

Spanish 150: Conversation and Contemporary Life

MW 2:35pm-3:45pm-Comenius Hall 304
Department of Foreign Languages
Moravian College
Spring 2010

Professor Claudia Mesa

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Office Hours: MWF 1:00-2:00pm and by appointment

Course Description

Spanish 150 is an intensive conversation course designed to develop an intermediate level of oral proficiency through the implementation of communication-based activities. This course emphasizes the use of both active vocabulary and language skills while promoting critical thinking and cultural awareness. The discussion will unfold around current issues, films, essays, short stories, letters, and interviews. In this course you will not only develop your oral skills but also refine your ability to better understand, read and write in Spanish.

Course Goals

At the end of the semester you should be able to do the following:

- Describe and narrate in major time frames (present, past, future, subjunctive and conditional)
- 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 read, understand and discuss news articles, essays, films, and short stories in Spanish
- Give a formal oral presentation in Spanish without the use of notes
- Acquire a better cultural understanding of the Spanish-speaking world
- Participate in class debates, raise questions and defend your position on specific issues

It is expected that students speak in Spanish as frequently as possible and you are welcome to talk to me at anytime. I recommend that you spend at least 2 hours per week outside class in conversation on topics associated with class materials. Find a classmate to meet regularly or a native speaker willing to work with you. You can also practice your Spanish by attending the

events organized by the Spanish Club such as *Mesa española*, selected movie screenings and cultural trips.

Required Materials

- Blanco, José A. *Revista. Conversación sin barreras*. 3rd. Ed. Boston: Vista Higher Learning, 2010.
- A tape recorder (if needed, you can borrow one from the Media Lab)
- 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 [SPAN150.SP11: Conversation and Contemporary Life](#).

On-line Resources

- Diccionario de la Real Academia de la Lengua Española <http://buscon.rae.es/draef/>
- Diccionario español-inglés/inglés-español <http://www.wordreference.com/>
- Diccionarios de sinónimos y antónimos <http://www.elmundo.es/diccionarios/>

Learning Assistance and Accommodations for a Disability

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Mr. Joe Kempfer, the Assistant Director of Learning Services for Disability Support, 1307 Main Street (ext. 1510). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from Learning Services.

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. Students will be allowed to miss one class without losing points off their final grade. Every unexcused absence after that will result in a deduction of one point off the final grade.

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. 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. A complete document regarding participation grade is posted on Blackboard under “Documentos del curso.”

Starting with Spanish 150 students are required to assist at least three times during the semester to events 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.

I also encourage you to write a poem in Spanish for *Babel*, the literary journal of the Department of Foreign Languages at Moravian.

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 will receive one of the following grades: *High Pass* (A 90-100), *Pass* (B 80-89), *Low Pass* (C 70-60) or *No Pass* (F 59-0).

3. Oral Presentation on a cultural topic

Please consult the class schedule for a list of suggested topics. Specific guidelines are posted on Blackboard.

4. Grammar and Vocabulary Quizzes and Personal Dictionary

After each chapter you will have a short grammar and vocabulary quiz. As a way to prepare, you should start a personal dictionary. For each entry include the definition and a sample sentence. I will collect your personal dictionaries at the end of the semester.

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 write three compositions during the semester. All compositions will be revised at least once. Specific guidelines will be provided in advance. The compositions are graded according to both linguistic accuracy and content.

7. Interview with a Spanish-speaking Person

You will have the opportunity to interview a Spanish-speaking person about his/her life as an immigrant in the US. This project includes preparation of the questionnaire, interview, and written summary.

8. Noticiero

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. The

article must be in Spanish and cannot be more than two weeks old. I recommend the following on-line newspapers:

- CLARÍN (Argentina) <http://www.clarin.com/>
- EL MERCURIO (Chile) <http://diario.elmercurio.com/>
- EL TIEMPO (Colombia) <http://www.eltiempo.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>

*Please note that as a general rule for this class late assignments will be penalized and make-up work will be only given only in extremely unusual circumstances.

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

Participation	10%
Oral presentation	10%
Noticiero	5%
Homework	10%
Quizzes and Dictionary	10%
Compositions (3)	15%
Taped oral exam	15%
Final oral exam (OPI)	15%
Interview with a Spanish-speaking person	10%

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 is subject to change. Last revised January 16, 2011

Semana 1	En clase	Tareas y otras asignaturas
Enero 17	Introducción al curso Preparación para el cortometraje <i>Viaje a Marte</i>	-Comprar el libro -Inscribirse en Blackboard -Elegir fechas y temas para la presentaciones
Enero 19	Lección 1: Realidad o fantasía (2-7) Cortometraje 1: <i>Viaje a Marte</i> (4-9)	-Leer pp. 6-7 -Ver el corto <i>Viaje a Marte</i> (en Blackboard) -Hacer pp. 8 ej. 1 y 2
Semana 2		
Enero 24	Estructuras: "Ser" y "Estar" (10-11) Ensayo: Eduardo Galeano, "Celebración de la fantasía" (12-13)	-Leer pp. 10-11 -Hacer pp. 11 ej. 1 -Leer pp. 12-13 -Hacer pp. 12 ej. 1 y pp. 14 ej. 1 *Traer una foto de ustedes, de su familia o amigos. Describirla según los usos de "ser y estar" (a máquina, mín 250 palabras. Para entregar).
Enero 26	Artículo: "La clonación: Porvenir prometedor" (16-18) <u>Presentación oral</u>	-Leer pp. 16-18 -Hacer pp. 16 ej. 1 y pp. 19 ej
Semana 3		
Enero 31	Cuento: Luis R. Santos, "El otro círculo" (21-25)	-Leer pp. 21-25 -Hacer pp. 21 ej. 1 y pp. 26 ej. 1
Febrero 2	Tira cómica: Joaquín Salvador Lavado "Quino" (28-29). <u>Presentación oral</u>	-Leer pp. 28-29 Quiz 1 (pp. 4, 10-11, 12, 16, 21)

