

Department of Foreign Languages
Moravian College
Spanish 150: Conversation and Contemporary Life
MWF 9:10am-10:00am PPHAC 301
Fall 2008

Professor Claudia Mesa
Comenius Hall 406
(610) 861-1397
E-mail: cmesa@moravian.edu
Office Hours: MWF 1:45-2:45 and by appointment

Course Description

Spanish 150 is an intensive conversation class designed to develop an intermediate level of oral proficiency. Special attention will be paid to the expression of opinions on daily life situations, current issues, films, essays, short stories, letters and interviews. Although the emphasis of this class is on conversation, you will have the opportunity to develop your listening, reading, and writing skills as well. At the end of the semester you should be able to:

- Describe and narrate in major time frames (present, past, future, subjunctive and conditional)
- 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 opinions and talk about yourself and others
- Be able to read, understand and discuss news articles, essays and short stories
- Give a formal oral presentation in Spanish without the use of notes

It is expected that students speak in Spanish as frequently as possible. I suggest that each of you spend at least 2 hours per week outside class in conversation on issues associated with the materials under discussion. It is recommended that you find a classmate to meet regularly or any fluent Spanish speaker willing to work with you. I also encourage you to attend the activities organized by the Spanish Club such as the *Spanish Table*, selected movie screenings and cultural trips.

Textbook

Aparisi, María Cinta et al. *Revista. Conversación sin barreras*. 2nd. Ed. Boston: Vista Higher Learning, 2007.

Diccionario de la lengua española	http://buscon.rae.es/draeI/
Diccionario español-inglés/inglés-español	http://www.wordreference.com/
Diccionarios de sinónimos y antónimos	http://tradu.scig.uniovi.es/sinon.cgi
	http://www.elmundo.es/diccionarios

Other materials will be posted on **Blackboard** <http://blackboard.moravian.edu/>. Please set up and account and enroll yourself in this course after the first day of class. Look for CONVERSATION AND CONTEMPORARY LIFE (SPAN150.FA08)

*If you are student requiring learning assistance, I will be happy to accommodate you. I recommend you contact Mr. Joe Kempher in the Office of Learning Services (Ext. 1510) or Dr. Ronald Kline in the Counseling Center. Also, feel free to talk to me directly.

Evaluation guidelines

1. Class participation and attendance. I will assign class participation points according to the level of preparation, accuracy of the language, vocabulary, content and preparation of each student. Because this is a conversation class, it is important that you pay special attention to both *what* you said and *how* do you say it.

Starting with Spanish 150 students are required to assist at least three times during the semester to an event organized by the Spanish Club such as the Spanish Table, featured films, talks, museum visits and other cultural activities. These activities are part of your participation grade.

Students will be allowed to miss up to **two (2) classes** without losing points off their final grade. Every absence beyond two will result in a deduction of one point off the final grade. As a rule for this class **no English will be accepted**. Using English in class will count towards negative participation in your final grade. Please turn off your cell phone before entering class.

2. Homework. You are required to do homework every day as a way to prepare for class. I will collect three short written assignments on the days specified on the class schedule. The rest of the homework will be collected twice always before or on the day of the exam. According to the quality of your homework you could receive one of the following grades: *High Pass, Pass* or *No Pass*.

3. Oral presentation. Throughout the semester, each student will give an oral presentation in Spanish. At the end of the syllabus you will find a list of suggested topics. If you are interested in working on something else, please consult with the professor for approval.

4. Grammar presentation. You will prepare a short grammar presentation on selected topics. You should bring practice exercises either from the book or from another text. If you decide to bring materials from another text, please make copies for everyone in the class.

5. Written exam. There will be one written exams towards the end of the semester. It will cover chapters 1-6.

6. Oral exams. There will be two oral exams. The first one will consist on a recorded presentation on specific topics. A guide will be provided in advance. The final exam will be an *Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI)* in which the student must demonstrate progress in his/her language skills from the beginning of the semester.

7. Noticieros. Every week, students will be selected at random to present a newspaper article. Depending on the size of the class, you might be required to present more than once during the semester. Please note that the article must be in Spanish and cannot be more than two weeks old.

I recommend the following on-line papers:

CLARÍN (Argentina)	http://www.clarin.com/
EL MERCURIO (Chile)	http://diario.elmercurio.com/
EL TIEMPO (Colombia)	http://www.eltiempo.com/
EL SIGLO (Panamá)	http://www.elsiglo.com/
EL PAÍS (España)	http://www.elpais.com/

For a comprehensive list of Spanish news go to:

<http://www.spanishnewyork.com/spanish-newspapers-in-spanish.html>

Academic integrity

Academic dishonesty and plagiarism are serious offenses and will not be tolerated. They will be handled according to the Moravian policy on Academic Honesty. For detailed information please see the Student Handbook: <http://www.moravian.edu/studentlife/handbook/academic2.htm>

FINAL GRADE CALCULATION

Class participation	10%	Written exam	10%
Oral presentation	15%	Noticieros	10%
Grammar presentation	10%	Taped oral exam	20%
Homework	5%	Final oral exam (OPI)	20%

LETTER GRADES

A	94-100	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66
A-	90-93	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62
B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	F	0-59

SPANISH 150 PROGRAMA DEL CURSO

(This program subject to change)

Last revised August 8, 2008

Semana 1

Agosto 25 Introducción: trabalenguas, procedimientos, fechas de las presentaciones

