



**Faculty of Arts**  
**School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures**

SPAN321  
Contemporary Hispanic Cultures for Heritage and Bilingual Speakers  
Fall 2021  
MWF 11:00-11:50am synchronously  
Zoom link for class sessions will be posted on D2L

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Dr. Angela George**

**OFFICE HOURS:** Monday 2:00-3:00pm (Zoom link will be posted on D2L) or by appointment (email to arrange a time)

**E-MAIL:** [angela.george@ucalgary.ca](mailto:angela.george@ucalgary.ca) I will typically respond to e-mails within 48 hours during weekdays (weekends and holidays excluded).

**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** +1 (403) 220-6734 (I will not answer, but voicemails get sent to my email.) Email is preferred.

**DESCRIPTION**

This course will cover current issues in the Hispanic (Spanish-speaking) world. These will include topics related to Spanish and Spanish-speakers in Canada, identity, gender, gastronomy, emotions and social constructs as related to Spanish-speakers. Connections to our own lives will also be made. The course is designed for heritage, native and bilingual Spanish speakers who have varying abilities and skill levels but who possess at minimum basic fluency (listening and speaking) in Spanish. For this reason, the course will focus on analyzing a variety of written and spoken texts in order to increase vocabulary and academic Spanish skills.

**OBJECTIVES**

- Learn about a variety of issues in the Hispanic (Spanish-speaking) world.
- Understand and employ formal and informal registers of Spanish
- Develop and improve vocabulary and meta-linguistic knowledge
- Identify and analyze products, practices and perspectives of the Spanish-speaking world
- Build on existing linguistic and cultural knowledge and critically analyze a variety of texts
- Improve the use of academic Spanish

**OUTCOMES**

Upon completing this course students will be able to

1. Use academic Spanish to write compositions.
2. Critically analyze a variety of texts.
3. Understand issues related to the Spanish-speaking world.
4. Increase knowledge of vocabulary and linguistics (grammar, syntax, etc as used in a communicative context).
5. Use academic Spanish to create a cohesive written and oral presentation on a relevant issue in the Spanish-speaking world.

**REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS**

Materials will be posted on D2L.



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#### RECOMMENDED COURSE MATERIALS

Useful websites:

Dictionaries:

<https://www.wordreference.com/>

<https://www.linguee.com/>

Newspapers:

<https://elpais.com/>

Grammar:

<https://espanol.lingolia.com/es/> (Explanations in Spanish, examples in Spanish)

<https://espanol.lingolia.com/en/> (Explanations in English, examples in Spanish)

<https://grammar.spanishintexas.org/> (Explanations in English, examples in Spanish)

Podcasts:

<https://radioambulante.org/>

<https://elhilo.audio/episodios/>

<https://deesonosehabla.com/en/>

<https://lasraraspodcast.com/>

<https://cronicasalborde.com/>

#### COURSE NOTES

*This course is synchronous, which means you must attend via Zoom MWF 11:00-11:50am. Occasional asynchronous sessions may be scheduled with advanced notice.*

- **Important dates:** First day of class: Sept 8. Last day of class: Dec 8. Term break: Nov 7-13. No class Oct 11 (statutory holiday).
- **Assignment due dates:** Will be posted in D2L.
- **Guidelines for submitting assignments and expectations for writing quality:** All assignments must be submitted on D2L by the assigned deadline. You are expected to follow the instructions for each assignment and use your own skills to write academic Spanish. Using an online translator is not permitted.
- **Policy in case of missed or late assignments:** If individual circumstances may prevent a student from meeting a course deadline, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor as soon as possible if the student wishes to request credit for any missed online activities.
- **Attendance and participation:** Your attendance is expected. In order for you to do well in the course, you must participate actively in every session. Some class sessions may be offered asynchronously, and if so, you will be given plenty of notice of this along with deadlines to complete the work on your own at home.
- **Class etiquette:** Please show up on time to class. Participate actively in the course and follow the instructions of your instructor. If the class session is asynchronous, please follow the instructions provided and meet all deadlines.
- **Guidelines for Zoom meetings and use of technology during class:** Please give your full attention to the class and follow the instructions set out by your instructor. Participate actively, appropriately and respectfully in all class discussions whether out loud or via chat including in the Zoom breakout rooms and when completing group projects. Please show up on time to class. Turn your camera on at the beginning of class if at all possible and wear appropriate clothing. Turn your camera off and mute when asked. Use the raise hand function in Zoom if you have a question or type it in the chat.
- **Media policy in case of recording:** The class sessions may be recorded and posted to D2L. You are not permitted to share these recordings with anyone not enrolled in the course.



