



Spanish for Heritage Learners I

SPAN 2307 – Section 23617

Instructor: Prof. Eugenia Ruiz
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Spanish Program for Heritage Learners.

Heritage language speakers are those individuals who are proficient in English and who grew up speaking another language at home or learnt it somewhere outside school. The goal of the Spanish as Heritage Language track at the University of Houston is to build upon the language knowledge that students bring to the classroom and reactivate the Spanish they have learned previously and develop it further. At the same time, students will learn more about their language and cultural heritage, acquire Spanish literacy skills, and develop Spanish academic skills.

Learning Outcomes:

- Develop skills in reading and writing texts in Spanish.
- Reinforce knowledge of Spanish grammar.
- Improve accuracy in using simple tenses for discourse production.
- Develop greater familiarity with U.S. Hispanic culture.
- Understand and apply the concept of “language registers”.
- Improve orthography with emphasis on the use of the written accent.
- Increase vocabulary through work with lexical forms, readings and oral/written production.

Students' responsibilities:

- Attendance to scheduled sessions
- Active participation in discussions
- Cultural project
- Exams & Quizzes
- Daily homework

Materials:

- Mrak, N. Ariana & Padilla, Edwin K. 2006. *Conozcámonos: Curso práctico de español para el estudiante bilingüe en los Estados Unidos*. Thomsom&Heinle
- Sandstedt, L & Kite, R. 2008. *Civilización y cultura*. Heinle, 9th edition.
- Spanish/English dictionary (see references in BlackBoard)

Evaluation:

Exams (2 X 10%)	20%
Final exam	20%
Research Project	10%
Reading quizzes (3 x 4%)	12%
Writing activities (2 x 5%)	10%
Oral presentation	8%
HW	10%
Participation (2% deduction for each absence)	10%
Total	100%

University of Houston Grading Scale:

A	94 - 100	B-	80 - 83	D+	67 - 69
A-	90 - 93	C+	77 - 79	D	64 - 66
B+	87 - 89	C	74 - 76	D-	60 - 63
B	84 - 86	C-	70 - 73	F	below 60

Class Workload

1. Course prerequisite: SPAN 1505 or *Heritage Speakers Placement Exam* (if you have not taken a placement exam you should urgently talk to your instructor or you will be dropped from the course).

2. Attendance to scheduled sessions.

To derive the utmost benefit from this class, daily attendance is essential. We invite you to take advantage of the possibility of practicing the language in class. Attendance to each session is required.

- More than five hours of unexcused absences per semester will result in a zero participation /attendance grade. If you are registered, but do not attend the course you are responsible for following the withdrawing procedures or an 'F' will be entered as the final grade.
- You should not make travel/employment plans that interfere with classes or exams since make up exams cannot be made in order to accommodate such plans.
- You are responsible for contacting other classmates to obtain any information discussed in the event of class missed.
- Student athletes, band members and members of other university sanctions should bring a letter from their supervisor or specific department **during the first week of class** indicating the dates they will miss class.
- Students who require special accommodations for religious holidays should make arrangements with their instructor **during the first week of class**.
- Students with recognized disabilities will be provided reasonable accommodations, appropriate to the course, upon documentation of disability with a Student Accommodation Form from the Center for Students with Disabilities. To receive these accommodations, you must request the specific accommodations by submitting them to the instructor in writing **during the first week of class**. Students who fail to submit a written request will not be considered for accommodations.

3. Homework

The development of the language skills requires daily practice. This course requires completion of daily assignments (detailed on the tentative schedule) and represents a 10% of the final grade. The homework activities prepare you to obtain the most benefit from the class activities and also help you to monitor your own progress. Late homework will not be accepted. Incomplete homework will not be given a mark.

4. Assignments

Writing activities: There will be three short writing assignments based on covered material. You will submit your work twice: first, you will prepare a rough draft and hand it to your instructor and to a classmate for peer review. You will then write the final version using your instructor and classmate comments. Please check the dates for each activity in the class schedule.

- Your instructor may request a hard copy of all the activities leading up to the final version of the writing activity or strategy.
- All writing activities must be typed, doubled spaced, 12 pt font, using Spanish characters (á, é, í, ó, ú, ñ, ¡, ¿?)
- No late writing activity will be accepted.
- You may not submit an activity already submitted in another class for a grade. This constitutes a violation of Academic Honesty Policy.

Oral Presentation. Each student will prepare a short presentation (5') on one of the cultural topics discussed in class. Students will hand in a summary a week before the presentation date so the instructor can provide feedback. Presentations cannot be read.

Tests and Final Exam: There will be two tests covering chapters' material. There will be three reading quizzes on vocabulary and cultural information covered in class. A final comprehensive exam will be held at the end of this course. The dates are indicated in the tentative schedule.

Absence from Exams:

- If you will be absent from an exam or quiz, you must contact the Instructor or Coordinator for your class at least a week in advance.
- You must provide written documentation for any absence before a make-up is authorized. No make-ups will be considered without written, justifiable documentation for your absence.
- 'Preexisting travel plans' will not be considered a reasonable cause for missing an Exam or Quiz.
- Sickness without a Dr.'s excuse will not be considered reasonable cause for make-up authorization.

Cultural project

You will be asked to prepare a cultural project during the semester. Specific instructions will be given the first week of class; you will prepare a first draft to be handed to your instructor (see Calendar) and then you will prepare a final version. Projects turned in late will not be accepted.

Class Policies

- Your cell phone must be turned off and stored away.
- Tardiness: Your instructor may deny admission to students who arrive **10 minutes late.**
- Violations of the Academic Honesty code of conduct will not be tolerated. This means that homework, writing assignments, exams and quizzes must be your own work. Any violation of this policy may result in expulsion from the class, and/or implementation of sanctions as stated in the Student Code of conduct.
- Presenting previously submitted material for this or other classes will be considered a violation of the Academic Honesty code of conduct
- No eating, chewing or smoking is allowed in the classroom.
- No Extra Credit is available for this course.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOTE: if during a session you use your cell phone, you will be asked to leave the classroom and you will receive an 'absent' for the session. |
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