

Spa 3301  
 Spanish Conversation and  
 Contemporary Issues

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 570-662-4605 or 570-662-4581  
[Class Schedule](#)  
[Office Hours](#)

Required material:

Ioriollo, Nino R. *Conversación y controversia: tópicos de hoy y de siempre*. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2010.

Suggested Material:

A Flip HD video camera, a *Dropbox* Account, and a PDF X-change Viewer.

A spiral notebook (Use [Modified Cornell Model](#) for note taking)

Overview of course:

SPAN 3301 is an intermediate-advanced level Spanish language course. The main objective of this course is to develop the student's listening, understanding and speaking skills. Reading and writing will also be developed, as well as the understanding and appreciation of the Latin American and Hispanic cultures.

Course Goals:

- By the end of the semester, students who successfully complete this course will
- (1) have improved their oral and written communicative skills, particularly at the presentational mode;
  - (2) have expanded their lexical competence;
  - (3) have improved their pronunciation in Spanish;
  - (4) have expanded their cultural and historical knowledge about the Hispanic and Latin American cultures;  
and,
  - (5) will be able to use Spanish more effectively in real communication.

Performance and Evaluation:

System of Evaluation			Criteria and Weight	
Standards of Measurement				
Performance Description	Grade	Percentage		
Excellent	A	93 > 100 %	Class Participation	15%
	A-	90 > 92 %	Homework	15%
Good	B+	87 > 89 %	Video Blogs	15%
	B	83 > 86 %	Midterm	20%
	B-	80 > 82 %	Final Exam	20%
Satisfactory	C+	77 > 79%	Final Oral Presentation:	15%
	C	73 > 76 %	<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>
	C-	70 > 72 %		
Marginal	D+	67 > 69 %		
	D	63 > 66 %		
	D-	60 > 62 %		
Failing	F	0 > 59 %		

Important Dates	
March 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2012 – Midterm Exam	May 4 <sup>th</sup> – Oral Presentation
May 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2012 – Final Exam	

Class Participation:

Regular and punctual class attendance is expected. In order for an absence to be considered “excused” a student must document any illness, serious mitigating circumstances, or official university representation. Any “unexcused” absence will result in a 15% reduction in the student’s final Participation grade at the end of the semester.

Exams:

The Midterm and Final Exam will be accumulative exams that assess student progress and development in communication skills. They allow the instructor to test student the students’ aural and listening skills. The Midterm and Final Exam CANNOT be made up.

Video Blog:

Each week students will record and turn-in in *Dropbox* a Video Blog. This will consist of comments and oral presentations based on the assigned readings, movies, debate questions, interview topics, etc. Video Blogs will be reviewed by the instructor, who will provide feedback regarding how to improve aural skills. These blogs will foster intellectual development and communication skills and will reflect the academic, emotional, creative, and intellectual themes covered in the course. Video Blogs will be turned in weekly and will not be accepted late.

Final Oral Presentation:

There will be one Final Oral Presentation in this course, which is designed as a comprehensive measure of the aural and communication skills developed during this course. The Final Oral Presentation is a formal oral presentation similar to the one that the students would deliver at a professional conference or meeting. It will last eight to ten minutes. Topics that represent the study of international and contemporary issues in Latin America or Spain will be selected by the students and will be approved by the professor. The topics could relate to a variety of fields, such as business, politics, foreign affairs, human rights, art, film, music, health, education, immigration, etc.; from either a contemporary or historical perspective. The coverage should be in-depth and focused with the aim of providing classmates with information and perspectives that will enhance their understanding of the international arena. The research for the project should only include scholarly sources. Students should use on-line resources and librarian support to identify internet databases that provide access to such publications. The sources should be cited following the MLA bibliography format. Students should NOT read their presentations. Further guidelines will provide in class. The Final Oral presentation cannot be made up.

The evaluation categories used in the Final Oral Presentation are the following:

	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>Fluency</u>	<u>Vocabulary</u>	<u>Grammar</u>	<u>Organization and Research</u>
5	Little or no interference	No hesitation, natural pauses	Accurate usage	No significant errors	
4	Occasional interference	Slight hesitation, but rephrases	Mostly accurate	One or two significant errors	
3	Substantial interference	Frequent hesitation, but no significant breakdown of communication	Frequent errors	Several errors; some breakdown of communication	
2	Severe interference	Many pauses with communication breakdown	Substantial errors	Many errors affect ability to communicate	
1	Utterances are almost incomprehensible	Complete communication breakdown	Few examples of correct usage	Few examples of correct usage	

Academic Integrity:

Students are expected to do their own academic work. Dishonesty in academic work, including cheating, academic misconduct, fabrication, or plagiarism is unacceptable. Any form of cheating may result in failure of the course. (For more additional information concerning academic honesty and university policy, please, consult the MU [Academic Integrity Policy](#)).

The Syllabus:

This syllabus serves as a contractual agreement. Presence in this class means that you agree to the items stipulated in the syllabus and are aware of any modifications made throughout the semester. One should periodically check the course web site for any updates to the syllabus and/or class calendar.

Class records and Grades:

Oversee your grade by monitoring your progress and maintaining contact with your instructor. Any student material or record that has been returned to the student becomes the student's responsibility to maintain as a permanent record for the course. Students are responsible for picking up any materials that are made available to them or are returned in class. If a student loses these records and the professor does not have a copy of the material available, the student will receive a failing grade for the particular activity.

Students with “exceptionalities”:

Any students with documented psychological or learning disorders or other significant medical conditions that may affect their learning should contact Mr. William Chabala in our [Counseling Center](#) (143 South Hall, Phone: 662-4695; [mwchabala@mansfield.edu](mailto:mwchabala@mansfield.edu)). Mr. Chabala will provide the professor with the appropriate letter and materials that will enable him to serve each student's particular needs more effectively. If a student has an exceptionality that requires class or testing accommodations, Mr. Chabala will work with the student and the professor to identify and implement appropriate interventions.