



SPANISH 312.001
FALL 2011

(4 credit course)

Schedule: MWF 2:00-2:50 p.m.

Classroom: TETC 154

Professor: Carolina Bown

E-mail address: cdbown@salisbury.edu

Office Location: Holloway Hall 101

Phone: 410-543-6254

Office Hours: MWF: 11:00 – 11:45 a.m. MW: 3:00-4:00 *Hours also by appointment*

Course Description

The course is designed to explore Spanish and Latin American mentality and current events through debates and talks. Students will have a great opportunity to expand the practical use of Spanish language and to give their own opinion on different topics. They will be asked to be well prepared before and also to participate in an active and regular manner in each class session. The class will always be in Spanish and students will be required to use only this language to interact with each others. Students need to acquire specific skills for oral communication. For this reason, we will focus on communicative skills and some grammar exercises to improve oral expression.

Learning Objectives

In order to complete this course satisfactorily, students are expected to:

- Improve self-expression in Spanish
- Develop self-confidence by using a second language
- Apply new vocabulary and grammatical structures orally and in writing
- Improve listening and reading comprehension of authentic materials
- Further develop critical thinking and awareness of cultural issues
- Express your point of view firmly yet respectfully
- Be informed about current events in the Spanish speaking world
- Recognize some language variations (e.g. *lunfardo* from Argentina), in terms of vocabulary, pronunciation, and intonation
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Required text & other materials

- Blanco, José A. *Revista: Conversación sin barreras. 3rd Edition*, 2010. Vista Higher Learning. Student ISBN: 978-1-60007-859-0
- Microphone for computer
- Additional weekly articles, written in Spanish, that you will have to find online or at the Blackwell Library to support your opinions in writing or during class debates

Grading

The final grade will be calculated as follows:		Grading scale:
1. Class participation	150	100-90 = A
2. Quizzes	100	89-80 = B
3. Supersite	100	79-70 = C
4. Journal (weeks #6 & 12)	150	69-60 = D
5. Presentations (2)	200	60 and below = F
6. Exams (2)	100	
7. Films reviews	100	
8. Oral exam	<u>100</u>	
Total possible points	1,000	

Description of assessment instruments

- 1. Class participation:** Your active participation in pairs and group work is an important part of the class, so it is essential that you come to class prepared and ready. All the materials discussed in class should be read and prepared in advance. Likewise, each of you will be a “current events expert” of one Spanish speaking country. Each week I will ask a few students to give an oral update of their countries. The best way to prepare for this is to regularly read an online newspaper from that country. Your knowledge about current events will have an important impact on your class participation grade.

Ejemplos de algunos sitios Portales/ Buscadores/ Páginas Web útiles

- Periódicos del mundo <http://www.actualidad.com/>
- BBC en español: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/spanish/news/>
- Canal de televisión de Costa Rica <http://www.teletica.com> (clicar telenoticias/videos)

Rúbrica para participación en clase

A	- Student participates in class discussions virtually every class period - Questions and comments always reflect that the student has done the reading, looked up vocabulary, and tried to interpret to the best of her ability - Comments are made in Spanish that is mostly correct and comprehensible - The student is clearly an expert on current events about his/her country
B	- Student participates in class discussions regularly but not every class period - Questions and comments usually reflect that the student has done the reading, looked up vocabulary, and tried to interpret to the best of her ability - Comments are made in Spanish that is mostly correct and comprehensible - The student is more or less an expert on current events about his/her country
C	- Student participates in class discussions from time to time but not regularly - Questions and comments sometimes reflect that the student has done the reading, looked up vocabulary, and tried to interpret to the best of her ability - Comments are made in Spanish that is sometimes correct and comprehensible - The student knows just a bit about the latest news about his/her country
D	- Student never or almost never participates in class discussions - Questions and comments usually reflect that the student has NOT done the reading, NOT looked up vocabulary, and NOT tried to interpret to the best of her ability - The student barely knows who the president and the capital of his/her country
F	- Student speaks English in class. The more English a student speaks in class, the lower the participation grade -The student does not demonstrate knowledge about current events

