

**Department of Modern Languages
The University of Texas-Pan American**

SPANISH 1303.01

Beginning Spanish for Native Speakers

Fall 2012

TT: 1:10-2:25 pm

EC 2.222

Professor

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Office Hours: TTh.: 12:00 – 1:00 pm., and Th 6:00-7:00 pm, and by appt.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

SPAN 1303 is a course designed for students who have a previous knowledge of Spanish or/and who have learned the language in the home environment.

The CB objectives for communication are:

- 1) To understand and demonstrate writing and speaking processes through invention, organization, drafting, revision, editing, and presentation.
- 2) To understand the importance of specifying audience and purpose and to select appropriate communication choices.
- 3) To understand and appropriately apply models of expression, i. e., descriptive, expositive, narrative, scientific, and self/expressive, in written, visual, and oral communication.
- 4) To participate effectively in groups with emphasis on listening, critical and reflective thinking, and responding.
- 5) To understand and apply basic principles of critical thinking, problem solving, and technical proficiency in the development of exposition and argument.
- 6) To develop the ability to research and write a documented paper and/or to give an oral presentation. problem solving, and technical proficiency in the development of exposition and argument.

SPAN 1303 contributes to those objectives through its particular goals:

All four skills, listening, speaking, reading, and writing will be developed through the class and out of class activities and assignments. The students will also learn more about their Spanish language through literary readings and discussions on different topics. Literary material by Spanish and Latin American authors will also be used to contextualize the use and mastering of language in this course. Grammar contents will include: verbs, types of words, introduction to syntax, etc.

MATERIAL AND EXERCISES COVERED IN THIS CLASS

- 1) Readings of Spanish and Latin American classical writers: short stories, poems (basic level).
- 2) Notes and practical exercises to improve grammar knowledge and grammar command, grammatical concepts, orthography, morphology, syntax, accents, types of words, analysis of simple sentences, etc.).
- 3) Practical exercises to improve Spanish writing (dictations, short essays, etc.).

4) Practical exercises to enrich student's Spanish vocabulary.

CALENDAR

The lectures and exercises for each meeting will be developed and announced according to the progress of the class, but the usual distribution of the theoretical contents of this course is as follows:

1st. partial exam: accents, verbs, readings

2nd. Partial exam: types of words, syntax of simple sentences, readings

TEXTBOOKS AND READINGS:

Recommended: *¡Ahora sí! Expresión comunicativa para hispanohablantes*, by Blanco, Contreras and Márquez (Boston, McGraw Hill, 2005).

We will also be using some literary material from the internet or other sources such as my webpage for this course. Readings, lectures, exercises and assignments will be given and explained on day-to-day bases, addressing both the needs of the class at that time, and the objectives for the course.

Mandatory reading: Each student must read and write a short essay on one of the two books listed below. These books are available online, in UTPA and Valley public libraries, or can be purchased through internet bookstores such as Amazon, Abebooks, etc. The details of this essay will be discussed and explained in class.

Horacio Quiroga: *Cuentos de la selva*

Carmen Martín Gaité: *Caperucita en Manhattan*

Other similar books can be accepted, as long as they are approved by the instructor.

Internet Resources for the Course:

Instructor's webpage: <http://www.utpa.edu/faculty/jmmartinez/index.htm> (Google keywords: jmmartinez utpa)

Instructor's blog: "Viaje al Parnaso" <http://viparnaso.blogspot.com/> (Google keywords: viaje parnaso blog)

Blackboard: SPAN 1303.01

More details on how these resources will be used, will be giving during as the semester progress.

EXAMS

We will have two partial exams and one final. Their tentative dates are October 9 (1st partial), November 29 (2nd partial). These exams will combine questions from all material explained in class: grammar, readings, etc. The final exam will be comprehensive. Students with an average grade of A in the two partial exams are exempted from the final exam.

GRADES:

Exam		70 puntos			
Essay		15 points			
Class participation		15 points			
Total		100 puntos			
A: 100-90 points	B: 89-80 points	C: 79-70 points	D: 69-60 points	F: 59-0 points	

ATTENDANCE and CLASS PARTICIPATION

Students are expected to be present at all class meetings. Active participation in class is also expected, and be graded accordingly. Only documented absences for a serious reason are accepted. Two tardies constitute one absence. Unjustified absences will affect student's grade.

REMARKS

- a) As a deference to the others, students are expected to be punctual for every class, and to ask for permission if they need to leave the class early. To avoid disruptions, once the student leaves the classroom he/she will not allowed to reenter.
- b) It is entirely each student's responsibility to learn the subject covered during his/her absence, as well as the exact date and time of each examination.
- c) The use of cellular phones is completely prohibited. Students infringing this norm will be sanctioned. After two sanctions they will be drop out of the class.
- d) The use of netbooks and laptops is allowed, as long as they are solely used to take notes or for assignments directly related to the class of that day. Students bringing these devices may be asked to seat in the front rows.
- f) In accordance with the new university policy, all email communication between the University and students will be conducted through the students' official University supplied BroncMail account.

Note for persons with disability (ies): Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the Disability Services office for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Texas-Pan American to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, students must be registered with the Disability Services office (DS), University Center #108, 665-7005 or disabilityservices@utpa.edu.