Stephen F. Austin University
Spanish 232.003. Spring 2016

Professor: Dr. Carlos Cuadra
Office: LAN Dugas 251
Office phone: (936) 468-4303
E-mail: encambioel@hotmail.com
Website: http://leonardo.sfasu.edu/carloscuadra
Office Hours: MW 1pm-2pm TR 2pm - 2:30pm or by appointment

If you want to reach me, please, use this address and not the usual SFASU one. I check my home email several times a day. If you choose to write me to my SFASU email, I might not be able to read it on time.

**General Purpose of the Course**: SPA 232 will expand on the proficiency in the Spanish language and the knowledge of the Hispanic culture already acquired by the students. The class will focus on oral proficiency, and the students’ ability to interact with each other and communicate in Spanish. We will review the grammar structures studied in SPA 131, 132 and 231 and also explore different cultural aspects with special emphasis on conversational skills.

**Class materials**: We do not have a specific book for this class. Students will find all the information needed for the class on the course website. Students will also have to view two movies in the Language and Resource Center (see below).

**Pre-requisite**:  
C in SPA 231 or equivalent

**Course Grade**

First Oral Exam 5%
Second Oral Exam 15%
Midterm Exam 15%
Final Exam 20%
Oral Presentation 15%
Quizzes 15%
Class Participation and Homework 15%

Scale

90-100 pts. A
80-89 pts B
70-79 pts C
60-69 pts. D
Below 60 pts F

Students with Disabilities

Students with documented disabilities that need course adaptations or accommodations please make an appointment with me as soon as possible.

Class Conduct

There is a University policy that forbids any eating and drinking in the classroom. These activities interfere with the normal functioning of the class, and therefore we should avoid them. Also, any unnecessary class disruption (such as speaking English or distracting other students from following class activities) may result in the total or partial loss of points in the class participation grade. **Cell phones and texting are not permitted in the classroom.** Electronic devices must be turned off and put away before class begins. Ringing phones and text messaging are considered rude and disrespectful. Using cell phones in class will result in 0 (zero) points in your final participation grade.

Course Requirements

1-QUizzes AND HOMEWORK: The homework for the class consists in exercises based in two films (see below) and other texts. The students will receive a grade for it. Late homework will not be graded, since all assignments will be covered in class immediately after being turned in by the students. If a student is going to miss a class, he or she should turn in the homework due on that day in advance. We will have weekly quizzes based on the homework assigned in the class.
The quizzes will be based on the previously analyzed segments of the films. They are designed to check if the students have understood the movie (not merely the vocabulary or the names of the characters) and if they have some interesting opinions about what they saw.

2-ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION: Using Spanish to interact with your professor and the other students in the class is an important aspect of learning the language and cannot be measured in written exams. Therefore a portion of the final grade will depend on class participation. Students are required to attend all classes. There is possibility of making up missed classwork, quizzes or oral presentations. Talk to your professor about any attendance problem.

This class is taught in Spanish, and the students need to speak Spanish during the class period. Speaking English during class or disrupting the class in any way will result in the loss of all the points in the quiz taken the week the misbehaving took place. If you disrupt the class more than once a week you will have a 0 in the quiz taken the week before. You will also lose points in your class participation final grade.

Having a good participation grade in this class is not easy. Keep in mind that just coming to class and not speaking Spanish means a 0 (zero) in class participation. Average participation is no more than 50 points worth. These are my specific criteria to assess a class participation grade:

-85 to 100 participation points: the student comes to class well prepared and shows initiative in every class. He or she has interesting suggestions and observations that improve the quality of learning, is willing to be a part of any activity during the class period and helps other students.

-60 to 85 participation points: the student comes prepared to class, shows initiative and participates frequently. He or she pays attention to the explanations.

-50 to 60 participation points: the student is not well prepared for class and only participates if called by name.

-20 to 60 points: the student does not prepare for the class. He or she does not pay attention and asks questions to other students instead of asking the professor. He or she answers rarely to the professor’s questions.
-0 to 20 points: the student does not participate. He or she speaks English in class or diverts the attention of other students.

3-EXAMS: There will be a Midterm Exam and a Final Exam, with exercises about the films assigned in class, grammar and a composition. The dates for the written exams are specified in the syllabus. There will be also two Oral Exams that will take place during office hours. In the first Oral Exam the professor will check on the proficiency level of every student in order to establish specific and personalized goals for the second Oral Exam. At the end of the first Oral Exam, every student will get a list of goals that he or she has to accomplish for the second Oral Exam. These goals include listening to Spanish songs, reading a Spanish book or watching some Spanish movies, depending on the proficiency of each student. These extra goals are negotiable. Students have ONE WEEK from the day they take the first oral exam to decide if they want to change their goals. After that time, goals can not be changed. The grade of the second Oral Exam will be based on the student’s ability to reach these personalized goals.

Improvement does not come without effort. That is why class participation is so important. It will allow the students to reach a good level of spoken proficiency, necessary to have a good (or excellent) grade in the second Oral Exam.

4-ORAL PRESENTATION: One of the requirements of the class is giving an oral presentation about a cultural aspect of a Spanish speaking country. Every presentation will be at least fifteen minutes long. Props, videos, games and other materials are highly recommended. The grade on the presentation will be based not only on the correct use of Spanish, but on its originality and content. The last day to decide the topic of the Oral Presentation is March, 23

5-FILMS AND READINGS: Our texts for this class will be two films available to watch (not to check out) in the Learning and Resource Center, located at the Ferguson Building, Room G77 (formerly 120). The films are Nueve reinas (Argentina, 1999) and El porqué de las cosas (Spain, 2001). The LRC schedule is: Mondays - Thursdays 8:00 am - 5:55 pm, Fridays, 8:00 am - 3:55 pm. Students are responsible for watching the film segments assigned for every class, as specified in the Tentative Course Schedule (see below). They also need to turn in the homework based on these segments at the beginning of the class. The homework and the screenplay of both movies is posted on the course website. Since there is a limited number of copies of every film, it is strongly recommended to get a reservation for a time slot in the lab. It is important to remember that the students will have to go
over every sequence more than once, and work on it carefully. We will have some introductory exercises in class before we start working on every film. Please, plan in advance to avoid coming to class unprepared, and remember that late homework will not be accepted.

