

Spanish 302 • Reading Strategies in Spanish • Summer 2013

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¡Bienvenidos! ~ ¡Leer es fascinante! ☺

Course description and objectives: In this course we read classic and modern, fiction and non –fiction short stories from Spanish and Latin American writers. In addition, we read articles from various media formats. The goal of the course is to learn to apply effective reading techniques and strategies, increasing vocabulary, and improving general reading skills such as accuracy, speed and comprehension. In order to do so we analyze readings considering the following four categories: Narrative style, language, topics or issues present in the story, and finally the historical, cultural and social contexts. (These categories will be explained in class). When reading always consider the following questions words: What, where, when, who and how. What happens in the story in the beginning, middle and end? Where is the geographical space? During what historical period does the story take place? Who are the characters and their relationship and conflicts? Finally how does the story affect us, does it have a moral or a message? Students will work in groups to analyze the readings and answer comprehension questions. It is very important to be aware that it is not necessary to know all the vocabulary in a reading to be able to understand it. One of the techniques we will learn is to skim (*hojear*) for content to get general ideas. I recommend reading first without stopping to get a general idea. Then read a second time, stopping more to clarify key vocabulary. We will learn to understand vocabulary based in context. In addition, we will practice defining vocabulary with our own words so that you will become less dependent on a dictionary.

Pre- requisite. A grade of “C” or better in SPN 202 or appropriate placement test score.

Materials:

Your professor will give you copies of all the reading and other information.
Spanish monolingual dictionary. (We will buy in Spain)
English/Spanish Dictionary
Magazines and newspapers (You will buy in Spain).

Grading Scale:

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

Grade Distribution:

Participation & attendance	30%
Assignments:	10%
Written Exams (2):	30%
Group class facilitation:	10%
Individual Presentations	10%
Final group skit	10%

Participation: All students must participate actively by reading and contributing to the discussions and solving exercises. It is very important to volunteer. Most days students will work in groups or pairs.

Attendance Policy: Students are allowed **1** absence. If unable to come to class please contact your professor immediately. Make-up assignments will only be allowed for legitimate reasons such as illness or relevant cultural event. You must provide proof. **2** points will be deducted of your final grade for each additional absence. **2** tardies equal an absence.

Assignments: Will consist of studying and clarifying key vocabulary in Spanish, reading at home and completing comprehension exercises.

Written Exams: Students will take 2 exams during the term that will evaluate their reading comprehension skills as well as vocabulary learned in class.

Group class facilitation & Individual Presentation: Students will work in groups to analyze a reading in detail. Individually, students will choose a reading or article of about 1,000 words or page and a half, depending on the font size. The readings and articles will be presented during class. For both projects you must include the following information.

- Prepare a vocabulary list of key words (5 words minimum) and define these words in Spanish.
- Give a summary of the story considering the questions words explained above.
- Talk about the historical, cultural and social contexts.
- Discuss the narrative style.
- Comment on the language.
- What topics or issues did you identify in the story? For instance, love, war, poverty, etc.
- Discuss the main argument in more detail; is there a moral or message?
- Explain why you chose to work with the article.
- Was it easy or difficult to read and why?
- Did you find it interesting or not and why?
- Write at least 5 questions about the article to generate a class discussion.

Group Skits: Students will choose a story read in class and will perform a short 5-minute skit based on the story or a theme from the story. Humor can be incorporated! The class will guess what story the group is representing.

Class Policies:

- Arrive in time.
- Come prepared.
- Bring your notebook, dictionary and other supplies
- No electronic devices please
- Participate, participate, participate!
- Bring a smile!

Academic Honor Code: Students in this course are expected to abide by the Academic Honor Code. Please read the Student Handbook and Code of Student Life for more information:

<http://uncw.edu/stuaaff/doso/documents/CodeOfStudentLife.pdf>

Safety on Campus: UNCW practices a zero-tolerance policy for violence and harassment of any kind. If you feel that you are victim of violence or harassment please talk to your professor in private as soon as possible.

Seahawk Respect Compact: In the pursuit of excellence, UNC Wilmington actively fosters, encourages, and promotes inclusiveness, mutual respect, acceptance, and open-mindedness among students, faculty, staff, and the broader community. Please read the complete

Seahawk Respect Compact here: <http://www.uncw.edu/stuaaff/pdc/documents/SeahawkRespectCompact.pdf>.

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.

UNCW Disability Services supplies information about disability law, documentation procedures and accommodations. This information can be found at <http://www.uncw.edu/stuaaff/disability/>

¡Viva España!