

## **EDN 292. Spanish for Educators . Fall 2010**

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**¡ BIENVENIDOS ! ¡VIVA ESPAÑOL! ☺**

**Course description:** Our goal is to develop your ability to communicate in Spanish in an educational environment. Learning how to communicate in Spanish can be very useful and can make you very valuable in today's global world. This course is taught almost entirely in Spanish. By the end of the semester you should reach an intermediate level in the basic skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening Spanish. You should be able to carry on basic conversations with Spanish speakers on a number of situations that might arise in a school environment, such as sharing everyday information with students that don't speak English, communicating with Hispanic parents in an official and non official manner, help enrolling students and so on. In addition, we will dedicate time to talk about the culture of different Hispanic countries since a good understanding of Hispanic Cultures is an essential part of our instructional goal and a fundamental asset in becoming a professional, well rounded teacher.

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of SPN 101 (Beginner's Spanish I), or SPN 120 (Fundamentals of Spanish) or SPN 201 (Intermediate Spanish I) or 2 or more units of high school Spanish. THIS IS A MULTI/LEVEL COURSE and you might expect other students to have an initial level of Spanish higher or lower than yours. The grammar and vocabulary studied in class and assigned outside the classroom will bring everyone to the same level; however, some students may find that they will need to dedicate more time to study some concepts in more detail than other students who might have been exposed longer to the language. This course will concentrate on developing useful vocabulary and expressions needed as a teacher rather than emphasizing on grammar.

### **Course Objectives:**

- Establish and develop vocabulary and grammatical skills needed for communication in an educational situation.
- Develop good pronunciation in Spanish.
- Learn to understand and appreciate Hispanic Cultures in order to communicate and serve Hispanics more professionally.

**Required Textbook and Materials:**

- Basic Spanish for Teachers, by Jarvis and Lebrede, second edition.
- Basic Spanish Student CD –ROM (Grammar Video in a blue cardboard case)
- Spanish / English Dictionary (Larousse is highly recommended)
- UNCW Email account
- Blackboard access

**Grade Distribution:**

Letters, Video Reports, Online Discussions, Cultural Event & other short assignments	25%
Project at Forest Hills Elementary School	15%
In Class Quizzes	15%
Online Quizzes	15%
Skits (2)	10%
Cultural Presentation:	10%
Participation:	10%

**Important Notes:**

- Remember that YOU and only YOU earn your own grade.
- Review your calendar daily and plan accordingly for every assignment and event.
- Active, voluntary participation as well as being prepared and having a positive attitude are the main keys to success in this course.
- Excuses only show poor planning on your part and they are not welcome.
- Make-up Policy: Make-ups will only be considered in the following situations and with proper official documentation such as notes from a doctor’s office, court, obituary or UNCW official letter. Others will not be considered so please don’t ask.
  1. Sickness
  2. Court citation
  3. Death of a relative
  4. UNCW official event.

**Grading Scale:**

93-100	A	80-82	B-	67-69	D+
90-92	A-	77-79	C+	63-66	D
87-89	B+	73-76	C	60-62	D-
83-86	B	70-72	C-	0-59	F

**Important Information:**

**Blackboard:** The course calendar, general information, handouts and guidelines for assignments will be available online on Blackboard. It is your responsibility to print and bring all handouts posted to class. As a general rule, no handouts will be distributed in class. To get to the Blackboard site for this course, follow these steps:

1. Login to Blackboard (<http://ncvista.blackboard.com>)
2. Use your UNCW email username in all CAPS (without @uncw.edu)
3. Use your SeaNet PIN as the password

**Course Calendar:** Your course calendar is available on Blackboard. It is crucial that you review it regularly. You are responsible for following all deadlines. View the entire calendar at the beginning of the semester and write all important dates to be able to plan accordingly and know what to expect. The calendar may be subject to changes and some assignments may be announced in class only so make sure to pay attention to announcements made both in class and by email.

**Email:** You must check your UNCW email account regularly. This is how your instructor communicates outside the class. You are responsible for reading all class announcements emailed to you. Make sure to have enough space available in your inbox to receive emails.

### **Grade Distribution Explained**

**Letters:** Students will practice writing letters to parents in Spanish communicating problems, giving information or just to inform them about their child's progress in class.

