

DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND CULTURAL STUDIES

<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

**2018-2019 SPAN 300 A1-2: ADVANCED SPANISH
FALL TERM**

Instructor:
Office:
Email:

Time:
Place:
Office Hours:

Course Prerequisite:

SPAN 212 or equivalent, or consent of the Spanish Language Coordinator (documentation required). Not to be taken by students with advanced standing equivalent or near-native ability or with credit in SPAN 306.

It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate prerequisites for the course. If you are asked to withdraw from the course because prior background deems you ineligible, and you fail to do so, the Department has the right to cancel your registration and/or withhold credit.

Course Description, Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:

This course is a high-intermediate to advanced-level course designed for students who already have a good working knowledge of Spanish. It is intended to improve overall proficiency in Spanish, with a particular emphasis on grammar, reading, and writing, in order to prepare students for participation in higher-level academic courses in Spanish. Students are encouraged to develop greater autonomy in learning Spanish.

At the end of this course, successful students will be able to:

- clearly express, elaborate, and justify ideas and opinions in writing
- actively participate in discussions on a range of topical issues
- identify and self-correct basic, common errors in their written Spanish
- read and understand short literary texts written for Spanish native speakers
- understand short films produced for Spanish native speakers

Texts:

Required texts

Alonso Raya, R., Castañeda Castro, A., Martínez Gila, P., Miquel López, L., Ortega Olivares, J., & Ruiz Campillo, J. P. (2011). *Gramática básica del estudiante de español (Edición revisada y ampliada)*. Barcelona: Difusión.

If you have purchased the English version of this book (*Students' Basic Grammar of Spanish*) for a previous course, you may continue to use it.

Additional materials will be posted on eClass.

Recommended resources

Diccionario de la lengua española (23rd edition, 2014), *Diccionario de americanismos* (2010), and *Diccionario panhispánico de dudas* (1st edition) from the Real Academia Española can be consulted for free online at <http://www.rae.es/>

Wordreference <http://www.wordreference.com> has two free Spanish-English dictionaries: the *Collins Spanish Dictionary* (8th edition) and Wordreference's own bilingual dictionary. It also provides free consultation of the *Diccionario de la Lengua Española* (Espasa Calpe, 2005) and the *Diccionario de Sinónimos y Antónimos* (Espasa Calpe, 2005). There is even a Spanish verb conjugator!

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Component	Value	Due dates
Compositions	20% (2 compositions x 10% each)	Oct 11, Nov 20
Homework	5%	ongoing
Unit tests	50% (5 tests x 10% each)	Sept 20, Oct 4, Oct 23, Nov 8, Nov 29
End-of-term test	20%	Dec 6
Oral participation	5%	ongoing

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Compositions: You will be asked to write two 500-word compositions on topics provided by the instructor. You will have approximately 10 days to prepare the compositions at home. Each assignment must be **typed, double-spaced, single-sided**, or it will not be accepted and a grade of zero will be assigned. Indicate the **number of words** at the end of each assignment.

Homework: Throughout the term, you will be given short homework assignments to complete, as deemed appropriate by the instructor. These assignments will be **ungraded**, but you will receive credit for having completed the assignment. The mark for this component will be the number of assignments you completed (e.g. 18 of 20 assignments completed = 4.5/5). Where applicable, the answers will be provided for self-correction. For assignments where no answer key is possible, the instructor will give you feedback, but no mark will be assigned.

You are responsible for finding out whether or not an assignment has been given; not knowing because you were not in class is not an acceptable excuse, as regular attendance is expected, and you are also expected to check eClass regularly. If you miss an assignment due to an excusable absence, you can request an extension from the instructor. If you do not complete the assignment by the new due date, no credit will be given. For an unexcusable absence, or if you simply forgot, you will not receive credit for the assignment.

No "extra" assignments for extra marks will be offered for any student.

Unit tests: A test will be given at the end of each unit. No dictionary or other material or electronic devices will be permitted during the test.

End-of-term test: The end-of-term test will cover the grammar topics studied in Units 1-4, plus a composition on topics already discussed in the course. No dictionary or other material or electronic devices will be permitted during the test. **There is no final exam for this course.**

Oral participation: The mark for this component is based on how actively you participate in class activities (whole class or group activities) and how much you try to speak in Spanish. You are not expected to speak in perfect, fluent Spanish, but you are expected to put in your best effort and take advantage of every possible opportunity to practice speaking Spanish. While daily attendance is not taken, regular absenteeism is noted, as you cannot participate if you are not present.

