

**Spanish 365**  
**Advanced Conversation**  
**Spring 2009**

**Professor:** Carmen Ferrero

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**Office hours:** Mon. Wed. 2:00-3:00 p.m. Fri. 12:30-1:30 PM and by appointment.

**Textbooks:**

- Nino R. Iorillo, Andrés C. Díaz and Dennis L. Hale. Conversación y controversia: Tópicos de hoy y de siempre. 5<sup>th</sup> edition. Prentice Hall, 2004.
- Piñar, Pilar. Español en vivo (with DVD). Yale University Press, 2005.

**Course description:** This is an intensive Spanish conversational practice course to develop an advanced level of proficiency. Special attention will be paid to functional communication in educated native-like situations, and expressing opinions on daily life and current issues. It is expected at the end of the semester that students will be able to:

1. Describe and narrate in major time frames
2. Get through complicated tasks or social situations.
3. Participate actively in conversations on concrete topics, in most informal and some formal settings
4. Sustain communication by using connected discourse of paragraph length and substance with suitable accuracy and some confidence
5. Satisfy the demands of work and/or schools situations
6. Develop an extensive vocabulary appropriate to the formal discourse

**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. *A 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 the careful reading of materials in Spanish on the issues at hand, taking special care of specialized vocabulary and lower frequency words. The assigned materials from the textbooks, as well as other sources from the media and the Internet will enrich the vocabulary and stimulate some ideas for conversation. Lack of preparation will be immediately noticeable. As a rule for this class ***no English will be accepted***. If a student cannot express an idea, he/she can paraphrase or try again ***in Spanish only***. Dictionaries are accepted, but at no time (even in whispers) should students use English. This practice will help them to find ways to express themselves in Spanish. Besides the readings, it is expected that students speak Spanish out of class. It is recommended that students spend at least 3 hours per week out of class in conversation on issues associated with the materials under discussion in class, and with a variety of projects for the class. The best recommendation is to find a Spanish native speaker for practice, but a classmate is also acceptable.

## REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION:

**Asistencia (Attendance):** Faithful attendance is expected, since continuous practice is needed in order to learn a language.

- You need to come to class and be on time. The first 3 absences will not be penalized, but will affect your class participation. If you will miss class for a religious holiday, please let me know ahead of time so we can make arrangements for missed work.
- **More than three (3) absences**, for any reason, **will result in a lowering of the final grade by one point** for every additional absence (every absence over three). Exceptions may be granted only in extraordinary circumstances such as prolonged illness or family emergency; these situations may require additional documentation through Learning Services and are not automatically guaranteed. The student would need to make arrangements to complete missed work.
- Arriving **late** (10 minutes or more) to class **more than three times** will equal one absence.
- Please turn off your cell phone before entering class.

***Remember:** Requests to excuse absences at the end of the semester will not be considered. Students have the responsibility of keeping track of their own absences. No reminders will be given.*

**Students may NOT check their cell phone messages while in class. Please, be very respectful of this requirement.**

### **Participación activa en clase (In-class active participation) (35% of final grade)**

Active class participation is necessary to succeed in this class. Active participation involves collaborating in paired and group activities, volunteering answers for the exercises, having done all the assigned work, and speaking in class discussions and debates. Simply being present, looking attentive and taking notes is **not** considered active participation. Remember also that your class participation grade will suffer beginning with the first absence (regardless of the reason for it). The professor will assign a **weekly grade** for the level of preparation and participation of each student.

#### **The weekly class grades will be 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 assigned material and has done the necessary background research to understand it well).

**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 assigned material and has done the necessary background research to understand it 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 assigned material, but has not done the entire necessary background research to understand it).

**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 assigned material 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 prepared the assigned material or, if he/she has prepared it, it has been in a careless or incomplete way). Attendance to a minimum of 3 activities of *el Club de español* during the semester is required as participation.

**Extra credit:** Students without a single absence throughout the semester will receive two extra points in their final grade.