**Video Reports:** In class we will watch documentaries and a movie related to immigration issues in the U.S.A. Students need to complete the reports sheets available on blackboard . They need to answer the questions provided and give their opinions about the issues discussed. Reports are due during the next class period after finishing the video.

**Online Discussions:** Students will read several articles related to education, immigration and Hispanics and they will post their comments online and respond to other classmates postings. Every discussion will have a specific deadline and guidelines. Please read guidelines before posting. The objective of this assignment is to give students the opportunity of meditating on issues that affect the education system and the Hispanic population in the USA and hopefully help them find some practical solutions.

**Cultural Event:** You are required to attend or participate in one cultural event during the semester. Events can be university-sponsored (such as a lecture, concert by a Latino artist or a film in Spanish). Most of them are free but sometimes you may have to pay a small fee. There will be a list of possible events distributed to you via email and/or on Blackboard. After attending an event, please complete the cultural event response form (in Spanish) and submit it to your instructor within a week of the event as the latest. **Staple your ticket to the form.** No late forms will be accepted. Also, **if I a form does not include a ticket it will not be valid.**

**Others:** Refers to shorter assignments not included on our course calendar. There will be announced in class or by email. They do not need to be typed. When turning assignments always be neat and clear, if unable to read your assignment will not be graded. Short assignments may consist of researching a concept online, a description or reflect on a topic to discuss in class. Your professor will provide specific details.

**Project at Forest Hills Elementary School:** Only five minutes from UNCW, Forest Hills Elementary is the Global School in New Hanover County. It also counts with one of the largest Hispanic student population in the county. In the past, UNCW students have worked in different projects to help Hispanic students by tutoring different subjects as well as promoting Hispanic culture among American students by hosting a Spanish Club with lots of fun activities for the students. Both schools have benefited greatly from the exchange. Most programs are after school programs but there are also opportunities during the day. They are a wonderful mini teaching experience to help you get you started in your career as a teacher. Many of the students have enjoyed the experience so much that have returned to work as volunteers. More details will be provided later on.

**In Class Quizzes:** Most quizzes will have listening, speaking, writing and reading portions. They are usually given at the beginning of class and are very short. Quiz 3 will be a 3-4 minute interview with your professor. It will cover basic expressions, vocabulary and information reviewed in class. You will be provided a study guide for this short interview.

**Online Quizzes:** Students will complete a series of short exercises online per chapter to help them practice and improve their grammar and vocabulary. You should complete all exercises included in chapters Preliminary-8. Please refer to your grammar CD-ROM for grammar explanations. Please keep in mind that in class we will practice some of these concepts but not all. We will do as much as time allows. In class we will dedicate more time to practice conversation and discuss culture. There are instructions on how to complete these quizzes on blackboard under "tasks". You may repeat each exercise multiple times until you get the desired score, so everyone should be able to have a 100 on these assignments. The lowest chapter grade will be dropped. If you complete all 9 chapters with a perfect score, you will get 2 extra credit points added to your final grade.

**Skits:** Students will prepare two skits using the vocabulary and expressions reviewed in class. The objective is to recreate a day in the life of a teacher and help you prepare better to deal with daily situations at your job. Specific guidelines to prepare your skits are available on blackboard.

**Cultural Presentation:** Students will prepare a 5 minute individual presentation about the educational system and important cultural aspects of one of the Latin American countries or Spain. Presentations will be in English but must include key sentences in Spanish. Presentation topics and dates will be raffled in class. (Refer to presentation Guidelines on Blackboard.) If you choose, you may present in Spanish and gain two extra credit points.

**Participation:** Your participation grade is determined by your willingness to participate actively and voluntarily in all class activities. **Use every opportunity available to get involved, this is how learning will become fun and more importantly easy.** Please notice that your participation grade is not merely based on your attendance. Being in class does not mean that you are actively participating. Participating means that you are ready to voluntarily answer questions and work in groups with a positive attitude; proving that you have come to class prepared.

**Attendance Policy:** Students will be allowed **2 free absences** in this course. Please save them for emergencies only in case they do arise. You do not need to let me know why you will not be in class. **After the second absence, 3 points will be deducted from your final grade. Students who miss 5 classes or more, automatically fail the course.** Students participating in university-sponsored events (athletics, conferences, etc.) will be excused as long as they provide documentation of their absence before the event (i.e. schedule of games presented at the beginning of the semester). Arriving late or leaving early twice will count as an absence. The classroom door will shut at the scheduled meeting time. Take care of personal business before arriving to class. Please do not leave early unless you truly have an emergency. If you have perfect attendance at the end of the semester, meaning not missing any classes at all you are entitled to two extra points on your final grade.