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- **Course evaluation procedure:** Assessments will all posted online via D2L and grades will be posted on D2L.
- **Technology requirements:**
  - A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
  - A current and updated web browser;
  - Webcam/Camera (built-in or external);
  - Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
  - Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
  - Stable internet connection

#### ASSESSMENT

- Active Participation (10%)
- Compositions (2 x 7.5% = 15%)
- Homework (4 X 5% = 20%)
- Exams (2 x 15% = 30%): Open book/notes/dictionaries, no translators allowed
- Virtual conversations (2 x 5% = 10%)
- Final project (15%)

Total: 100%

Extra credit: Optional; 0.25% per eligible activity, up to a maximum of 4 activities

There will be no final exam in this course.

The due dates will be posted in D2L.

**Active participation:** This course is intended to be highly interactive. Your active participation in Zoom sessions is required to help ensure an effective online learning experience. Participation includes joining the Zoom session, following instructions given, speaking up during discussions and during activities in breakout rooms, and volunteering to ask and answer questions.

**Compositions:** You will be assigned 2 compositions of 250-300 words each. For each composition you will have a choice of topics. You will be expected to complete a peer review of another student's composition and you will receive feedback on your composition prior to turning in your final version. You will also have a chance to turn in corrections of your final version after receiving feedback to increase your grade. This is optional but can result in an increase of your grade by half of the points that you lost. For example, if you earned an 80%, you can receive up to 10% more ( $100-80=20$  and  $20/2=10$ ) for a total possible grade of 90%.

**Homework:** These are designed to practice the material covered in the course. There will be 4 homework assignments total associated with each of the 6 themes covered. You will post your homework answers on the D2L discussion board and then have some time to respond to another student. You will not be able to see anyone's posts until you post. By putting your homework in the D2L discussion forums, you can learn from each other and engage in discussions related to the topics covered in the course. You are expected to remain respectful with your answers and responses. The assignments will be graded for completion and use of Spanish, not for correctness of the answers. Feedback will be provided individually to each student. Further instructions about each assignment including deadlines will be posted in D2L.

**Exams:** There will be 2 exams in D2L associated with the material covered in the class. These may consist of short answers (1-3 sentences), long answers (2-3 paragraphs), fill in the blank, matching, among other types of questions. Notes and print and electronic material may be used, but please do not consult with anyone during the exams including other students. You may email the instructor with any questions about the exams during the exam period. The exam will be open for 24 hours and due by the end of the class period. Also, use of translators is not allowed; however, you are encouraged to use an online dictionary.



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**Virtual conversations:** Students will participate in two virtual video-based discussions that they or another student will host and record via Zoom. You will be given instructions on what to discuss which will include material related to the course. You will also write a reflection incorporating information learned during both discussions. Prompts will be provided. This is a chance to practice and reflect on oral skills as well as the cultural content discussed. More instructions will be provided in D2L.

**Final project:** You will propose a topic for your final project that is related to the course material or relevant current issues in the Spanish-speaking world. This can include an interview with a Spanish-speaker (classmate or Spanish-speaker in Canada or elsewhere). After receiving approval of your topic, you will prepare a written text (500-700 words per student) that must include a minimum of 3 sources per student which can come from podcasts, news articles or academic articles. Your text may be published on a U of C blog/website and must also contain 2-3 copyright free images (which can be found on a variety of websites) that accompany the text. You will then present your text to the class via a recorded presentation posted in D2L. You will then watch/listen to the presentations of other students and respond to them in the D2L discussion forum. The final project can be completed individually or in groups, but the length is 500-700 words per student. The project may also include a short reflection about the process involved, the sources gathered, and information learned during the project.

**Extra credit:** Eligible activities will be announced during the semester. They may include Spanish conversation hour, guest lectures, and other activities that enhance and strengthen your knowledge of Spanish language and/or Spanish-speaking cultures. These activities are optional.

**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.

**INTEGRITY AND CONDUCT**

All members of the University community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the Statement on Principles of Conduct, and to comply with the University of Calgary Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures (available at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>).

**Academic misconduct**

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit: <https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>, and <https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-procedure.pdf>

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>

**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION**

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may not be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf>)



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and requirements of the Copyright Act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

#### **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 <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

#### **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>.)

Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their Instructor or the Department Head/Dean or to the designated contact person in their Faculty.

#### **FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES**

Have a question, but not sure where to start?

The Arts Students' Centre is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance they may require.

In addition to housing the Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs) and the Associate Dean (Teaching, Learning & Student Engagement), the Arts Students' Centre is the specific home to:

- Program advising
- Co-op Education Program
- Arts and Science Honours Academy
- Student Help Desk

Location: Social Sciences Room 102

Phone: 403-220-3580

Email: [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca)

Website: [arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate](https://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate).

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Block.

Contacts for the Students' Union Representative for the Faculty of Arts: [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca).

#### **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.

#### **SUPPORT AND RESOURCES**



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Links to information that is not course-specific related to student wellness and safety resources can be found on the Office of the Registrar's website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>.