

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES**  
Western University

**ADVANCED SPANISH LANGUAGE 3300**

Fall /Winter 2017-2018



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**Prerequisite:** Spanish 2200, 2200W/X or 2223 with a minimum standing of 60% or permission of the Department.

**Antirequisite:** Spanish 3301E

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The aim of this course is to build on skills learned in Spanish 2200 to improve the student's competency in oral and written Spanish with special attention to communication skills. Students should also further a cultural awareness of the Hispanic world. Through structured and carefully monitored individual, group, and class work, students achieve enduring language growth and meaningful acculturation.

At this advanced level, students will review and expand the basic structures of Spanish with special emphasis on more difficult grammatical aspects, develop more formal vocabulary, and improve both oral and written skills further. Students will broaden their understanding of several aspects of Hispanic culture via movies and written texts. Four key components that will assist students to attain these goals are grammar, vocabulary, language awareness, and practice/participation.

**Classes are conducted completely in Spanish.**

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.bowdoin.edu/~eyepes/newgr/mapa.htm>

**OBJECTIVES**

- to understand the main ideas of complex texts that deal with both concrete and abstract topics
- to relate to native speakers with enough fluency and ease so that communication takes place effortlessly on the part of both speakers
- to produce clear, detailed texts on different topics, as well as to defend one's point of view on general topics, indicating the pros and cons of the different options
- to develop intercultural competence and cultural understanding of the Hispanic World

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon completing this course you should be able to:

- demonstrate understanding of extensive oral conversation and television programs and movies without much effort
- interpret long and complex texts, specialized articles and long technical instructions
- express yourself fluently and spontaneously, use the language efficiently and with flexibility, and formulate ideas and opinions precisely
- present clear and detailed descriptions about complex topics.
- produce clear and well structured pieces of writing (compositions, reports, etc.) about complex topics selecting the appropriate style depending on both, the context and the audience
- demonstrate a relatively high grammar control in order to avoid mistakes that create communicative misunderstandings
- make use of an extensive lexical repertoire, idioms and colloquial expressions both in oral and in written texts
- identify and navigate similarities and differences between your culture and Hispanic worldviews.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS****A Handbook of Contemporary Spanish Grammar, 2nd edition**

Ana Beatriz Chiquito

Editorial Vista Higher Learning (2017)

**Please note:** you will also need to purchase access to the online component. Book and access to the online component can be purchased as a package at Western Bookstore. Make sure you buy the 2nd edition of the textbook and the online component.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGED LEARNING (CEL)

CEL is optional in this course, although we strongly recommend all students in the course to do one of the CEL options offered.

**Community Engaged Learning** aims to connect the classroom with the community in a way that is mutually beneficial to all participants: students, faculty and community partners. The community can contribute in multiple and meaningful ways to student learning objectives. In addition, Western students can contribute knowledge and skills toward developing sustainable solutions for community-identified needs (for more information go to <http://success.uwo.ca/experience/curricular/index.html>).

### Community Engaged Learning Objectives

- To understand the socio-cultural setting of the Hispanic community
- To practice what you are learning in class in a real life situation
- To establish friendly relations with members of the Hispanic community.
- To identify similarities and differences between Canadian and Hispanic cultures

There are two options available for CEL: London based-CEL and Cuba based-CEL. **Students who choose the Community Service Learning option must commit to it until the end of the course.** Students will have until October 15th to leave the CEL program. After this date, the student will lose 15% of the total grade for the course and will have to complete the activities (assignments, tests, etc.) of the regular stream. See the CEL grading breakdown below (Evaluation).

Note: There will be an orientation session during the first week of classes to explain CEL in detail.