**Classroom policies:** Students in this course are expected to behave as professional, courteous adults. Disruptive behavior and disrespect toward fellow students or the instructor will not be accepted.

- Come to class prepared. Read and practice at home. Please understand that class is the time to practice. Do not only expect to be lectured but also expect to be asked to put in practice everything we reviewed.
- **Bring your textbook and dictionary daily.**
- Please understand that the role of your instructor is more of a facilitator vs. a lecturer. As such I will provide clarifications and guide you everyday but I expect to study and come prepared to participate.
- Turn off all electronic devices including laptops and cell phones.
- You are expected to be fully dedicated to the class and the discussions that take place; studying for a different class, text messaging, reading email or reading a personal book will not be allowed.
- Students are expected to arrive in time to class and stay for the entire class.
- Food, tobacco and alcohol are prohibited in UNCW classrooms. You may bring water or soda to class.
- Be prepared to be corrected and feel fine with it. It is my responsibility to provide you with plenty of opportunities to practice in class and to give you as much feedback as possible. It is natural to make mistakes while learning a language, however, I will encourage you to keep trying and do your best. Learn to laugh at your mistakes and learn from them. Some of the concepts I remember the best are mistakes I made while learning English.
- When working in groups help each other by correcting and giving each other feedback.
- When working in groups or pairs and if required to turn individual work remember to turn in your original work. Sharing and copying information is considered plagiarism. You can help each other but make sure to be original.
- Online translation does not work in Spanish class. You need to learn to use and improve using your book, dictionary and concepts you learn in class. Online translation easily shows and most times is incorrect because it is literal. Remember, literal translation is not always right.
- Remember, even the smallest activities and assignments count and serve an important purpose.
- **Finally, bring a smile and yourself with a positive attitude!! Believe me, it truly makes a difference!**

**Access to the instructor:** It is very important to me that you know that you can count on me to give you my very best each and every class. As time allows I make myself available to the students as much as possible. Feel free to talk to me if needed and **DO NOT** wait until it is late in the semester to discuss an issue that could and should have been handled earlier. If you need to get in touch with me or have a personal question please visit me in my office during office hours or make an appointment. I receive an extremely large load of emails daily and I may not be able to get in touch with you in a timely manner.

**Extra Credit:** If time allows it, I will approve 1 or 2 extra credit activities or events not to overpass 4 points of your final grade. These points will be added to your final grade. When doing extra credit assignments, make sure to follow all guidelines and fill out the appropriate form, otherwise, it will not be accepted.

**Academic Honor Code:** Students in this course are expected to abide by the Academic Honor Code. Please read the Code of Student Life available at (<http://www.uncw.edu/stuaff/doso/documents/Code.Of.Student.Life.pdf>). Dishonest behavior will carry severe consequences.

**Disability Services:** If you have a disability and need reasonable accommodations in this course, you should inform the professor of this fact in writing **within the first week of class**. If you have not done so already, you must register with the UNCW Office of Disability Services. UNCW Disability Services supplies information about disability law, documentation procedures and accommodations. This information can be found at <http://www.uncw.edu/stuaff/SDS/disability.html>.

*I am glad to have you as my student, I am sure we will have a wonderful semester.*

*Buckle up, get ready and enjoy the ride! ☺*

### **End of the Semester Checklist**

Consult the course calendar daily in order to keep up with all events and deadlines. By the end of the semester and prior to reading day you must have completed and turned in all of the following items:

\_\_\_\_\_ Online Quizzes (Turn first half the day before Fall Break vacation and the second half the day after reading day as the latest) (Complete Chapters Preliminary-8)

\_\_\_\_\_ Cultural Presentation (*Print and fill out the grading rubric and turn in the day of your presentation*)

\_\_\_\_\_ 2 group skits (No form required)

\_\_\_\_\_ 2 letters to parents

\_\_\_\_\_ 2 online discussions

\_\_\_\_\_ 4 video reports

\_\_\_\_\_ 2 project sessions at Forest Hills Elementary.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1 Cultural Event form (*Turn form within a week of attending event and attach a ticket or flyer, old forms would not be accepted.*)

\_\_\_\_\_ Extra credit forms (*If attended any, follow cultural event guidelines*)