Semana 4

- Febrero 7 Lección 2: *Una cuestión de personalidad* (32-33) -Leer pp. 34-37
Cortometraje 2: *Diez Minutos* (34-37) -Ver el corto *Diez Minutos*
-Hacer pp. 34 ej. 1
-Hacer pp. 38 ej. 1 y 2.
- Febrero 9 Estructuras: "Pretérito e imperfecto" (40-41) ***Composición 1:** Un relato fantástico (guidelines on BB)
Presentación oral -Leer pp. 40-41
-Hacer pp. 41 ej. 1

Semana 5

- Febrero 14 Artículo: "Las cuatro fórmulas científicas de la felicidad" (42-44) -Hacer pp. 42 ej. 1 y 3
Presentación oral -Leer pp. 43-44
-Hacer pp. 45 ej. 1
- Febrero 16 Cuento: Alberto Chimal, "El juego más antiguo" (47-49) -Hacer pp. 47 ej. 1
Presentación oral Leer pp. 48-49
Hacer pp. 50 ej. 1

Semana 6

- Febrero 21 Obra de teatro: Marco Denevi, "No hay que complicar la felicidad" (49-53) Hacer pp. 51 ej. 1 y 2
-Leer pp. 52-53
-Hacer pp. 54 ej. 1
- Quiz 2** (pp. 29, 34, 40-41, 42, 47)
- Febrero 23 **Lección 3:** *Prohibido pensar* (60-61) -Hacer pp. 62 ej. 1
Cortometraje 3: *Nada que perder* (62-65) -Leer pp. 64-65
Presentación oral -Ver *Nada que perder* en BB
-Hacer pp. 66 ej. 1

Semana 7

- Febrero 28 Estructuras: "Las preposiciones" (68-69) -Leer pp. 68-69
Presentación oral -Hacer pp. 69 ej. 1
- *Composición 2:**
Personal Statement for

Study Abroad program
(see BB for guidelines)

- Marzo 3 Opinión: Cristina López, "Pocholo es virtual" (75-77)
Tira cómica: Forges, "La lectura, la inteligencia pensamiento..." (86-87)
- Hacer pp. 75 ej. 1
-Leer 76-77
-Hacer pp. 78 ej. 1 y 2
-Leer pp. 86-87
- Quiz 3** (pp. 51, 62, 68-69)
- Semana 8**
- Marzo 5-13 **No hay clases** (Receso de primavera)
- Semana 9**
- Marzo 14 **Lección 4: Poder, quiero más poder** (90-91)
Cortometraje 4: *El ojo en la nuca* (92-95)
- Hacer pp. 92 ej. 1
-Leer pp. 94-95
Ver *El ojo en la nuca* en BB
-Hacer pp. 96 ej. 1 y 2
- Marzo 16 Estructuras: "El subjuntivo I" (98-99)
Presentación oral
- Leer 98-99
-Hacer pp. 99 ej. 1
***Taped oral exam due**
- Semana 10**
- Marzo 21 Carta: Juan Gelman, "Carta abierta a mi nieto" (104-106)
- Hacer pp. 104 ej. 1
-Leer pp. 105-106
-Hacer pp. 107 ej. 1
- Marzo 23 **No hay clase: Conferencia RSA en Montreal**
- Semana 11**
- Marzo 28 Poema: Octavio Paz, "Entre la piedra y la flor" (109-112)
Presentación oral
- Hacer pp. 109 ej 1
-Leer pp. 110-111
-Hacer pp. 112 ej. 1 y 2
***Traer las preguntas iniciales para la entrevista**
- Marzo 30 **Lección 5: Por amor al arte** (118-119)
Cortometraje 6: *Dime lo que sientes* (120-123)
- Hacer pp. 120 ej. 1 y 3
-Leer pp. 122-123
-Ver *Dime lo que sientes* en B
-Hacer p. 124 ej. 1

Semana 12

Abril 4 Estructuras: "El subjuntivo II" (126-27)
Presentación oral -Leer pp. 126-127
-Hacer pp. 127 ej. 1

Abril 6 Artículo: "Lo que dure el amor" (132-134)
-Hacer pp. 132 ej. 1 y 2
-Leer pp. 133-34
-Hacer pp. 135 ej. 1

Quiz 4 (75, 86, 92, 98-99,
104, 109)

Semana 13

Abril 11 Cuento: Augusto Monterroso, "El mono
que quiso der escritor satírico" (138-139)
Presentación oral -Hacer pp. 137 ej. 1 y 2
-Leer pp. 138-39
-Hacer pp. 140 ej. 1

*** Entrevista y composición 3**
Entregar grabación con la
entrevista (parejas) y el
reporte escrito (individual)

Abril 13 **Lección 6: Modos de vivir** (146-147)
Cortometraje 6: *My Backyard Was a Mountain*
(148-151)
Presentación oral -Hacer pp. 148 ej. 1 y 2
-Leer pp. 150-151
-Hacer pp. 152 ej. 1

Semana 14

Abril 18 Estructuras: Oraciones condicionales con *si*
(154-155) -Leer pp. 154-155
-Hacer pp. 155 ej. 1

Quiz 5 (120, 126-127, 132,
137, 148)

Abril 20 **Examen Final:** (Oral Proficiency Interview)
Comenius 406 (my office) ***Diccionario personal**

Semana 15

Abril 25 **Easter**

Abril 27 **Examen Final** (Oral Proficiency Interview)
Comenius 406 (my office) ***Diccionario personal**