
SPN 305: Spanish Composition

Course Description:

This student-centered course develops the four communicative proficiencies in Spanish with primary emphasis given to the writing component.

Student Learning Outcomes:

The student will be able to perform the following tasks, which correspond to successfully transitioning from the Intermediate the Advanced level of ACTFL's Proficiency Guidelines* and the Writing Intensive component of University Studies at UNCW:

Writing:

- Write routine informal correspondence as well as narratives, descriptions, and summaries of a factual nature.
- Narrate and describe in the major time frames of past, present, and future, using paraphrasing and elaboration to provide clarity.
- Produce connected discourse of paragraph length and structure.
- Demonstrate good control of the most frequently used structures and generic vocabulary, so as to be understood by those unaccustomed to the writing of non-natives.
- Write some formal correspondence with emphasis on the academic essay, which will incorporate the following components of University Studies' Writing Intensive component:
 - Show ability to find academic sources (WI1).
 - Analyze content of class materials in order to narrate, expose, and/or persuade using factual information (WI2).
 - Demonstrate an understanding of plagiarism and how to avoid it (WI3).
 - Produce written assignments appropriate for the topics discussed in class (WI4).
 - Evaluate class materials and develop thesis and supporting arguments based on a process-approach to writing (WI5).

*These SLOs are taken directly from ACTFL, only having been edited slightly for the sake of presentation. The full guidelines and wording can be found through the following link:

<http://actflproficiencyguidelines2012.org/>

Recommended Reference Texts:

Butt, John and Carmen Benjamin. *A New Reference Grammar of Modern Spanish*. 4th ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.

Garibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 7thed. New York: The Modern Language Association, 2009.

Slager, Emile. *Pequeño Diccionario de Construcciones Preposicionales*. Madrid: Visor Libros, 1997.

Access to:

1. UNCW email and Blackboard Learn.
2. A good bilingual dictionary. The Oxford Language Dictionaries Online are available online through the UNCW library's webpage

Distribution of Grades and Evaluation of Student Work:

1. Active Participation and Homework: 30%
2. Written Work: 70%

While students will be assessed and given feedback throughout the entire semester, the final grade will be based on measuring the two categories above by two different means:

1. I will use a traditional grading scale to indicate the degree to which the student participates in class discussion, workshops, and successfully and consistently completes assigned tasks. In these cases, each and every grade assigned corresponds to points earned and "counts" as a percentage of the overall grade.
2. I will use a proficiency-based model to evaluate the student's major written work, whereby the grade assigned will correspond to the demonstrated level at which the student is capable of sustaining his or her writing at the end of the semester. Both linguistic ability and the quality of argumentation are considered here. In this model, the student is not punished necessarily for the level of ability (or deficiencies) with which she or he begins the course, but rather will earn a grade based on the quality of the written work he or she is producing consistently at the end of the course.

Grading Scale:

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

Guideline for Projected Grade Correspondence to Written Proficiency:

A = Advanced Mid or higher

B = Advanced Low

C = Intermediate High – Intermediate Mid

D = Intermediate Low

F = Novice High or below

Please consult ACTFL's guidelines on writing for a description of the categories listed above at <http://actflproficiencyguidelines2012.org/writing>

Attendance Policy: Students are allotted two absences. For each additional absence, FIVE

percentage points will be deducted from the final grade. Any student who misses more than FIVE classes automatically receives a failing grade for the course. Speak with your professor before a planned absence in order to turn material in on time.

Religious Observance Policy:

In accordance with NC SL 2010-211, you are entitled to two excused absences for religious observances per academic year. You must inform me in writing the first week of class if you will be missing any classes due to religious observance and using one of the two permissible absences for the academic year. In addition, please inform the Registrar the first week of class who will then confirm your intentions to miss class with the impacted course instructors. Any absence for religious purposes will be considered unexcused unless you submit the request in writing the first week to either the Registrar or me.

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 or more information: <http://uncw.edu/stuaff/doso/documents/CodeOfStudentLife.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. 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>.

Safety on campus:

UNCW practices a zero-tolerance policy for violence and harassment of any kind. For emergencies contact UNCW CARE at 962-2273, Campus Police at 962-3184, or Wilmington Police at 911. For University or community resources visit <http://uncw.edu/wrc/crisis.htm>.

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/stuaff/pdc/documents/SeahawkRespectCompact.pdf>.

Blackboard Learn:

The syllabus, assignments, and handouts from this class will be available online on Blackboard Learn. It is your responsibility to print and bring to class any handouts that you may want to use. To get to the Blackboard Learn site, follow these steps:

1. Login to Blackboard Learn (<https://learn.uncw.edu/>)
2. Use your UNCW email username (without @uncw.edu) and password