

Spanish 150: Conversation and Contemporary Life
Fall 2006
Moravian College
Department of Foreign Languages

Instructor: Claudia Mesa

Office: Comenius 406

Office Hours: M W F 10:00 - 11:00 am, and by appointment.

Phone: (610) 861-1397

Email: cmesa@moravian.edu

Textbook: Blanco, José, María Isabel García, and María Cinta Aparisi. Revista. Conversación sin barreras. Boston: Vista Higher Learning, 2004.

Course description: This is an intensive Spanish conversation class designed to develop an intermediate level of proficiency. Special attention will be paid to the expression of opinions on daily life and current issues. It is expected that at the end of the semester students will be able to:

- Describe and narrate in major time frames (present, past and future)
- Get through simple tasks or social situations
- Participate actively in conversations on concrete topics in both formal and informal settings
- Sustain communication by using connected discourse of paragraph length
- Be able to express their own opinions and talk about themselves
- Be able to read and understand news articles and short stories.

Course procedure: Given that this is a conversation class, it is expected that students speak in Spanish as frequently as possible in class and out of the classroom. The most effective way to improve your language skills is through intensive practice on speaking and reading. Therefore, the preparation for the conversations in the classroom will require a careful reading of materials in Spanish about the issues at hand. The assigned materials from the textbook, as well as other sources from the media and the Internet will enrich the vocabulary and stimulate some ideas for conversation. As a rule for this class **no English will be accepted**.

Besides the readings, it is expected that students speak Spanish outside class. It is suggested that the student spend at least 2 hours per week outside class in conversation on issues associated with the materials under discussion. I strongly recommend that you find a classmate to meet regularly or any fluent Spanish speaker willing to work with you.

Class attendance: Faithful attendance is expected since continuous practice is needed to learn a language.

- Every student will be allowed to miss up to **three (3) classes** without losing points off their final grade
- Every absence beyond three will result in a deduction of 1 point off the final grade. It is the responsibility of the student to reserve his/her 3 absences for those circumstances when missing class is unavoidable, and to inform the instructor as soon as possible about the reason for the absence. Three late arrivals to class (10 minutes or more) will be the equivalent of one absence and students will lose 1 point off their final grade.
- In case of extended absences the student should talk to Students Services or to the Academic Dean who will contact the instructor. Only if the Dean justifies the absences, they will be excused.

Academic integrity: Academic dishonesty and plagiarism is a serious offense and will be handled according to the Moravian policy on Academic Honesty (please, see the Student Handbook).

Evaluation guidelines

1. Class preparation and participation: Students are expected to come to class having prepared the readings and exercises assigned by the professor (see “Programa del curso”). Attendance and **active** class participation is necessary to succeed in this course. The instructor will assign points according to the level of preparation and participation of each student. The participation grades will be assigned as follows:

A= 95 Excellent participation (the student answers questions and offers interesting comments without the need of the professor or the debate leader calling on him/her. The comments and answers show that the student has thoroughly prepared the reading and has done the necessary background research to understand the reading).

B= 85 Good participation (the student answers questions and offers interesting comments whenever the professor or debate leader calls on him/her. Sometimes, the student participates without being asked. The comments and answers show that the student has prepared the reading and has done the necessary background research to understand the reading quite well).

C= 75 Fair participation (the student answers questions and offers comments only when the professor or debate leader calls on him/her. The comments and answers show that the student has prepared the reading, but has not done much necessary background research to understand the reading).

D= 65 Poor participation (the student answers questions and offers very brief comments only when the professor or debate leader calls on him/her. The comments and answers show that the student has a poor preparation of the reading and has not done the necessary background research to understand it).

F= 55 Lack of participation (the student does not answer questions and does not offer any comments in the class or group discussion. The lack of comments and answers, as well as incorrect answers, show that the student has not done the reading or, if he/she has done it, it has been in a careless or incomplete way).

No attendance, no participation at all: When a student is not in class, he/she gets a 0 for that day regardless of the reason for that absence.

2. Oral exams, interviews and presentations: There will not be any written exams in this class. The evaluation of this course will be based on the student’s oral performance. There will be one oral exam recorded on tape and one oral class presentation. Also, there will be one interview at the end of the semester.

- The **oral exam** recorded on tape will concentrate, but not exclusively, on expressing opinions and developing topics orally. This exam will consist on a recorded presentation on specific topics which the student will develop as a speech. A guide will be provided in advance. On the designated date, students will hand in their cassette which the instructor will evaluate.