## EVALUATION

ALL PROGRAMS		OPTION 1 Regular Prog		OPTION 2 CSL London		OPTION 3 CSL Cuba	
Particip & Progr	8%						
Homework	10%						
Research Particip	1%						
Lecturas	10%						
4 Test (4x6%)	24%						
		2 Compositions	10%	Reflections (3x4%)	12%	Reflections (2x3%)	6%
		Group Project 1	7%	Community hours & Participation	5%	Daily Trip Blog	6%
		Group Project 2	8%	Oral Presentations	8%	Oral Presentations Participation	8%
Final exam	22%						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>Regular Progr</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>CSL London</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>CSL Cuba</b>	<b>25%</b>

**CLASS MANAGEMENT**

**Important:** students must attend all evaluations unless exceptional circumstances exist (medical reasons only).

**THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP ASSESSMENTS**

If a student misses an assessment and academic consideration is granted, the percentage of the assessment missed will be added to the next assessment percentage of that type. If there are no more assessments, the percentage will be added to the final exam percentage. For example, if a student in the regular program misses the first composition, which would be a 5% of the course, and is granted academic consideration, the second composition is then worth 10%. If, instead, the second composition is missed, and because there are no more assessments of the composition (i.e. there is no third composition), the 5% corresponding to the second composition is assigned to the final exam, which would, in this case, be worth 27%.

**Participation & Progress (8%):**

Students are expected to come to class regularly and attendance will be strictly monitored. Active participation in class is essential to this course. Grades are not given for mere attendance but for your participation, your contribution to the class, and for showing progress. All absences will affect the participation grade.

- **Students with more than 3 absences per semester without academic consideration will get 0 on the participation grade for that semester (4%).**
- Students must be ready in their seats before the class starts and stay until the end of the class. Arriving late disrupts the class, as well as leaving early. If a student arrives late or leaves early three times, that will be counted as an absence.
- Please advise your instructor in cases of unavoidable absence, and contact your Home Faculty Academic Counsellor for academic consideration. Without academic consideration, your Attendance grade will be affected.
- In case of illness, you should bring with you to your medical appointment the Student Medical Certificate (SMC) that can be found in the Student Center Page.

Please be aware of the following university regulation: “Because attendance is so important in language courses, **any student who, in the opinion of the course coordinator, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course (see UWO Academic Calendar)**”.

For a complete and detailed academic policy, please check our Department Academic Policy: <http://www.uwo.ca/modlang/undergraduate/policies.html>

**Participation** is graded on a scale from 0 (lowest) through 4 (highest), using the criteria below. The criteria focus on what you demonstrate, and do not presume to guess at what you know but do not demonstrate. This is because what you offer to the class is what you and others learn from.

Grade	Criteria
0	- Absent

	- PERFECT attendance, never being disruptive or late, and silence
1	- Present, never being disruptive or late - Tries to respond when called on but does not offer much - Demonstrate very infrequent involvement in the class
2	- Demonstrates adequate preparation: knows basics - Contributes to a moderate degree when called on - Demonstrates sporadic involvement
3	- Demonstrates good preparation: knows the topic and has prepare for it - Contributes well to class discussion in an ongoing way: responds to other students' points, thinks through own points, questions others in a constructive way, offers and supports suggestions - Demonstrates consistent ongoing involvement
4	- Demonstrates excellent preparation: has prepare the topic exceptionally well - Contributes in a very significant way to ongoing discussion: responds very thoughtfully to other students' comments, contributes to the cooperative argument-building, suggests alternative ways of approaching material and helps class analyse which approaches are appropriate etc. - Demonstrates ongoing very active involvement

(adapted from Maznevski, 1996)

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### **Homework (10%):**

Regular completion of homework is expected every week. A list of daily homework will be provided at the beginning of each semester. Most of the homework will be done online “Supersite” (online platform that accompanies your textbook).

### **Tarea Final (18%):**

You will prepare 3 Final Tasks per semester. A task is a classroom activity that requires interaction among participants focusing on the use of authentic language through meaningful activities, and encouraging relevant communication. Your instructor will give you detailed information about all the Tareas Finales at the beginning of each semester.

### **Research Participation (1%):**

During the academic year, you will have the opportunity to participate in different study research projects that aim to get a better understanding of Language Learning and Teaching in Higher education. By participating in these studies, you will receive 1%. Students that do not

wish to participate in these research projects will read a text and complete a quiz about it. The grade of that reading quiz will be the one counting for that 1%.

### **Lecturas (10%):**

Students will have to read weekly short readings along the year. There will be two readings per semester that will count towards their final grade. Each reading will be worth 2.5% of the final grade of the course. All the weekly readings will be available on OWL.

