



**FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH, ITALIAN AND SPANISH**

**SPAN 321 L01, Contemporary Hispanic Cultures
Fall 2010
Location : EDC 287 Days : MWF 10:00 – 10:50**

INSTRUCTOR 'S NAME and E-MAIL: Ana Val; val@ucalgary.ca
OFFICE LOCATION and HOURS : CHC 312; M & W 14:00 – 15:00 or by appointment
TELEPHONE NUMBER : (402) 220-6738

DESCRIPTION

The aim of this course is to raise learners' level of language proficiency and expand their knowledge of the Hispanic world by integrating language and content instruction.

Spanish 321 will study some of the main current issues in the Hispanic world in their historical, cultural and social context. It will review the most relevant features of each Hispanic country, including its geographical characteristics, recent historical events, economic resources, social traits and artistic achievements.

The course involves extensive reading, comprehension, written activities and active participation. To take full advantage of the course it is essential that students arrive at class properly prepared, having done the tasks assigned for each class.

This course is not a conversation course. However students are expected to participate actively in class discussions. Classes will be conducted in Spanish.

COURSE OUTCOMES

Listening: You'll be able to understand, at least partially, authentic audio and video material posted on the web provided that the expressions and vocabulary used are relatively simple and the regional accent not too pronounced.

Speaking: You'll develop communicative skills so you can narrate and describe cultural events and personal experiences and express your opinions about social customs in a simple way.

Reading: You'll be able to understand main ideas and most details of authentic material written in a relatively simple Spanish by applying reading strategies such as activating background knowledge to make hypotheses, skimming and scanning, using context to guess meaning of unfamiliar words and using the dictionary, among others.

Writing: You'll be able to summarize the main ideas of articles dealing with cultural themes and write analytical/expository short texts.

Culture: You'll become familiar with the most significant traits of Hispanic cultures by learning about the main current issues in the Hispanic world in their historical, cultural and social context and about the most relevant features of each Hispanic country, including its geographical characteristics, recent historical events, economic resources, social traits and artistic achievements.

Prerequisites: Span 203 (with a grade or at least C-) or consent of the Department. Not open to students with credit in 400-level courses.

DISTRIBUTION OF GRADES

Exams (3: 20% + 20% +10%) = 50%
Written Assignments (2: 15% + 15%) = 30 %
Oral Presentation: 10%
Class Performance: 10%
There will be no final examination.

GRADING SCALE

A+ = 100-96 A = 95-91 A- = 90-86 B+ = 85-81 B = 80-76 B- = 75-71

C+ = 70-67 C = 66- 62 C- = 61-58 D+ = 57-54 D = 53-50 F = 49%

The official grading system (A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1) will be applied for the calculation of the final mark

REQUIRED TEXTS

The material for this class will be available on Blackboard.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

A good medium size Spanish-English/English-Spanish dictionary, such as Collins or Larousse.

COURSE NOTES

1. The information on the course outline posted on Blackboard is not binding and can change according to the needs of the class.
2. 5% of the grade will be deducted for each day a written assignment (activity or composition) is late if there is no written document to justify the absence or the failure to complete it.
3. Lack of attendance may adversely affect your overall performance and may have a negative impact on your final grade.
4. The mark for class performance includes attendance and active and positive contribution to classes. The grade for this section will be granted as follows:
 - Student participates regularly and always comes to class well prepared: 100%
 - Generally student participates and comes to class well prepared: 80%
 - Sometimes student participates and comes to class prepared: 70%
 - Student seldom participates or comes to class well prepared: 50%
 - Student never participates or comes to class prepared: 0%Well prepared means that, before coming to class, the student has done the homework assigned by the instructor (which can include learning some vocabulary, reading and preparing specific texts, completing certain activities) so he/she can participate intelligently during class period.
5. The Department's drop-box, located in the foyer area of the third floor in Craigie Hall between blocks D and C, is available for depositing assignments and course work. The material placed in the drop-box will be collected and date-stamped at the beginning and at the end of the working day.

Aula Virtual de Español (AVE)

The Department of French, Italian and Spanish has purchased a license to the Aula Virtual de Español (AVE), Spanish online learning materials developed by the Instituto Cervantes. This great resource is available to students for free during the semester on the Internet at: <http://ave2.cvc.cervantes.es> (User: spanuofc, Password: 772686).

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

1. **Plagiarism** is a serious offence, the penalty for which is an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. Plagiarism exists when:
 - a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test);
 - b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;
 - c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or
 - d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted."

Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

2. **Cheating** at tests or examinations includes but is not limited to dishonest or attempted dishonest conduct such as speaking to other candidates or communicating with them under any circumstances whatsoever; bringing into the examination room any textbook, notebook, memorandum, other written material or mechanical or electronic device not authorized by the examiner; writing an examination or part of it, or consulting any person or materials outside the confines of the examination room without permission to do so, or leaving answer papers exposed to view, or persistent attempts to read other students' examination papers.
3. **Other academic misconduct** includes, but is not limited to, tampering or attempts to tamper with

examination scripts, class work, grades and/or class records; failure to abide by directions by an instructor regarding the individuality of work handed in; the acquisition, attempted acquisition, possession, and/or distribution of examination materials or information not authorized by the instructor; the impersonation of another student in an examination or other class assignment; the falsification or fabrication of clinical or laboratory reports; the non-authorized tape recording of lectures.

4. Any student who voluntarily and consciously aids another student in the commission of one of these offences is also guilty of academic misconduct.

DISABILITIES AND ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. Students with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre should contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Students also required to discuss their needs with the instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION ASSEMBLY POINTS

Craigie Hall: Professional Faculties food court (alternate: Education Block food court)
Education Block and Tower: Scurfield Hall atrium (alternate: Professional Faculties food court)
Kinesiology: north courtyard, MacEwan Student Centre (alternate: University Theatres lobby)
For the complete list of assembly points please consult

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT

Graded assignments will be retained by the Department for three months and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Final examinations will be kept for one calendar year and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Said material is exclusively available to the student and to the department staff requiring to examine it.

Please see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Devices such as laptops, palmtops and smartbooks are allowed provided that they are used exclusively for instructional purposes and do not cause disruption to the instructor and to fellow students. Cellular telephones, blackberries and other mobile communication tools are not permitted and must be switched off.

SAFEWALK

To request a Safewalk escort anywhere on campus, 24 hours a day and seven days a week, please call 403-220-5333 or use one of the Help Phones.

Web: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>

STUDENT UNION INFORMATION

Representatives and contact details: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/home/contact.html>

Student Ombudsman: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Writing skills should cross all disciplines. Students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their courses and, where appropriate, instructors can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Centre in the Effective Writing Office (<http://www.efwr.ucalgary.ca/>) can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.