

## Spanish Service-Learning Reflections

**Background:** SPN 490, Service-learning and Research, is an applied-learning course that allows advanced Spanish students to learn about Hispanics that live in North Carolina through service-learning and research. Each student volunteers for a minimum of 30 hours in the community with an agency that serves the Spanish-speaking population. Students also complete a research project, including a final research paper in Spanish. Class time is devoted to discussing the weekly readings, hearing from guest speakers who work with Hispanics in the Wilmington area and from Hispanics themselves, and learning more about conducting research and writing a research paper.

**Reflection:** Because this course is a new course and a new 'type' of course for Spanish students, I conduct midterm and end-of-term reflective surveys. These surveys allow the students to self-reflect on what they have learned and experienced, and how the course can be improved in future semesters. These reflections aid both the students and the professor and have proven to be an invaluable tool in the advancement and understanding of applied learning. The midterm and end-of-term surveys are available [here](#). After the midterm survey, I present the results to the class so that they can see their classmates' reflections and also I discuss any changes that I am going to incorporate based on their feedback (either that semester or the next time I teach the course).