

Spanish 150: Conversation and Contemporary Life
MWF 10:20am -11:10am
Priscilla Payne Hurd Academic Complex 338
Department of Foreign Languages
Moravian College
Fall 2009

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Office Hours: MW 1:00-2:00pm 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. 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 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.

Required Materials

Blanco, José A. *Revista. Conversación sin barreras*. 3rd. Ed. Boston: Vista Higher Learning, 2010.
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 in this course after the first day of class. Look for CONVERSATION AND CONTEMPORARY LIFE (SPAN150.FA09).

*If you are student requiring learning assistance, I will be happy to accommodate you. I recommend you contact Mr. Joseph Kempfer 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. According to the quality and consistency of your homework you could receive one of the following grades: *High Pass* (A), *Pass* (B), *Low Pass* (C) or *No Pass* (F).

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. 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.

6. Compositions. You will have the opportunity to write three compositions during the semester. Specific guidelines will be provided in advance. The compositions are graded according to both linguistic accuracy and content.

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%	Compositions	15%
Oral presentation	15%	Noticieros	10%
Grammar presentation	10%	Taped oral exam	20%
Homework	10%	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 27, 2009

Semana 1

- Agosto 31 Introducción al curso, fechas de las presentaciones
Preparación para el cortometraje "Viaje a Marte"
- Sept. 2 **Lección 1: *Realidad o fantasía*** (2-7) Cortometraje 1: "Viaje a Marte"
- Sept. 4 Análisis del cortometraje "Viaje a Marte" (8-9)

Semana 2

- Sept. 7 **No hay clase** (Labor Day)
- Sept. 9 Estructuras: "Ser" y "Estar" (10-11)
- Sept. 11 Artículo: "La clonación: Porvenir prometedor" (16-18)
Presentación oral: Antonio Gaudí

Semana 3

- Sept. 14 Cuento: Luis R. Santos, "El otro círculo" (21-25)
- Sept. 16 Tira cómica y tertulia: Joaquín Salvador Lavado "Quino" (26-29)
Tertulia: La ciencia ficción hecha realidad (31)
Presentación oral: La selva amazónica
- Sept. 18 **Lección 2: *Una cuestión de personalidad*** (32-33)
Cortometraje 2: "Diez Minutos" (34-37)

Semana 4

- Sept. 21 Análisis del cortometraje (38-39)
- Sept. 23 Estructuras: "Pretérito e imperfecto" (40-41)
- Sept. 25 Tira cómica y tertulia: Ricardo Reyes, "Yo le diría" (56-57)
**Composición 1 (*para entregar*): Un relato fantástico

Semana 5

- Sept. 28 Artículo: "Las cuatro fórmulas científicas de la felicidad" (42-44)
- Sept. 30 Cuento: Alberto Chimal, "El juego más antiguo" (47-49)
- Octubre 2 Obra de teatro: Marco Denevi, "No hay que complicar la felicidad" (49-53)
Presentación oral: Fernando Botero

Semana 6

- Octubre 5 **Lección 3: Prohibido pensar** (60-61)
Cortometraje 3: "Nada que perder" (62-65)
Presentación oral: La Guerra civil española
- Octubre 7 Análisis del cortometraje "Nada que perder" (66-67)
**Composición 2 (*para entregar*): Un retrato: Describe tu personalidad
- Octubre 9 Estructuras: "Las preposiciones" (68-69)

Semana 7

- Octubre 12 **No hay clase** (Receso de otoño)
- Octubre 14 **Taped oral exam due**
Opinión: Cristina López, "Pocholo es virtual" (75-77)
Tira cómica: Forges, "La lectura, la inteligencia y el pensamiento..."
- Octubre 16 Cuento: Elena Poniatowska, "Cine Prado" (80-83)

Semana 8

- Octubre 19 Presentación oral: La telebasura en español
Tetulia: "La telebasura a debate" (89)
- Octubre 21 Presentación oral: El gobierno de Salvador Allende y la dictadura de Augusto Pinochet
- Octubre 22 **Movies at Monocacy: Machuca**, Dir. Andrés Wood
Jueves 7:00pm at Prosser Auditorium
- Octubre 23 Discusión de *Machuca*
Presentación oral: Santiago Calatrava

Semana 9

- Octubre 26 **Lección 4: Poder, quiero más poder** (90-91)
Cortometraje 4: "El ojo en la nuca" (92-95)
- Octubre 28 Análisis del cortometraje "El ojo en la nuca" (96-97)
- Octubre 30 Estructuras: "El subjuntivo I" (98-99)
Presentación oral: La dictadura argentina y los desaparecidos

Semana 10

- Nov. 2 Carta: Juan Gelman, "Carta abierta a mi nieto" (104-106)
**Composición 3 (*para entregar*): Crítica de cine sobre *Machuca* (88)
- Nov. 4 Poemas: Octavio Paz, "Entre la piedra y la flor" (109-112)

Presentación oral: Rigoberta Menchú

Nov. 6 **Lección 5: *Por amor al arte*** (118-119)
Cortometraje 6: "Dime lo que sientes" (120-123)

Semana 11

Nov. 9 Análisis del cortometraje (124-125)

Nov. 11 Estructuras: "El subjuntivo II" (124-25)

Nov. 13 Artículo: "Lo que dure el amor" (132-134)
Presentación oral: Gustavo Dudamel o La Patagonia y Tierra del Fuego

Semana 12

Nov. 16 Cuento: Augusto Monterroso, "El mono satírico" (137-139)
Presentación oral: Sonia Sotomayor

Nov. 18 Tira cómica: Caloi, "Alerta roja" (142-143)
Tertulia: Los misterios del amor (145)

Nov. 20 **Lección 6: *Modos de vivir*** (146-147)
Cortometraje 6: "My Backyard Was a Mountain" (148-151)

Semana 13

Nov. 23 Análisis del cortometraje (152-153)
Presentación sobre Rock en español y/o Rap en español

Nov. 25 **No hay clases** (Día de Acción de Gracias)

Nov. 27 **No hay clases** (Día de Acción de Gracias)

Semana 14

Nov. 30 Estructuras: Oraciones condicionales con *si* (154-155)
Tira cómica: Maitena Burundarena, "Teléfono, una enfermedad celular" (170-171)

Dic. 2 Largometraje, *El laberinto del Fauno*, Dir. Guillermo del Toro (En Blackboard)
Presentación oral: Guillermo del Toro o Hugo Chávez

Dic. 4 Opinión: Gabriel García Márquez, "¿Cuáles son las prioridades de la humanidad para las próximas décadas?" (161-162)
Presentación oral: Galápagos

Semana 15

Dic. 7 Entrevistas orales

Dic. 9 Entrevistas orales