### **Tests (24%):**

There are 4 in-class tests in the year. Tests will focus on the most recent covered material but they are cumulative, which means material from past lessons can be tested. All students have to write the four tests. Students who miss a test without a valid reason (academic consideration is needed), will receive a 0, which will count towards the final grade.

### **Compositions (10%) - for regular program:**

There will be 2 at-home compositions. Students doing Community Engaged Learning will not have to write compositions; they will write blog posts instead (please refer to CEL guidelines on OWL). Compositions and blogs are corrected by the instructor, who will simply indicate where an error has been committed. Students must correct the errors in the compositions or blogs, and the composition or blog must be recopied and re-submitted to the instructor, within a week. If a student doesn't resubmit the composition or the blog corrected, or does not work in improving his or her first draft, the composition or blog grade will decrease between 0%-20%. The instructor will determine the percentage in each individual case.

### **Project 1 (7%) - for regular program:**

There will be 2 group oral presentations in the form of a video, one per semester. The subject will be announced at the beginning of each semester. Each group will work together during the course, and a sense of cooperation and responsibility is essential. The oral presentations must include the vocabulary and the grammar learned in class. Students cannot read in the presentation; they are expected to talk naturally. If a student reads, she or he will receive a 0. Students in Community Service Learning will have to do oral presentations related to their placement in the community. Also, students in CSL will have a different percentage for their oral presentations; please see Evaluation.

### **Group project 2 (8%) - for regular program:**

There will be 1 group project in the course, only for those students in the regular program. Groups will be organized and the type of project will be decided with your instructor. Each group will work together during the course, and a sense of cooperation and responsibility is essential. Each group, together with their instructor, will decide a day during the second semester to present the project in class. That day cannot be after the deadline for project presentations established on the Course Plan.

### **Final Exam (22%):**

There will be a written final exam in the April 2017 exam period. This exam is cumulative and will include everything studied on the course.

**MISSED ASSIGNMENTS or ASSESSMENTS:**

Students must attend all evaluations unless exceptional circumstances exist. If a problem arises, students are expected to contact their instructor before the exam or assignment is due. Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed test, exams, participation components and/or assignments must apply to the Academic Counseling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. The instructor or department cannot grant academic accommodation.

Faculty of Arts and Humanities Medical Accommodation:

[http://uwo.ca/arts/counselling/procedures/medical\\_accomodation.html](http://uwo.ca/arts/counselling/procedures/medical_accomodation.html)

**IMPORTANT:** Documentation is required for either medical or non-medical academic accommodation. Students must submit such documentation directly to the appropriate Faculty Dean's office and not to the instructor. It will be the Dean's office that will determine if accommodation is warranted.

If no official accommodation request is provided to the professor, late assignments will not be accepted and will receive a grade of "0."

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: <http://uwo.ca/ombuds/student/cheating.html>

The **Department of Modern Languages and Literatures Policies** which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Modern Languages and Literatures (MLL) courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of MLL website at:

<http://www.uwo.ca/modlang/undergraduate/policies.html>

It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.

**SDC's Learning Skills Services**, Rm 4100 WSS, [www.sdc.uwo.ca/learning](http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/learning)

LS counsellors are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

**Cell phones, tablets and Laptops in the classroom:**

- The **use of laptops and tablets is not allowed** in the classroom unless specified by the instructor or for valid, documented medical reasons.
- Please remember to always **switch off your cell phone** before entering any classroom, and please, **no texting or cell phone activity** during class. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.
- Using your cell phone, tablet or laptop for purposes other than taking notes will be considered disruptive behaviour and liable for prosecution under the Student Code of Conduct and you could be expelled from class. The instructor reserves the right to disallow the use of cell phones, tablets and laptops in the classroom (except for those under special circumstances with written permission).

**EMAILS:**

A certain email etiquette is expected from your emails. Include a courteous greeting and closing. Make sure that the answer to your questions is not contained in your syllabus. Your emails will be answered as soon as possible (normally, within 24 hours) but allow for a longer time if you email your instructor on the weekend.