- 1. Quizzes:** Students will be assigned unannounced short quizzes on material (mostly vocabulary) discussed during the previous class throughout the semester. All quiz grades will be calculated under this component of the final grade. If you are absent, you will receive a zero grade. Your lowest quiz grade of the semester will be erased from the final grade.
- 2. Supersite:** Students will have to watch videos, record speeches (you will need a microphone) and do some miscellaneous exercises in the book website. Assignments will be given class by class.
- 3. Journal:** You will write in your journal (document Mi Diario, available in MyClasses) about the different topics discussed in class 1-2 pages (minimum) weekly diary entry. You will add your OWN comments in SPANISH on what has been said during the class. I want reflective, thoughtful, well organized remarks. You must write soon after class so your comments are fresh. These are basically free points if you put effort. The only ways you can NOT get all these points is by not writing on your journal, by writing carelessly, or by not bringing your journal pages, stapled, on the due days. Journals are due at the end of week #6 and at the end of week #12, at the beginning of class. NO EXCEPTIONS. If you don't bring your journal at the time stated, you will receive a zero.
- 4. Oral presentations:** Each student will participate in two oral presentations in SPANISH, 12-15 minutes (groups of two), 20 minutes (groups of three). The first one will be about one interesting figure or event of a Spanish speaking country. In groups of two or three, students will e-mail the professor with their first and second choice during the first week of class. The second oral presentation will be an analysis of a cultural topic. You are expected to incorporate information from at least two outside sources (these must be approved by your professor) in order to defend your thesis (point of view). See the websites provided in the Class participation section, plus the following ones.

Nombre de una página web útil: www.ideasrapidas.org

Both presentations will require that you give a brief handout (written in Spanish) to the professor, 3 days or more before your presentation. Once the handout is approved, you will give a copy to each of your classmates. This handout will include 3-6 new useful vocabulary words, the information covered, and two original and solid questions for the group to discuss. This activity will allow you to polish your presentation skills in Spanish, and facilitate a critical discussion of the work with your classmates. Guidelines will be provided.

Rúbrica para presentación oral

	Vocab	Lenguaje	Contenido	Contacto visual	Voz fuerte	Inflexión de voz	Profesionalismo
Excelente	20	20	20	10	10	10	10
Muy bueno	18	18	18	9	9	9	9
Bueno	16	16	16	8	8	8	8
Aceptable	14	14	14	7	7	7	7
Apenas Aceptable	12	12	12	6	6	6	6
débil	10	10	10	5	5	5	5

Muy débil	8	8	8	4	4	4	4
Deficiente	4	4	4	2	2	2	2
No existente	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

- 5. Exams:** As part of the course you will have two in-class exams that will examine your knowledge of reading and oral comprehension, concepts, and materials discussed in class. Exam format will include multiple choice or T/F, short answer questions, and at least one –possibly oral- question that each of you will have to develop individually. Exams will take the whole class period.
- 6. Film reviews:** You will have to watch two movies outside of class and two in class. You will write a reflection paper for each of the movies. Guidelines will be provided through MyClasses

GRUPO A (Outside of class)

Película 1 : “Diarios de motocicleta” de Walter Salles, 2004, o “Volver” de Pedro Almodóvar, 2006, y

Película 2: “Mar adentro” de Alejandro Amenábar, 2004

GRUPO B (In class)

“Valentín” de Alejandro Agresti, 2002.

“María Llena Eres De Gracia” de Joshua Marston, 2004.

- 7. Final Oral exam:** Students will have a 10-15 minute individual oral exam on any topic discussed during the semester. More details will be given near the end of the semester.

Make-ups: Make-ups for exams, quizzes, or presentations will only be given for official conflicts or verified medical reasons. Arrangements must be made with the instructor prior to the date listed on the syllabus. No make-ups available for journals.

Attendance Policy:

Your attendance, punctuality, and active participation are crucial for the successful completion of this course. You are required to attend all classes and to be prepared to begin work each day at the appointed time. For this reason, each student is allowed 3 absences with no penalty during the semester. These 3 days may be used for class switching at the beginning of the semester, sickness, trips, weddings, funerals, interviews, or emergencies of any kind. After the 3 absences are used, a penalty of 25 points off the final course grade will be incurred for each additional absence. Therefore, if, after calculating your final semester grade, you have 920 points and you have a total of 5 absences, your grade will drop to 870.

I am aware that life sometimes brings unexpected challenges, such as death in the family, accidents, or any other true difficult personal events. If you approach me with documented facts, I may try to work with you regarding deadlines extensions or accommodations. However, you should not expect to do less work than your classmates. That is unethical and unfair. Likewise, if for any reason you exceed the f 3 absences, your grade will be lower than you expected. If you are not satisfied with this policy, you should drop the class.

Writing across the Curriculum

This course supports the commitment of the university to providing opportunities for students to continue to develop their ability to express themselves clearly in writing. To learn to write well and correctly in a second language also helps to develop that capacity in English. All writing assignments in this course are designed with this philosophy in mind. Evaluation of written assignments will be based on both form and content.