Agosto 27 **Lección 1:** *Realidad o fantasía* (2-7) Cortometraje 1: "Viaje a Marte"

Agosto 29 Análisis del cortometraje "Viaje a Marte" (8-9)

Semana 2

Sept. 1 **No hay clase** (Labor Day)

Sept. 3 Estructuras: "Ser" y "Estar" (10-11)

Sept. 5 Ensayo: Eduardo Galeano, "Celebración de la fantasía" (12-15)
Presentación oral sobre Salvador Dalí

Semana 3

Sept. 8 Cuento: Luis R. Santos, "El otro círculo" (19-25)

Sept. 10 Tira cómica y tertulia: Joaquín Salvador Lavado "Quino" (26-29)
Presentación oral sobre Quino

Sept. 12 **Lección 2:** *Historias de dos* (28-31) Cortometraje 2: "Diez Minutos" (32-35)
**Tarea 1 (*para entregar*): Un relato fantástico (28)

Semana 4

Sept. 15 Análisis del cortometraje (34-37)
Presentación oral sobre Rigoberta Menchú

Sept. 17 Estructuras: "Pretérito e imperfecto" (36-37)

Sept. 19 Artículo: "Las cuatro fórmulas científicas de la felicidad" (40-44)

Semana 5

Sept. 22 Ensayo: Jorge Luis Borges, "Borges y yo" (45-48)

Sept. 24 Obra de teatro: Marco Denevi, "No hay que complicar la felicidad" (49-53)

Sept. 26 Tira cómica y tertulia: Ricardo Reyes, "Yo le diría" (54-57)
Presentación oral sobre Frida Kahlo

Semana 6

Sept. 29 **Lección 3: *Prohibido pensar* (58-63)** Cortometraje 3: "Nada que perder"
Presentación oral sobre la Guerra civil española

Octubre 1 Análisis del cortometraje "Nada que perder" (64-65)
**Tarea 2 (*para entregar*): Un retrato: Describe tu personalidad (56)

Octubre 3 Estructuras: "Las preposiciones" (66-67)
Presentación oral sobre Fernando Botero

Semana 7

Octubre 6 **No hay clase** (Receso de otoño)

Octubre 8 **Taped oral exam due**
Opinión: Cristina López Schlichting, "Pocholo es virtual" (73-77)
Presentación oral: La telebasura en español

Octubre 10 Cuento: Elena Poniatowska, "Cine Prado" (78-83)

Semana 8

Octubre 13 **Lección 4: *Poder, quiero más poder* (88-9)** Cortometraje 4: "El ojo en la nuca" (90-93)

Octubre 15 Análisis del cortometraje "El ojo en la nuca" (94-95)

Octubre 16 (*Jueves*) **Movies at Monocacy: Nueve Reinas**, Dir. Fabián Bielinsky
7:00pm at Prosser Auditorium

Octubre 17 Estructuras: "El subjuntivo I" (96-97)
Discusión de Nueve Reinas

Semana 9

Octubre 20 Opinión: Manuel Vicent, "La tortilla" (98-101)
Presentación oral: La dictadura argentina y los desaparecidos

Octubre 22 Carta: Juan Gelman, "Carta abierta a mi nieto" (100-106)

Octubre 24 Poema: Julia de Burgos, "Yo misma fui mi fruta" (107-111)
**Tarea 3 (*para entregar*): Crítica de cine sobre Nueve Reinas (86)

Semana 10

Octubre 27 Tira cómica: "Los pájaros trinando por los altavoces" (112-113)
Presentación oral sobre El Subcomandante Marcos y el EZLN

Octubre 29 **Lección 5: *El laboratorio de la literatura* (116-19)** Cortometraje 5: "Un día con Ángela"

Octubre 31 Análisis del cortometraje (120-123)

Presentación oral sobre la economía del rebusque

Semana 11

- Nov. 3 Estructuras: "El subjuntivo II" (124-25)
- Nov. 5 Artículo: "Las penas del amor se curarán" (130-34)
Presentación sobre Gustavo Dudamel
- Nov. 7 Cuento: Augusto Monterroso, "El mono satírico" (135-39)

Semana 12

- Nov. 10 **Lección 6:** *Modos de vivir* (144-45). Cortometraje 6: "Bajo la sombrilla" (146-149)
- Nov. 12 Análisis del cortometraje (150-51)
Presentación sobre Rock en español y/o Rap en español
- Nov. 14 Estructuras: Oraciones condicionales con *si* (152-53)

Semana 13

- Nov. 17 Opinión: Gabriel García Márquez, "¿Cuáles son las prioridades de la humanidad para las próximas décadas?" (158-61)
- Nov. 19 ****Examen escrito** (Lecciones 1-6)
- Nov. 21 Micro-cuentos (162-67)
Presentación oral sobre Michelle Bachelet

Semana 14

- Nov. 24 Tira cómica: Maitena Burundarena, "Teléfono, una enfermedad celular" (168-69)
Presentación oral sobre Maitena Burundarena
- Nov. 26-28 **No hay clases** (Día de Acción de Gracias)

Semana 15

- Dic. 1 Largometraje, El laberinto del Fauno, Dir. Guillermo del Toro (En Blackboard)
Presentación oral sobre Guillermo del Toro
- Dic. 3 Análisis del Laberinto del Fauno
- Dic. 5 Entrevistas orales

Semana 16

- Dic. 8 Entrevistas orales
- Dic. 9 Entrevistas orales