### **Listening to Radio Stations in Spanish on Internet: Weekly summaries (20% of final grade)**

*“Radio is a very important aspect of the everyday life of the Spanish average citizen. Spain is a country that loves radio and couldn't live without it, so it's hardly surprising that some of the most respected and influent journalists work in radio. We Spaniards get up with the radio, listen to the radio at work, on the bus, in taxis or in bed. ... Radio is a core element of Spanish culture.”*

*www.donquijote.org/culture/spain/customs/radio.asp*

This quote may help students understand that talk radio is an essential part of Spanish life. That is why students have to listen to the 3 radio stations listed below for a minimum of 2 hours a week. Students may pick several programs of different stations depending on their own preferences, but it is advisable that they listen to a variety of them throughout the semester so that they get familiarized with vocabulary related to many fields. Listening to the radio in Spanish will become a habit and you will learn a lot about politics, culture, daily events, and people's opinions and values regarding many issues. You will also acquire a real sense of how Spanish speaking people change registers and tone depending on the seriousness of the topic or issue discussed. These programs will help you understand how they express irony and their sense of humor (which is not always easy to perceive at first in a different language). You will build your vocabulary from the most educated terms to everyday slang. You will hear people of all ages and backgrounds from different regions of the Spanish speaking world (Spain and Latin America) being interviewed or calling into the programs.

*Advice of the professor: Do not worry if you do not understand that much at the beginning, just keep listening and you will be surprised at how much more you can understand as weeks go by. The three radio stations are:*

<http://www.ondacero.com>

**Herrera en la onda, Te doy mi palabra** (Tertulia, entrevistas, comentarios, humor)

**Al primer toque, Radioestadio** (deportes)

**La rosa de los vientos** (historia, naturaleza, ciencia, parapsicología, misteriosos descubrimientos)

**Onda agraria, Linde y ribera** (temas del campo y la naturaleza)

**Como el perro y el gato** (animales domésticos)

**Gente viajera** (viajes por el mundo)  
**En buenas manos** (temas de medicina, salud y sanidad)  
**Noticias al mediodía**

<http://www.cope.es/>

**La brújula, La mañana, La tarde con Cristina, La linterna, A cielo abierto** (Tertulia, entrevistas, actualidad, comentarios)

**El tirachinas, Tiempo de juego** (deportes)

**La rebotica** (temas de salud, medicina y sanidad)

**Bueno es saberlo** (comentarios sociales y variedades)

**Agropopular** (temas del campo)

**El albero** (temas taurinos)

<http://www.cadenaser.com/>

**Hoy por hoy, Hora 14, La ventana, A vivir, Hora 20, Hora 25** (Tertulias, noticias, comentarios, actualidad, entrevistas)

**Carrusel deportivo, El larguero** (deportes)

**Hora 25 de los negocios** (asuntos de economía)

**De nueve a nueve y media** (programa de variedades)

**Hablar por hablar** (llamadas de oyentes, comentarios)

You can also listen to news and other programs in the radio stations you will find in

<http://www.rtve.es/rne/envivo.htm>

Radio Nacional de España, Radio 5, Todo Noticias

Every Friday, students have to summarize in Spanish and then e-mail to the professor the content of the programs they have listened to on the radio that week. The summary must be specific enough for the professor to know that the student did not simply read about the program on the webpage of the radio station or listened to just the first 10 minutes of a program. The weekly grade will be based on how much students understand and how well they summarize the content of the program.

**Dossier (5%):** Throughout the semester, students will develop a dossier of the materials collected during the semester regarding the topics of discussion and their presentations. The collection must also include their personal typed Spanish-Spanish dictionary in which they will collect all the words they have learned during the semester. The dictionary can include low frequency words, prepositions, and other useful words that will contribute to their improvement in their oral expression as educated speakers in Spanish. The dossier will be handed in on the last day of class. For every late day the grade for the dossier will be reduced by one letter grade.

**Mid-term oral exam (15%):** The oral exam recorded on tape or CD will concentrate on developing orally one topic (chosen by the student) taken from the book "*Conversación y controversia*". This exam will consist on a 15 minute recorded presentation in which the student will express his/her opinion. On the designated date, the student will hand in his/her cassette which the professor will evaluate according to the guidelines provided by the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) for Oral Proficiency.

**Power point oral presentation in class (10%):** This presentation will be a 20-25 minute presentation to discuss and develop a specific issue not related to the topics discussed in class. The selection of each topic should be consulted with and approved by the professor at least one week in advance of the presentation date. This can be done by e-mail. At the end of each presentation, the student will elicit the general discussion of the topic from the class by proposing a set of three or four questions regarding the topic he/she discussed.

**Final oral interview (15%):** in which the student must demonstrate progress in his/her language skills from the beginning of the semester.