Academic integrity

The best learning environment is one based on mutual respect and trust. However, the desire to achieve a good grade without doing the necessary work may tempt some students to cheat on exams or to represent the work of others as their own. At Salisbury University, plagiarism and cheating are wrong and are considered acts of “academic dishonesty” i.e. a deliberate and deceptive representation of one’s own work. Instances of academic dishonesty include all, but are not limited to the following:

- Plagiarism – presenting as one’s own work, whether literally or in paraphrase, the work of another author
- Cheating on exams, tests, quizzes; the wrongful giving or accepting of unauthorized exam materials; the use of illegitimate sources of information
- Falsifying excuses for non-attendance or completion of assignments

There are NO mitigating circumstances to justify academic dishonesty. If you are unclear about what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism, please ask. Ignorance is no excuse. Discovery of academic dishonesty will bring stiff penalties, including a failing grade for the assignment in question and possibly a grade of F for the course. The maximum penalty at Salisbury University for plagiarism is possible expulsion from the entire USM system, so for your own sake, maintain your academic integrity.

School cancellation on test days

Should classes be called off on a test day, students should expect that the missed test will be given during the next regularly scheduled class. In the event of substantial snowfall (5 inches +) overnight, I will not be here--nor should you. For other weather related problems, use your own discretion and good common sense.

Calendario tentativo Span 312 Otoño 2011*





 Entregar el diario










 Aprender vocabulario del capítulo



 Presentación



Examen

Fecha	Actividad en clase	Entregar a la profesora (ejercicios diarios del libro serán indicados cada clase)
Agosto 29	Introducción al curso y Lección 1	
Agosto 31	Comenzamos Lección 1 	Terms of agreement
Septiembre 2	Lección 1	Terms of agreement
Septiembre 7	Lección 1	
Septiembre 9	 Presentaciones de países	
12	Lección 2 -   Presentaciones de países	

14	🗨️ Presentaciones de temas	
16	Lección 2 📅 – 🗨️ Presentaciones de países	
19	Lección 2 - 🗨️ Presentaciones de países	
21	Lección 2 - 🗨️ Presentaciones de temas	 Reflexión película grupo A
23	Lección 2 - 🗨️ Presentaciones de temas	
26	🗨️ Presentaciones de temas	
28	Lección 3	
30	Lección 3 📅 - 🗨️ Presentaciones de países	
Octubre 3	Lección 3 - 🗨️ Presentaciones de países	
5	Lección 3 - 🗨️ Presentaciones de temas	
7	Lección 3 - 🗨️ Presentaciones de temas	
10	Revisión para examen 1	
12	 Examen 1	
14		Diario 📖
17		
19	Lección 4- 🗨️ Presentaciones de temas 📅	
21	Lección 4- 🗨️ Presentaciones de temas 📅	
24	Lección 4	
26	Lección 4	 Reflexión película grupo B
28	Lección 5 📅	
31	Lección 5	
Noviembre 2	Lección 5	
4	Lección 5	
7		
9		
11	Lección 6- 🗨️ Presentaciones de temas	
14	🗨️ Presentaciones de temas	 Reflexión película grupo A
16	Lección 6- 🗨️ Presentaciones de temas	
18	Lección 6- 🗨️ Presentaciones de temas 📅	
21	Lección 6- 🗨️ Presentaciones de temas	Diario 📖
DÍA DE GRACIAS 		
28	Revisión para examen 2	
30	 Examen 2	
Diciembre 2		

5		
7	REVISIÓN Lecciones 1-3 y evaluaciones de clase	 Reflexión película grupo B
9	REVISIÓN Lecciones 4-6 y fiesta	
12	FINAL EXAM (ORAL) IN TE 154 FROM 1-4:30 PM	BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

*Este horario puede cambiar durante el semestre. La profesora anunciará cualquier cambio en su momento.



Terms of Agreement (Due by Sept 2)

Important: Not being in class does not excuse you from not doing your homework or coming unprepared to class. On the contrary, there is a stronger reason for you to study more during your absent period because you have, in fact, already missed a class. **It is your obligation to check with a classmate if there is anything (reading, quiz, handout, etc.) due the day you come back from being absent.** Make sure to exchange e-mails and phone numbers with at least 3 classmates during the first week of class.

Fill in the blanks:

- Office hours with professor Bown are _____
- Professor Bown's office is located _____
- Our first exam is on _____ (date) and it will include _____
- The oral final exam for this class is on _____ (date)
- I can miss a total of _____ classes without penalty
- Class participation counts as _____/1000 points
- T or F Papers handed to the professor must be stapled when needed

I, the undersigned, attest to having read the Syllabus for Spanish 312. I understand both the policies of the course, as laid out in the Syllabus, and my responsibilities. I am entitled and encouraged to ask questions and seek clarifications about the Syllabus at any time during the semester. However, such questions and clarifications are my responsibility, and my ignorance of either policy or schedule will not be accepted as an excuse for not adhering to either. Signed,

Name (printed) Course Date

e-mail Signature