

FLS 331 - Spanish Oral and Written Expression I Model Syllabus

Note: This is a MODEL syllabus only. Please contact your instructor for the current syllabus if you are enrolled in FLS 331.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Development of speaking and writing skills at the Intermediate Mid to Intermediate High levels of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages proficiency scale, as well as listening/viewing and reading skills. Focus on sentence and paragraph-length discourse, narration and description in present, past, and future time frames within a variety of topics and contexts, and communication skills such as circumlocution. Course readings, video and discussion content center upon cultural aspects of the Spanish speaking world.

NOTE: All Spanish majors must reach at least the Intermediate High of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Oral Proficiency Scale prior to their expected graduation date. Students must take the OPIc test prior to completion of their first 300-level class. Please see http://fl.chass.ncsu.edu/spanish/oral_proficiency.php (/spanish/oral_proficiency.php) see for further information about this requirement and the computerized Oral Proficiency Interview (OPIc).

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the semester students will be able to:

- Produce sentence-level oral discourse in Spanish and begin to connect strings of coherent sentences to approximate paragraph-level oral discourse.
- Compose coherent academic essays of up to three pages in length, utilizing appropriate grammatical structure and vocabulary.
- Apply appropriate listening strategies to aid their understanding of extended discourse in spoken Spanish.
- Interpret main ideas and some supporting details contained in Spanish language video segments of up to feature movie length.
- Apply appropriate reading strategies to aid their understanding and appreciation of Spanish language texts.
- Interpret main ideas and some supporting details contained in reading passages from literature, journalism, and other Spanish language sources.
- Discuss literary, cultural and other academic topics in Spanish with grammatical and lexical precision and sophistication reflective of at least the Intermediate Mid to Intermediate High level on the Oral Proficiency Scale of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL <http://www.actfl.org>).

Prerequisite

FLS 202 (or transfer credit for equivalent course); Test placement: NCSU placement test: higher than 547 (higher than 46 old scoring), AP: 5, SAT subject test: 710-

Required Texts

1. *Revista* (3rd Ed.). Blanco, José. Boston: Vista Higher Learning, 2010.
2. *Composición: proceso y síntesis* (5th ed.). Valdés, Guadalupe, Trisha Dvorak, and Thomasina Pagán. Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2008. ISBN: 978-0-07351314-0 [Note that *Compsición: proceso y síntesis* will also be used in FLS 332.]
3. A good Spanish-English dictionary to consult (such as Collins, Cuyas, Larousse).

I have a link to a good bilingual online dictionary and links to good Spanish dictionaries on the course web page.

Grading

The course will be graded in the following manner:

- 20% Participation and preparation: Each regular day of class is worth 10 participation points. Students are expected to come to class having prepared the material assigned for the day and to actively participate in exercises and in-class activities. Students who come late, leave early, are not paying attention or are obviously unprepared and unable to effectively participate in group activities will receive less points for the day. Attendance and active participation in class are essential to improving language proficiency. In addition to the texts and materials on the course web page, materials to expand vocabulary, improve communicative strategies, and expand cultural knowledge will be provided in class in support of classroom activities and the application of grammatical concepts. It is essential that students be in class to benefit from these materials as well as benefit from the opportunity to practice the language. See the end of this document for important information on how participation will be evaluated.
- 20% Daily written class work for readings, videos and grammar assignments and grammar quizzes: Students are expected to do all assignments before class as indicated in the course schedule. Assignments are to be done by the date indicated on the course schedule. Written homework for readings, short films and videos will be taken up daily. It will be checked for completion, not corrected by the instructor. Grammar exercises that are to be handed in are indicated on the course schedule. These consist of short "ensayos" (paragraphs length normally) that illustrate usage of grammar concepts studied in the relevant sections. Suggested grammar exercises are indicated on the course schedule for each chapter studied. For these exercises, students should correct them using the answer key at the end of the book. They are for the student and will not be handed in. There will be short quizzes on grammar study days. Students are responsible for all material assigned from the first day of class regardless of date of registering.
- 20% formal writing assignments: There will be 3 formal writing assignments. Guidelines and topics will be posted in advance on the course web page. See course schedule for dates.
- 10% Oral presentations: Students will prepare 2 presentations in small groups, such as a debate or skit. Specific instructions will be provided in class and on the course website. See course schedule for dates.
- 10% Conversations outside of class: Students will be assigned a partner from their class. They will meet weekly and speak in Spanish for a minimum of 30 minutes. Suggested topics and a conversation report form will be posted on the course web page.
- 20% Final oral exam: The final exam for the course will be oral and will be administered during the established final exam period. Students will prepare a 10 minute oral expression exercise. The exercise will focus on narration in the past. Guidelines will be posted in advance on the course web page. The date and time of the final is determined by the University. Please see the course schedule.

