

SPAN 204 : Practical review of Spanish (Fall 2009)**WELCOME TO SPAN 204!**

INSTRUCTOR: Prof. Anna María Escobar, aescobar@illinois.edu, 4156 FLB
 HEAD T.A.: Ms. Florencia Henshaw, henshaw2@illinois.edu, 4142 FLB

LECTURE MEETINGS (ALL SECTIONS): Mon and Wed, 10:00-10:50 a.m., room 112, Gregory Hall

FRIDAY DISCUSSION GROUP MEETINGS*:

Section	Time	Davenport Hall Room	Section	Time	Davenport Hall Room
ADC	9 a.m.	211	ADB	2 p.m.	211
ADG	11 a.m.	211	ADA	3 p.m.	211
ADE	12 p.m.	211	ADJ	3 p.m.	212
ADF	12 p.m.	214	ADM	3 p.m.	132
ADK	12 p.m.	312	ADN	3 p.m.	312
ADD	1 p.m.	211	ADH	4 p.m.	211
ADI	1 p.m.	214			
ADL	1 p.m.	312			

*Information on T.A.s appears in the *Important Course Information* folder in Compass.

T.A.: _____ E-mail: _____ Contact hours: _____

Course content

As the title indicates, this course is designed to be a review of Spanish grammar. It covers the main aspects of the Spanish grammar system, including nouns and adjectives, determiners, pronouns, all verb tenses, their conjugation and use, clauses, and orthography. Each student will come to the course with different background knowledge of grammar; therefore, some topics may seem easy to you while others may be more complicated, and may even present you with material you have not been previously exposed to. The course will focus on the topics that cause most difficulty for English-speaking students in general, especially those related to verbs (e.g. verb tenses, preterite/imperfect, indicative/subjunctive, *ser/estar*). When necessary, comparisons with English will be presented, as will references to regional varieties of Spanish. After successful completion of this course, you will have gained a more nuanced understanding of these key aspects of Spanish grammar. This fuller understanding should result in greater skill in the revision of your own written work in Spanish, as well as greater accuracy in your oral production.

Course format

This course meets three times per week, twice for lecture (on Mondays and Wednesdays) and once in smaller groups of 20-25 students in a discussion section (on Fridays).

Lecture

The grammar points will be explained and exemplified in the lecture sessions. Students will have the opportunity to participate actively in the class by responding to questions that check their understanding of the grammar points using *i-Clicker* response devices. A schematic outline of each lecture will be available on Compass. Students must print those outlines and bring them to class, since they also include exercises to be answered in class. Attendance at both lecture and discussion sessions is very important. As a way to encourage active attendance and participation in the lecture sessions, short unannounced

quizzes will be given every week, which account for 10% of the final grade in the course, plus the possibility of 3% in extra credit.

Discussion sections

The purpose of the discussion sections is to give you a chance to practice the grammar you have studied in lecture and from the textbook. In these small group sessions, you will be able to practice listening, speaking, and writing Spanish by completing communicative activities that make you use the grammar you have learned for a practical purpose, and participating in the discussion of four short stories to be read during the semester. The more you practice, the more automatic the grammar will become for you! Therefore, attendance in discussion sections is essential and there are ***no excused absences given in discussion, except as permitted by the UIUC Student Code.***

If you will need to miss a discussion section in observance of a religious holiday, please inform your discussion section TA in advance and an excuse will be granted. Athletes who must travel for a competition and will miss a discussion section meeting for that reason must provide official documentation from the appropriate athletic department to the discussion section TA *prior to missing the class.*

If you must miss your discussion section due to illness, family emergency, or another university-sanctioned reason, you must get a letter from the Emergency Dean sent to the professor and to your discussion section TA. Without a letter from the Emergency Dean, we will be unable to excuse your absence and you will receive a zero for that week's discussion section. You may contact the Emergency Dean by phone at (217) 333-0050 or visit their website <http://www.odos.uiuc.edu/emergency/> to request an absence letter.

Materials

(1) Textbook [available at the Illini Union Bookstore]

Alonso Raya, R., Castañeda, A., Martínez Gila, P., Miquel López, L., et al. (2008). *Gramática básica del estudiante de español*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Custom Publishing.