- Throughout the semester, each student will make **one oral presentation** (10-15 minutes long). The selection of each topic should be consulted with and approved by the instructor at least one week in advance of the presentation date.
 - In the **final** interview evaluation the student must demonstrate progress in his/her language skills from the beginning of the semester.
- 3. Class debates:** Students must actively participate in 5 class debates on the short films (**cortometrajes**) included in each "lección." Questions for the debates are provided in the first "análisis" section in each chapter.
 - 4. Extra credit:** Students who keep a personal dictionary and turn it on the last day of class, will receive up to 2 extra points in their final grade.

FINAL GRADE CALCULATION

Class participation	30%
1 taped oral exam	20%
1 oral presentation	15%
Class debates	15%
Final oral exam	20%

LETTER GRADE

95-100	A	76-73	C
94-90	A-	79-77	C+
89-87	B+	69-67	D+
86-83	B	66-63	D
82-80	B-	62-60	D-
72-70	C-	59-0	F

PROGRAMA DEL CURSO

(subject to change. Last revised 09/20/06)

Semana 1

Agosto 28	Introducción
Agosto 30	Lección 1: Realidad o fantasía (2-7) Cortometraje 1
Sept. 1	Debate preparatorio: análisis del cortometraje 1 (8-9)

Semana 2

Sept. 4	NO HAY CLASE (Labor Day)
Sept. 6	Lección 1 Estructuras y Ensayo (12-15)
Sept. 8	Opinión y Cuento (16-22)

Semana 3

Sept. 11	Análisis del cuento, tira cómica y tertulia (23-27)
Sept. 13	Lección 2: Cuestión de personalidad (28-33) Cortometraje
Sept. 15	<u>Debate 1:</u> análisis del cortometraje (34-35) Estructuras (36-37)

Semana 4

Sept. 18	Presentación de Julie: Costa Rica
Sept. 20	Artículo (38-42)
Sept. 22	Cuento (43-47)
	Presentación de Jasmine: Pintura española

Semana 5

- Sept. 25 Obra de Teatro (48-57)
Sept. 27 Tira cómica y Tertulia (58-61)
Sept. 29 **Lección 3: *Prohibido pensar*** (62-67) Cortometraje 3
Presentación de Dana: Festividades hispanas

Semana 6

- Octubre 2 Debate 2: análisis del cortometraje (68-69) Estructuras (70-71)
Octubre 4 Entrevista (72-76)
Presentación de Sofía: El castillo
Octubre 6 Opinión (77-81)

Semana 7

- Octubre 9 **NO HAY CLASE** (Receso de otoño)
Octubre 11 **Presentación de Cristina:** Buenos Aires
Presentación de Chelsea: El día de la Raza
Octubre 13 Cuento (82-87)
Taped oral exam due

Semana 8

- Octubre 16 Tira cómica y tertulia (88-91)
Octubre 18 **Lección 4: *Poder, quiero más poder*** (92-97) Cortometraje 4
Octubre 20 Debate 3: análisis del cortometraje (98-99) Estructuras (100-01)

Semana 9

- Octubre 23 Opinión (102-105)
Octubre 25 **Visita a una exposición de arte: Patricia Iranzo (España)**
***The class will meet at the Payne Gallery**
Octubre 27 Discusión de la exposición
Presentación de Laura: Salvador Dalí

Semana 10

- Octubre 30 Experiencias (106-110)
Nov. 1 Cuento (111-121)
Nov. 3 Tira cómica y tertulia (122-125)

Semana 11

- Nov. 6 Preparación para el cortometraje. **Presentación de Linsey:** Los conversos
Nov. 8 **Lección 5: *El laboratorio de la literatura*** (126-131) Cortometraje 5
Nov. 10 Debate 5: análisis del cortometraje (132-33) Estructuras (134-35)

Semana 12

- Nov. 13 Experiencias (136-39)
Presentación de Anthony: Los deportes en Latinoamérica
Nov. 15 Artículo (140-44)
Nov. 17 Cuento (145-49)

Semana 13

- Nov. 20 Tira cómica y tertulia (150-53)
Presentación de Lauren: La importancia de las lenguas extranjeras
Nov. 22 **NO HAY CLASE** (Día de Acción de Gracias)
Nov. 24 **NO HAY CLASE**

Semana 14

- Nov. 27 **Lección 6:** *Modos de vivir* (154-59) Cortometraje 6.
Nov. 29 Debate 6: análisis del cortometraje (160-61) Estructuras (162-63)
Dic. 1 Opinión (168-71)
Presentación de Andrew: El medio ambiente
Presentación de Ivy: TBA

Semana 15

- Dic. 4 Micro-cuentos (172-75)
Dic. 6 Tira cómica y tertulia (178-81)
Dic. 8 Entrevistas orales