Stephen F. Austin State University
Department of Languages, Cultures, and Communication
SPA 231.002
Spring 2016

Instructor: Wilber Arias
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Class meeting: SPA 231.002 TR 11:00 – 12:15 pm; Ferguson 173
Office Hours: MW 4-5:30 pm; TR 3:30 – 5 pm (or by appointment)


Description: Spanish 231 is the third level of Spanish at SFASU. It is designed to continue the development of students’ skills in speaking, reading, writing, and listening comprehension in Spanish and help them attain a better understanding and appreciation of Hispanic culture. The class will be taught in the target language in order to facilitate and encourage the students’ interest in becoming fluent in Spanish, and students should make every effort to only communicate in the target language. This course presents grammatical structure, vocabulary and cultural knowledge necessary for effective communication in the target language.

General Education Core Curriculum Objectives/Outcomes:

1. To understand and demonstrate writing and speaking processes through invention, organization, drafting, revision, editing, and presentation.
2. To understand the importance of specifying audience and purpose and to select appropriate communication choices.
3. To understand and appropriately apply modes of expression, i.e. descriptive, expositive, narrative, scientific, and self-expressive, in written, visual and oral communication.
4. To participate effectively in groups with emphasis on listening, critical and reflective thinking, and responding.
5. To understand and apply basic principles of critical thinking, problem solving and technical proficiency in the development of exposition and argument.
6. To engage in a variety of readings, (fiction and nonfiction) to develop writing skills.

Program Learning Outcomes:

1. Language Competence: Students will speak, listen, read, and write in the target language.
2. Cultural Competence: Students will be able to understand the cultural context of communication in the target language.
3. Critical Thinking and Expression: Students will analyze language, literary texts, and other cultural products and practices using sound thinking and clear expression.
4. Transferable Skills: Students will connect academic experience to personal and professional goals.

Student Learning Outcomes: In this course students will gain an understanding of the Spanish Language at the advanced level. The class will emphasize the following elements:

1. Develop writing skills using the four major modes of writing: description, narration, exposition, and argumentation.
2. Understanding of grammar, lexicon, spelling and punctuation.
3. Increase language competence by engaging in prewriting, drafting and revision.
4. Appreciate various writing styles through reading fiction and nonfiction genres.
5. Produce writing at the advanced level.

Organization: This course will cover “Lección 13” through “Lección 18” in Vistas, Fourth Edition.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. Students who miss more than three classes must see the professor. After the third absence, 5 percent will be taken off the final grade average for each additional absence. There is no make-up of missed quizzes.

Participation: Although understanding the grammatical system and learning to read and write Spanish is part of the course objectives, another equally important objective is learning to communicate by speaking and listening. All students are expected to participate actively during the class period. This type of participation also insists that students are respectful and attentive to others. Distracting behavior will result in a low participation grade. The use of cell phones and texting are not permitted in the classroom. Ringing phones and text messaging are considered rude and disrespectful.

Homework: Any homework assigned in class will be due at the beginning of the following class period. Late assignments will have a deduction of ten percent for each day and will not be accepted after the third day. Online assignments are assigned on the Vistas website.

Quizzes: We will have frequent short quizzes, at least once a week, usually on Thursdays. Missing class or arriving late won’t be an excuse to make up any quiz.

Missed Exams: Exam dates are indicated in the course syllabus. There are no make-up exams unless the student has an excused absence according to university policy. If, for reasons beyond your control, you know that you will not be able to make an exam, talk to your instructor before the day of the test to arrange an alternate day or time. A student who misses an exam without previously arranging for an alternate day or time must present appropriate documentation of a personal tragedy, or medical emergency in order to avoid a zero on the exam.

Study Spanish: The website www.studyspanish.com will be used as grammatical preparation for the student. Topics will be assigned in class and you will be responsible for the “Mini-test”, which will be posted on d2l.
Final Grade Calculation
Grades will be calculated according to the following scale. Grades will not be curved. (100-90%) A, (89.9-80%) B, (79.9-70%) C, (69.9-60%) D, and (59.9% and below) F.

Homework 15%
Exam I 15%
Exam II 15%
Final Exam 20%
Quizzes 15%
Participation 10%
Study Spanish 10%

* Students must pass SPA 231 with a 70% or higher to enroll in SPA 232.
Exam Dates are indicated in the course syllabus. Exams will be given on the indicated date and there will be no makeup tests unless the student has an excused absence according to University policy.

Tentative Course Schedule Spring 2016

January 19th – February 16th (9 Days) Lessons 13 and 14
February 23rd – April 5th (10 Days) Lessons 15 and 16
April 12th – May 5th (10 Days) Lessons 17 and 18

IMPORTANT DATES
Monday, January 18th Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Wednesday, March 9th Mid-Semester
Monday, March 14th – Friday, March 18th Spring Break
Thursday, March 24th – *Monday, March 28th Easter Break

EXAM DATES
Thursday, February 18th Exam 1
Thursday, April 7th Exam 2
Tuesday, May 10th, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm Final Exam

ACCEPTABLE STUDENT BEHAVIOR: Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.
**University Policies:** Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)**

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Students with Disabilities**

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/)