45 pm²

¹ This calendar is subject to change at instructor's discretion

² This date is university-assigned final exam date/time for this course. Per university policy students may not take more than 2 final exams in one day, please consult your calendar and advise Dr. Mayoral if this policy affects you.