

MISSOURI WESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Dept. of English, Foreign Languages and Journalism
Spanish 452 - 01, Advanced Spanish Conversation, Fall 2009

Classroom and Times: Eder 223 at 11:00-11:50 am

Instructor: Dr. F.Eduardo Castilla Ortiz

Office: Eder Hall 212 - A

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Office hours: M W F 12:00-12:50 and by appointment.

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Syllabus on line:

Required Text: Material on reserve in the Library

Also required: **Compartir la subscripción al periódico El Pais**

Course Description:

The main goal of this course is to improve student's conversational skills through active, responsible participation in discussions, debates and oral presentations in class. In addition, this course seeks to build students' oral proficiency at the Advanced Low level (A.C.T.F.L. proficiency guidelines) while increasing their awareness of Hispanic culture through reading a newspaper, attending to at least a film and other forms of cultural production. This course will provide students with a contextualized content-based approach to oral communication resulting in a fluent oral language production. Even though, the emphasis of this course is on oral proficiency and not on grammar, syntax, reading or writing, some reading, writing and listening are also practiced. (Reading and listening materials provide opportunities for students to be exposed to authentic language use, and to integrate these forms into their speaking and writing.)

Pre-requisites: Successful completion, **within past twelve months**, of SPAN 312

Grading: The final grade will be determined in accordance with the following distribution:

La participación y asistencia	20%
Los exámenes de vocabulario (10)	20 %
Los reportes de lecturas (10)	20%
La entrevista con hispano (1)	20%
La presentación oral (1)	10%
OPI Personal (1)	10%

Missouri Western State University Grading Scale

A 90-100 **B** 80-89 **C** 70-79 **D** 60-69 **F** below 60

Class Participation(and Attendance (20%):

Students are expected to come prepared to class. Students should do the readings or review the material before class in order to have a better discussion during class.

Given the emphasis that must be placed on participation and interaction in foreign language courses students are required to attend all classes. You are allowed a maximum of **one (1)** unexcused absence, which you should reserve for emergencies. After the second absence your total grade for the course participation will be lowered by five (5) percentage points per additional absence (i.e.: 0-1 unexcused absences = 100%, 2 = 95%, 2 = 90%, 3 = 85%, etc.).

You are responsible for all material covered on days that you are absent.

In order for this course to be successful, you must attend class regularly and participate actively. Participation in this course is strongly encouraged, and you will receive a grade for your participation, because it is the only way that you can improve your audio/oral skills. Participation involves preparation of conversations, readings and other tasks, cooperation with classmates in the different activities, contribution to debates with your ideas and opinions, and respectful attitude toward ideas of classmates.

The following description of participation grades is provided to help you understand what is expected:

A (90-98) Always arrives to class prepared, on-time, and ready to work. Participates actively in all classroom activities. Volunteers frequently and readily contributes to group work.

B (80-89) Usually arrives to class prepared, but occasionally misses a homework assignment or neglects to learn the

material. Occasionally a bit late for class. Participates in classroom activities on a regular basis. Sometimes volunteers, but usually waits for teacher's cue.

C (70-79) Does not always arrive to class prepared and this lack of preparation affects ability to participate in classroom activities. Often late for class, thereby missing important instructions and practice time. Contributes to classroom activities occasionally, but usually only when asked to do so by teacher. Sits quietly during group time. D/F (< 70) Always arrives to class unprepared and is frequently absent. Rarely participates in classroom activities, unless asked to do so by teacher. Does not become involved in group activities.

Los exámenes de vocabulario (10) 20 % There is not better tool to talk than having the words to do it, therefore once again the student has to be regularly engaged in learning vocabulary. These weekly quizzes are the way of assessing what you are learning and studying daily.

Los reportes de lecturas (10) 20% Después de leer del periódico "El País", usted le informara en aproximadamente 5 minutos lo que leyó a sus compañeros de clases. Usted es responsable de presentar cualquier nuevo vocabulario para que ellos comprendan lo que usted leyó.