*Taped oral exams and oral presentations must be handed in or done on the assigned date (see “Programa del curso”). **Important note:** For every late day that a taped oral exam is handed in, one letter grade will be deducted from the grade; for example, an exam due on a Monday that would receive a B if handed in on time, will automatically receive a D if handed in on Wednesday. Saturday and Sunday count as two days.*

**The final course grade will be calculated as follows:**

<b>Daily class participation</b> -----	<b>35%</b>
<b>13 weekly summaries of radio programs</b> -----	<b>20%</b>
<b>1 taped (mid-term) oral exam</b> -----	<b>15%</b>
<b>1 class power point presentation</b> -----	<b>10 %</b>
<b>Dossier</b> -----	<b>5%</b>
<b>Final oral interview</b> -----	<b>15%</b>

**Academic Honesty:**

It is your responsibility to make sure you are familiar with the Policy on Academic Honesty at Moravian College. Plagiarism (presenting someone else’s words or ideas as your own) and cheating are serious offenses and will not be tolerated. Homework is assumed to be done individually unless otherwise specified. For example, while you may study together, it is not acceptable to write “joint” homework and turn in two copies.

Note especially:

“When writing creative or research papers in a foreign language, students may not use electronic translation services. Utilizing such tools without express permission of the instructor constitutes plagiarism. The use of electronic dictionaries for single-word inquiries or short idiomatic expressions is permissible at the discretion of professors in the Department of Foreign Languages.” (Moravian College Academic Honesty Policy, my emphasis)

**Americans with Disabilities Act:**

Any student with a disability who would like to request accommodations under the ADA must meet first with someone to evaluate the case and give recommendations to the professor. For learning disabilities and/or ADD/ADHD, see Mrs. Laurie Roth in the Office of Learning Services; for all other disabilities, see Dr. Ronald Kline in the Counseling Center.

**\*\* The professor reserves the right to modify class topics and assignments\*\***  
**Any changes will be announced by the professor**

## **PROGRAMA DE CURSO**

**L= lunes M=miércoles V=viernes**

**CC = Conversación y Controversia** (Students have to prepare the questions of the section “repaso gramatical” of each chapter for the day assigned)

**EV=Español en vivo** (Students have to prepare the section “Preguntas” of each chapter for the day assigned)

Enero

### **Semana 1**

L 19 Introducción al curso

M 21 EV Cap. 1 La casa

V 23 CC Cap. 2 El año 2100

### **Semana 2**

L 26 EV Cap. 2 La familia

M 28 EV Cap. 3 El trabajo y la rutina

V 30 CC Cap. 5 El terrorismo

Febrero

### **Semana 3**

L 2 EV Cap. 4 Los recuerdos

M 4 CC Cap. 6 El Ser Supremo

V 6 EV Cap. 5 La comida

### **Semana 4**

L 9 EV Cap. 6 La mujer

M 11 Documental

V 13 EV Cap. 7 La educación

### **Semana 5**

L 16 CC Cap. 9 La eutanasia

M 18 EV Cap. 8 El emigrante I

V 20 Debate de Película **Oral Exam: Tape due**

### **Semana 6**

L 23 CC Cap. 10 La migración

M 25 EV Cap. 9 El emigrante II

V 27 CC Cap. 12 La censura

Marzo

*Spring Break*

### **Semana 7**

L 9 EV Cap. 10 Los problemas sociales

M 11 Presentaciones orales de PP 1: \_\_\_\_\_

V 13 CC Cap. 13 El suicidio

**Semana 8**

L 16 Presentaciones orales de PP 2: \_\_\_\_\_

M 18 EV Cap. 11 El futuro

V 20 Presentaciones orales de PP 3: \_\_\_\_\_

**Semana 9**

L 23 Presentaciones orales de PP 4: \_\_\_\_\_

M 25 CC Cap. 14 Las armas de fuego

V 27 Presentaciones orales de PP 5: \_\_\_\_\_

**Semana 10**

L 30 Presentaciones orales de PP 6: \_\_\_\_\_

Abril

M 1 EV Cap. 12 La diversidad lingüística I

V 3 Presentaciones orales de PP 7: \_\_\_\_\_

**Semana 11**

L 6 CC Cap. 15 Las naciones unidas

M 8 EV Cap. 13 Diversidad lingüística II

**Semana 12**

M 15 Presentaciones orales de PP 8: \_\_\_\_\_

V 17 CC Cap. 16 La pena capital, pena de muerte

**Semana 13**

L 20 EV Cap. 14 Diferencias dialectales

M 22 EV Cap. 15 Diversidad étnica y cultural

V 24 CC Cap. 20 El Espanglish

**Semana 14**

L 27 EV Cap. 16 Identidad

M 29 EV Cap. 17 Música

Mayo

V 1 EV Cap. 18 Arte y cultura