(2) Short stories (available in PDF format in Compass)

- Ribeyro, Julio Ramón “Los gallinazos sin plumas” [In: Ribeyro, Julio Ramón. 1972. *La palabra del mudo*. Lima: Milla Batres.]
- García Márquez, Gabriel “El ahogado más bello” [From: Stavans, Ilán / Schiminovich, Flora. 1994. *La pluma mágica. Cuentos de América Latina*. Boston: Heinle and Heinle.]
- Jiménez, Francisco “Las cajas de cartón” [In: Jiménez Borja. 2002. *Las Cajas de Cartón. Relatos de la vida peregrina de un niño campesino*. Los Angeles: Houghton Mifflin.]
- Quiroga, Horacio “La tortuga gigante” [In: Quiroga, Horacio. 2000. *Cuentos de la selva*. Madrid: Alianza Editorial.]

(3) Other materials available in Compass

- Lecture schematic outlines (which include in-class exercises)
- Exercises and short-story questions to bring to Discussion sessions

(4) iClicker [which you should *always* bring with you to lecture. Available at the Illini Union Bookstore]

NOTE:

In order to do the quizzes in lecture for credit, you need to register your iClicker before the deadline indicated in the course calendar. Instructions on how to register your i-Clicker are posted on Compass in the folder “Important Course Information”. Be sure to use you Net ID (not your UIN) when registering your iClicker. If you have any questions, please contact the Head TA, Ms. Florencia Henshaw (henshaw2@). For more information on the iClicker, please go to: <http://www.iclicker.com>.

Grade Weighting

Exam 1	12.5%
Exam 2	12.5%
Exam 3	12.5%
Exam 4	12.5%
Discussion Participation	12.5%
Compass exercises	15%
3 Graded writing assignments	12.5%
i-Clicker quizzes (in lecture)	13% (10% + 3% extra credit)
TOTAL	103%

Grading scale

90 – 92 A-	93 – 96 A	97 – 103 A+
80 – 82 B-	83 – 86 B	87 – 89 B+
70 – 72 C-	73 – 76 C	77 – 79 C+
60 – 62 D-	63 – 66 D	67 – 69 D+
	0 – 59 F	

Rounding grades: If your grade contains a decimal less than .5, it will be rounded down (e.g. 82.4 = 82). However, if your grade contains a decimal of .5 or higher, it will be rounded up (e.g., 82.5 = 83).

Access to your grades: The university does not allow grades to be posted by e-mail or telephone. You may inquire about your grade during your discussion section or in office hours. In addition, you will have access to your grades as they are posted in the online gradebook through Compass. This way you will be able to track your grades throughout the semester.

Exams

There will be four exams in this course. The tests will cover the material presented in lecture, the corresponding pages in the textbook, as well as the exercises posted on Compass. A writing question related to topics of the short stories will be included only in exams 2 and 3. The exams are not cumulative. All four exams will be given in the lecture hall. The exams will be in multiple-choice format and there will be a review session during the regular 50-minute lecture period on the class day prior to each exam.

There are no make-up exams without a written letter from the Emergency Dean. If any situation arises that interferes with your ability to take an exam, you must get a letter from the Emergency Dean. You may request a letter from the Emergency Dean by phone at (217) 333-0050, or by filling out the online form available at <<https://www-s.odos.uiuc.edu/absence/>>.

Participation

Students are expected to attend and participate in all activities of the course. The participation grade will consider the activities done in the discussion sessions. See grading criteria below for more information.

Compass exercises

For each grammar topic covered, there are exercises online in Compass to provide you with an opportunity to check your understanding and application of the concepts. These exercises will benefit you most if you do them little by little. However, the exercises are available until the day of the test so that you can access them if you need more practice. For that reason, there are four deadlines for the Compass exercises that correspond to the dates of the four tests. By the day of the test, you must have completed all of the exercises that correspond to the topics represented on the test. To access them, please go to the folder in the homepage labeled “Compass Quizzes”. In order to receive a grade on the Compass exercises, you must complete them before the deadline, which is always **12:00 AM midnight the night before the exam**. The online system will not store your responses if you attempt to enter them

after the deadline. Please plan to complete these exercises in advance of the deadline, since **we cannot give credit for technical difficulties with Compass**, or for exercises submitted after the deadline. You will have **only three attempts** to complete each Compass exercise, and the grade recorded will be the higher of the three.