La entrevista con hispano (1) 20% A 10 minutes presentation about a person with Hispanic background (it can be an immigrant or a descendent of Hispanic immigrants) that you will interview. The presentation should include a brief description of the interviewee and his/her personal data, a brief recount of his/her life, and an anecdote that you consider interesting. You **cannot read** your presentation. All presenters should provide a handout for the class and must be prepared to stimulate discussion. The class will follow the presentation and will ask for more information about the person.

La presentación oral (1) 10% Usted presentará un tema controvertido para el salón de clases, debe aprobarlo con el profesor y debe de presentar un punto de vista que no se limite al popular, a lo que todos aceptan o lo que se considera 'políticamente correcto'. Debe de ser 15 minutos, demuestra su habilidad oral, no necesita demostrar su capacidad de leer ☺.

OPI Personal (1) 10% Oral Proficiency Interview. Esto es al final del semestre, demuestra su capacidad máxima y mínima con el idioma español. La mejor practica y preparación es la conversación continua en español y la memorización de todo el vocabulario posible por cada semana.

The **ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines** were created by the [American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages](#) in order to provide a means of assessing the [proficiency](#) of a [foreign language](#) speaker.

The guidelines are broken up into different proficiency levels: novice, intermediate, advanced, and superior. Additionally, each of these (except superior) is further subdivided into low, mid and high. These proficiency levels are defined separately for ability to listen, speak, read and write. Thus, in those American programs that emphasize written language over spoken, students may reach the advanced level in reading and writing while remaining at a lower level in listening and speaking.

* Advanced-The Advanced level is characterized by the ability to converse fluently and in a clearly participatory fashion. The speaker can accomplish a wide variety of communicative tasks and can describe and narrate events in the present, past, and future, organizing thoughts, when appropriate, into paragraph-like discourse. At this level, the speaker can discuss concrete and factual topics of personal and public interest in most informal and formal conversations and can be easily understood by listeners unaccustomed to nonnative speakers.

* Superior-The Superior level is characterized by the ability to participate effectively in most formal and informal conversations on practical, social, professional, and abstract topics. Using extended discourse, the speaker can explain in detail, hypothesize on concrete and abstract topics, and support or defend opinions on controversial matters. "High Levels." When a learner fulfills most but not all of the basic characteristics of a given level, he or she is assigned a rating immediately below the level in question, but with the designation "High." Thus, a person who fulfills most but not all the requirements of the Superior level is rated as Advanced High. Similarly, a person who exhibits most but not all of the basic characteristics of the Advanced level may be rated as Intermediate High, and a person who exhibits most but not all of the characteristics of the Intermediate level may be rated Novice High. The Government scale refers to these levels as "Plus" levels, and, by analogy, the 1986 ACTFL Guidelines listed an Advanced Plus level. However, in 1989, the name of this level was changed to Advanced High in order to be consistent with the High designation that can be obtained at the Novice and Intermediate levels.

HORARIO TENTATIVO

Primera semana (agosto 24 - 28) Silabo, presentaciones, OPI.

Segunda semana (agosto 31 - septiembre 4) Prueba de Voc. el miércoles

Feriado – lunes 7 de septiembre - *Labor Day*

Tercera semana (septiembre 9 - 11) Prueba de Voc. el viernes

Cuarta semana (septiembre 14 - 18) Prueba de Voc. el viernes

Quinta semana (septiembre 21 - 25) Prueba de Voc. el viernes

Sexta semana (septiembre 28 - 30, octubre 2)

Séptima semana (octubre 5 - 7) Prueba de Voc. el lunes

***Vacaciones de otoño* – viernes 9 de octubre**

Octava semana (octubre 12 - 16) Prueba de Voc. el miércoles

Novena semana (octubre 19 - 23) Prueba de Voc. el miércoles

Décima semana (octubre 26 - 30) Prueba de Voc. el miércoles

Undécima semana (noviembre 2 - 6)

Duodécima semana (noviembre 9 - 13) Prueba

Decimotercera semana (noviembre 16 - 20)

Decimocuarta semana (noviembre - 23) Prueba

Feriado - 25 y 27 de noviembre – El día de acción de gracias

Decimoquinta semana (noviembre 30 - diciembre 4) Exámenes orales

4 de diciembre - último día de clases

Examen final – (11 de diciembre, 11:30 am - 13:20 p.m.)