Grading:

Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#)). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student's level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”

Descriptor	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	%
Excellent. A+, A or A- is earned by work which is superior in content and form and demonstrates an exceptional grasp of the subject matter. The grade of A+ designates work that far exceeds course expectations. Grades in the A range are normally achieved by a small number of students.	A+	4.0	97-100
	A	4.0	93-96
	A-	3.7	90-92
Good. B+, B or B- is earned by work that demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the course material and a good command of relevant skills. Grades in the B range are normally achieved by the largest number of students.	B+	3.3	87-89
	B	3.0	83-86
	B-	2.7	80-82
Satisfactory. C+, C or C- is earned by work that demonstrates an adequate grasp of the course material and relevant skills. Grades in the C range designate work that has met the basic requirements of the course.	C+	2.3	77-79
	C	2.0	73-76
	C-	1.7	70-72

Poor/Minimal Pass. D+ or D is earned by work that demonstrates minimal familiarity with the course material. Grades in the D range generally indicate insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.	D+	1.3	65-69
	D	1.0	60-64
Failure.	F	0.0	0-59

Course-based Ethics Approval in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

- Yes No, not needed, no such projects approved.

Community Service Learning Component:

- Required Optional None

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available:

- Exam registry – Students' Union
<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>
 See explanations below
 Document distributed in class
 Other (please specify)
 N/A

Additional Mandatory Instructional Fees (approved by Board of Governors):

- Yes No

Required Notes:

Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar.

Student Responsibilities:

Academic Integrity

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at www.governance.ualberta.ca) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#). If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that the use of on-line translation to complete assignments constitutes a form of cheating as the student's own understanding and work is therefore not reflected. Also, students in language courses should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, excessive editorial and creative help in assignments is considered a form of cheating that violates the Code of Student Behaviour.

Learning and Working Environment

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students; faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the [Office of the Student Ombuds](#). Information about the [University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures](#) is described in [UAPPOL](#).

Territorial Statement

“The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.” (*from the beginning of the Calendar*).

University of Alberta Sexual Violence Policy

The Sexual Violence Policy was approved by GFC in June 2017. It plays a vital role in ensuring a safe and respectful learning and working environment. As defined in the policy, **sexual violence** is any sexual act or act of a sexual nature, or act targeting sexuality, whether physical or psychological, committed without consent. **Sexual violence** is a complex and serious problem in society and on university campuses. Sexual violence can affect individuals of all gender identities, gender expressions, and sexual orientations, as well as those from all ages, abilities, racial, cultural and economic backgrounds. Through this policy, the University of Alberta recognizes its responsibility to reduce sexual violence in the University community. The university aims to do so by fostering a culture of **consent** and support through education, training and policy. The University recognizes the possible effects of trauma on those who have experienced sexual violence and supports the efforts of individuals to seek support and recover. To read the policy in more detail, please visit:

<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Policies/Sexual-Violence-Policy.pdf>

Recording of Lectures

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections [Attendance](#) and [Examinations](#) of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the Code of Student Behaviour.

In this course, daily attendance is not taken, but regular absenteeism is noted and will affect your oral participation mark. Regardless of the reason for absence, you are responsible for finding out the material you missed. If you miss a test due to medical or other emergency, you are responsible for notifying the instructor by email within two days. The instructor has the final decision on whether to allow the test to be written at a later date or to transfer the weight of the test to other components. For unexcusable absences, a mark of zero will be recorded.

Policy for Late Assignments

All assignments are due at the beginning of the scheduled class time (submission of online eClass assignments will no longer be possible after that time). Students who consult **in advance** with an instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted one extension for that assignment. In cases of medical or other emergency, the student is responsible for notifying the instructor by email within two days. The instructor has the final decision on whether to grant an extension or to record a mark of zero. Assignments that are late for unexcusable reasons will not be accepted.

Disclaimer

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

Student Resources:

The best all-purpose website for student services is: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

Accessibility Resources (1 – 80 SUB)

The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) webpage.

The Academic Success Centre (1-80 SUB)

[The Academic Success Centre](#) offers a variety of workshops on effective study and exam strategies. There are in-person and online sessions available for a modest fee.

The Centre for Writers (1-42 Assiniboia Hall)

The [Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

Health and Wellness Support

There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the [Health and Wellness Support](#) webpage.

Office of the Student Ombuds

The [Office of the Student Ombuds](#) offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.