Writing assignments

There will be three graded writing assignments during the semester, relating to three of the short stories. The assignments will be done in the following stages:

- Week 1: Assignment will be discussed in discussion and a writing piece will be assigned for the following Friday.
- Week 2: A draft version of the writing assignment will be brought to class typed on a paper (see instructions below) and will be peer-corrected in class.
- Week 3: A final version of the writing assignment will be brought to class and handed in for grading. (See *grading criteria* below) Assignment will be returned the following Friday.

Take-home writing assignments will have a minimum of 150 words and need to be **typed** in Times New Roman, 12 points, and 1.5 spacing. The grading criteria may also be found in Compass, in the “Important Course Information” folder. Since one of the goals of this class is to improve your grammatical ability, when your TA grades your exercise, she or he will return it to you with a grade and indicating if there are grammatical errors that you should be able to correct on your own.

i-Quizzes in Lecture

Every week, your professor will give you a short quiz during lecture. In addition to the 10 points that can be received for answering the quizzes correctly, you can receive a maximum of 3 extra points added to your final grade by taking and answering all these short quizzes correctly. Partial credit will be given. See *grading criteria* for further information.

Class preparation

Lecture

Before each lecture you will check the corresponding pages in the textbook, and will respond to the exercises included in the schematic outline of the corresponding day. You will need to bring the outline, the book, and the i-clicker to class. This will help you be better prepared for the in-class practice exercises and the unannounced quizzes.

Discussion

In order to fully benefit from the participation in discussion session activities, prior to class, you will need to download and bring to class the communicative exercises listed in the calendar for that week. You must also read the assigned short-story readings, complete the associated reading guide and any writing homework assigned by your T.A. If you come to class unprepared, you will receive a low participation grade and will not get much benefit from this practice session. The grading criteria may be found in below and in Compass, in the “Important Course Information” folder.

Grading Criteria

i-Quizzes (in Lecture)

- 1 point: if correct
.5 point: if incorrect
0 point: for no response

Sum of semester points will be divided by total number of i-quizzes and multiplied by the percentage of the final grade (.13).

Participation in discussion

All students will be graded daily on a 5-point scale starting the third Friday of the semester.

- 5 points: all activities of the day were completed successfully
- 4 points: all activities of the day were completed with several errors.
- 3 points: activities were not completed, but were attempted.
- 0 point: student did not attend or did not do the activities.

Total points for the semester will be divided by 60 (=12 meetings x 5 possible points) and multiplied by the percentage of the final grade (0.125).

Writing assignments (three to be handed in in Discussion)

Each of the three writing assignments will be graded as follows:

- 5 points: assignment had good content and very few grammatical errors
- 4 points: assignment had good content but some serious grammatical errors
- 3 points: assignment demonstrated inaccuracies in both content and grammar
- 1 point: assignment had fewer than the minimum number of words
- 0 point: assignment was not turned in by the assigned date

Total points for the semester will be divided by 15 (total number of possible points) and multiplied by the percentage of the final grade (.125).

Receiving James Scholar Honors Credit

Each semester one particular section of the course is restricted to James Scholars. Students enrolled in this section do not need to complete an honors learning agreement for the course.

(NOTE: All students enrolled in the James Scholar Section must complete the required group project. If you are a James Scholar but do not wish to receive Honors credit for this course, please do NOT sign up in the especially designated section.)

Other James Scholars not enrolled in that designated section but who wish to receive honors credit for SPAN 204 **will need to complete either an electronic honors learning agreement or a paper honors learning agreement**, as determined by their College. To find out where to obtain an honors learning agreement or how to submit it, please contact your advisor. You are responsible for completing all necessary forms and obtaining the approval from either the professor or the Head TA **by Week 6 of the semester** (please note that your College may have an earlier deadline). In order to receive James Scholar credit for this course, you will be required to participate in a group-project creating a webpage on a topic related to the Spanish-speaking world.

Students with Disabilities

To insure that disability-related concerns are properly addressed from the beginning, students with disabilities who require assistance should come to see the professor as soon as possible, either in office hours or before or after lecture. At that time, please provide the professor with your Request for Accommodations (RFA) letter from Disability Services and Educational Resources (DRES). This policy applies to those students who should receive accommodations on the exams in this course (e.g. additional time), as well as to those students who need other accommodations in class (e.g. a notetaker or special assistive devices). Students who require accommodations on exams must fill out the online scheduling form on the DRES website <<https://www.disability.uiuc.edu/secure/testing/schedule.php>> at least one week prior to each exam to arrange a time to take the exam at the DRES Testing Center.