As you know, moral standards in European films are more permissive than in the United States. Be warned that you may find strong language, nudity and explicit sexual situations in the films we will watch in class. Although these images do not have a pornographic intent, they may offend some of you. If you have any moral restraints about this issue, talk to me about it as soon as possible. We can find a solution to this problem by giving you some alternative class work, or, if you agree to do so, by changing you to a different section of the same course. If, in spite of any moral concerns about this issue, you decide to stay in the class, you do it under your sole responsibility.

6-MISSED EXAMS: In general, students will not be allowed to making up exams. If, however, for reasons beyond your control, you know that you will not be able to take an exam, talk to your professor to arrange an alternate day or time before the day of the test. 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 0 in the exam.

7-FINAL EXAM POLICY:

We will have the following policy regarding the final exam:

a) If a student has a grade average of 93 before the Final Exam, he or she does not need to take it and will receive an A in the class.

b) If:

- A student turns in all the homework on time
- He or she gets full credit in class participation
- The average grade in the Midterm Exam, the Oral Presentation and the Oral Exam is higher than an 85

The final grade of that student will be no lower than his or her final exam grade.
This policy is designed to help the students who really improve during the course. They may have low grades during the first weeks and still make a good (or even excellent) final grade.

c) If a student does not get a grade of C or higher in the final exam he will fail the class with an F.

Tentative Course Schedule Spring 2016

Week 1

Jan

20 Course Presentation

22 Film Presentation: Nueve Reinas

Week 2

25 Nueve Reinas: Homework for sequences 1 and 2 due

27 Nueve Reinas: Homework for sequences 3-7 due

29 Estructures. Quiz 1

Week 3

February

First Oral Exam.

1 Nueve Reinas: Homework for sequences 8-14 due

3 Nueve Reinas: Homework for sequence 15 due

5 Estructures. Quiz 2

Week 4

8 Nueve Reinas: Homework for sequences 16-19 due
10 Nueve Reinas: Homework for sequences 20-26 due

12 Estructures. Quiz 3

Week 5

15 Nueve Reinas: Homework for sequences 27-33 due

17 Nueve Reinas: Homework for sequences 34-39 due

19 Estructures. Quiz 4

Week 6

22 Nueve Reinas: Homework for sequences 40-48 due

24 Nueve Reinas: Conclusions, 1

26 Estructures. Quiz 5

Week 7

29 Nueve Reinas: Conclusions, 2

March

2 Estructures. Quiz 6

4 Review for the Exam 1

Week 8

7 Exam 1

9 Film Presentation: El porqué de las cosas: Homework for Voluntad due

11 Estructures. Quiz 7

Week 9

SPRING HOLIDAYS
Week 10

21 El porqué de las cosas: Homework for Sumisión due

23 El porqué de las cosas: Homework for Sinceridad due

25 EASTER HOLIDAYS

Week 11

28 El porqué de las cosas: Homework for Amor due

30 El porqué de las cosas: Homework for Competición due

April

1 Estructuras. Quiz 8

Week 12

4 El porqué de las cosas: Competición

6 El porqué de las cosas: Homework for Sensatez due

8 Estructuras. Quiz 9

Week 13

11 El porqué de las cosas: Sensatez

13 Estructuras

15 Estructuras. Quiz 10

Week 14

Second Oral Exam

18 Estructuras

20 El porqué de las cosas: Conclusions
Program Learning Outcomes: This is a general education core curriculum course and no specific program learning outcomes for this major are addressed in this course.

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 understand and demonstrate writing and speaking processes through invention, organization, drafting, revision, editing, and presentation.

Student learning outcomes:

• Students will be exposed to and actively engage in discussions regarding songs, comics, videos, news, Internet materials, and readings from text that relate to the culture of places where Spanish is spoken.
• Students will use **vocabulary** dealing with the following themes in their writing and speaking: numbers, the calendar, time, interrogative words, weather, seasons, personality, the city, location, colors, clothing, family, physical traits, food.

• Students will be able to correctly utilize the following **grammatical structures**: articles, gender, number, present tense, future (verb + infinitive), adjective placement and agreement, *ser* and *estar*, direct object pronouns, indirect object pronouns, the verb *gustar*.

• Students will be able to **communicate**, in oral and written form, about what one normally does, where one lives, what one likes to do, and one’s family.

• Students will **investigate** very simple topics on the Internet in Spanish and record their findings.

**Academic Honesty**: Academic dishonesty, cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. All students in this class are expected to comply with university policies regarding academic honesty. Any student caught cheating will receive a grade of zero on the assignment and will be reported to the dean of his or her major school. All homework should be your own. Students are not allowed to use translation programs, native speakers, LRC workers or other students to assist them with assignments. Doing so constitutes academic dishonesty and will be dealt with according to university policy.

In accordance with University policy, students with disabilities who need accommodations are expected to initiate a meeting with the professor immediately upon registering with Disability Services to discuss how accommodations included on the Special Accommodations Request form will be provided. Students with disabilities who may have special needs and have not requested support services should seek assistance through Disability Services.