Grading Scale

A+ 98-100%	B+ 88-89.9%	C+ 78-79.9%	D+ 68-69.9%	F 59.9-0%
A 93-96.9%	B 83-86.9%	C 73-76.9%	D 63-66.9%	
A- 90-92.9%	B- 80-82.9%	C- 70-72.9%	D- 60-62.9%	

Attendance policy

Attendance is obligatory. More than 3 absences of any kind (excused or unexcused) is considered excessive. For each absence beyond 3, I may deduct 1% point from the final grade. Please note that this is a separate category from the participation grade and requirements, though the two are related. For an absence to be excused, the student must inform me in advance if possible or as soon as possible after the absence causing event. The excuse must be documented and I must explicitly accept it as an excused absence. If an absence is excused, students will be allowed to do makeup work without penalty and will not have missed participation or quiz points counted against them. Students are responsible for all work done in class and due the day of the class that they miss.

(See http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic_affairs/courses_undergrad/REG02.20.3.php (http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic_affairs/courses_undergrad/REG02.20.3.php) for university policy on attendance. Pay attention to the definition of an excused absence).

Make-up work

Assignments and tests should be completed on time. Make-up work without penalty will be allowed for students with documented excused absences. In all other cases, late work, if accepted, will be penalized with a lower grade. It is not possible to make-up in class quizzes.

Course Schedule

The assignments for each day and dates of exams are indicated in the course schedule. The course schedule may be revised at the discretion of the instructor. Readings, videos, films, and other assignments may be added or changed. Due dates may be shifted. Students will be informed in advance of any changes.

Auditing

Students auditing any course at NC State are required to attend class on a regular basis. For this class, the student must attend regularly and participate actively under the same guidelines as outlined above for students taking the class for credit. In order to receive a grade of AU the student must take all in-class exams (the final exam is optional) as well as turning in all assignments/compositions and participating in any projects or presentations. In addition to the above requirements, the final course average grade, excluding the final, must be at least a D- for the student to receive a grade of AU.

Students with disabilities

As an instructor at NCSU, I am committed to following the university policy regarding students with disabilities. See <http://www.ncsu.edu/dso/> (<http://www.ncsu.edu/dso/>) for information about the policy.

Academic integrity

All instructors of Spanish classes at NC State take the academic integrity policy very seriously. Consult http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/student_services/student_discipline/POL11.35.1.php (http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/student_services/student_discipline/POL11.35.1.php) for information on the policy. Academic integrity extends to all work done in a course, including homework, class work, papers, projects, written tests, oral tests, laboratory work and exams.

Etiquette

Please treat your fellow students and me with consideration. Turn off or silence cell phones. Cell phones should be stored during class. Class time is not the appropriate time to send or receive text messages. Refrain from eating meals or noisy snacks during class. When either I or a fellow student is addressing the class, please pay attention and refrain from talking to other students.

Communciation

I regularly send emails to the class to make announcements. Please check your email daily. Make sure that Registration & Records has your correct personal information, including an email account that you check often. Should you be having any difficulties or issues with the class, please communicate with me so that we can resolve or deal with any problems in a timely and effective manner.

Preparation and participation information

The class participation grade in FLS 331 is an interactive grade which involves both a student self-assessment and instructor evaluation. Since conversation is a central component of this course, obviously it is important that students SPEAK during every class period. Remember that the objectives of this course are for you to improve your language proficiency. This involves continual interaction with Spanish outside the classroom as well as inside. You should generally spend at least two hours preparing for every hour of class. This preparation would be in the form of reading and re-reading assigned readings, viewing and reviewing the short films and videos, reviewing and studying appropriate grammatical concepts, as well as preparing for the specific assignment of each class period. Students are encouraged to seek out opportunities to engage with Spanish outside of class: television, radio stations, websites, community centers and their events, newspapers, stores, restaurants and musical events, etc. Note that your preparation for this course goes beyond the tangible, concrete grammar and written assignments you might have had in 100- and 200-level Spanish courses.

The only way to gain a more solid mastery of the language is to constantly be exposed to it, and to notice the use of grammatical structures and new vocabulary words. The following criteria will be used to evaluate your daily preparation and participation in class. Please familiarize yourself with both the criteria and their implementation.

Instructions

1. Complete the "registro de participación.doc" for every day of class. Download this document from the course web site; open it and type in your full name at the top; assign yourself a 10, 8, 6, or 4 (NOT any other number!) for each day, with a brief explanation of how you arrived at this evaluation. LEAVE THE TOTAL COLUMN BLANK -- I will complete that part.
2. Submit the "registro" to me at the end of Wednesday's class every week. Make sure you remember to turn the "registro" in even if I forget to ask for it. Make sure your NAME is on it.
3. Failure to follow these instructions will result in a 10% reduction of the weekly participation grade in question.

Preparation and participation grading rubric

Note that students are required to prepare all readings before the scheduled class time in order to participate in group activities and contribute to class discussions. See our [Preparation and Participation Grading Rubric \(/spanish/rubrics.php\)](/spanish/rubrics.php).