Spring 2-1-2019

SPNS 321.01: Advanced Conversations

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Advanced Conversation
SPNS321 Spring 2019

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Course Description
The objective of this course is for students to develop oral abilities in Spanish. Writing abilities will also be practiced in the course but as a reinforcement of skills learned in previous courses and as a basis for the conversation material students will bring to the class. We will develop oral skills by watching and discussing a number of critically acclaimed films from different Spanish-speaking countries which deal with a variety of cultural, social, and political issues and also listening to podcasts which cover a variety of Latin American current issues. To achieve the goal of improving oral proficiency, students will participate in various in-class discussions and debates on controversial topics presented in the films and podcasts. The emphasis in this class will be on improving your communicative oral competency in Spanish and your understanding of oral Spanish from different regions. To do well in this course, you need to have already taken at least four semesters of college Spanish (or have the equivalent). Some students with above average oral skills will be allowed to be in the course before completing the 4-semester basis. Toward the end of the course you will be required to give a fifteen-minute oral presentation and talk without the support of a written text.

Course Outcomes:
After this course, the student can expect to have acquired the following:

1. the ability to speak for at least seven to ten minutes in Spanish on a topic appropriate for a student at the advanced intermediate level.
2. the self-confidence to give a fifteen-oral presentation in Spanish without using any written materials on a topic (chosen in consultation with the professor) related to the Hispanic world.
3. the ability to work in groups, participate in panel presentations and debates.
4. The ability to understand spoken Spanish from different regions.
5. an appreciation for Hispanic culture via the careful analysis of several Spanish language films and the Spanish language podcast Radio Ambulante.

We will work with your oral understanding of spoken Spanish through your listening to Podcasts that bring speakers from different countries where Spanish is spoken and through your listening to short videos related to the topics discussed in class. These will also expose you to cultural issues in the Hispanic world.

Evaluation
Assessment:

- Attendance: 10%
- Participation: 10%
- Short class oral presentations: 20%
- Written Homework: 20%
- Final Oral Presentation/Project: 20%
- Final paper based on the oral presentation: 20%

Textbook and oral material:

*Several YouTube Videos in Spanish related to the topics discussed in class.

Oral resources in Spanish:
www.univision.com
www.actualidad.rt.com
www.democracynow.espanol
www.cnn espanol.cnn.com

Films
Volver (España, 2006) Dir: Pedro Almodóvar
También la lluvia (España/México, 2010) Dir: Icíar Bollaín
Mar adentro (España, 2004) Dir: Alejandro Amenábar
Diarios de motocicleta (Argentina/Chile/Perú, 2005) Dir: Walter Salles.
Todo sobre mi madre (España, 1999) Dir: Pedro Almodóvar
No (Chile, 2013) Dir.: Pablo Larrain.
Presunto culpable (Mexico, 2011) Dir.: Roberto Hernandez.

Movies:
We will watch seven movies over the course of the semester. All of the movies will be on Reserve in the Mansfield Library. You MUST watch the movies on your own and come to class prepared to discuss it on the days marked on the syllabus. Please take notes while you watch the movie so that you can ask questions and make astute commentaries in class. Do not wait until the last minute to watch the movie since there is only one copy and all students need to see it. You may organize group viewings with your classmates.

Class dynamics: Each class will be 80 minutes long. It will be divided in:
a) instructor talking about a particular cultural aspect of the movie (listening skill from students);
b) group discussion of questions on the film or the podcast based in written material brought by students (conversation interaction).
c) Brief oral presentations by individual students (3 minutes).

Homework Assignments
TAREAS: For everyday homework (Cinema for Spanish Conversation): write all your homework using complete answers and bring it to class. Homework will be collected randomly.

DAILY HOMEWORK, ACTIVITIES WILL BE INFORMED via MOODLE or via UNIVERSITY EMAILS VIA MOODLE. PLEASE CHECK YOUR MOODLE SHELL WHEN PREPARING FOR THE CLASS, AND YOUR EMAILS.

PRESENTATIONS. We will only have one presentation per class period. You will decide on a topic in consultation with me. The topic of your presentation must pertain to some cultural aspect of the Hispanic world. I would like to encourage you to use the vocabulary and grammar that you are familiar with when doing your presentation.

Your presentation is much more than just your personal opinion. You need to analyze and synthesize. Be sure that you have at least three sources (an article, a book, a review, an essay, etc.) on which you can rely. You must turn in a written bibliography the day that you present. You will also need an insightful
conclusion. Please do not abruptly end saying that you have run out of time. Plan your talk so that you can offer a well thought out summary that highlights the major points of your presentation. Feel free to use posters, photos, artwork, or other props during your presentation. I will also ask you to write unfamiliar vocabulary on the board so that your classmates can better understand your presentation. Your talk should last fifteen minutes. On the day of your presentation, you MUST turn in a detailed outline to me before you begin. Should you forget part of your talk, I will be able to help you. You may not read anything nor may you use notes. Again, you will be graded on creativity, length, grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and your bibliography.

I will notify you of your grade the first-class period after the last presentation is given. To be fair, I must listen to everyone’s talk before I can assign grades.

Class Discussion / Participation
The guidelines for each grade range (e.g., A range = A, A-) are outlined below:

A  Consistently participates in oral activities with enthusiasm and a positive attitude; often volunteers answers to homework activities that are reviewed in class based on at-home preparation; frequently asks questions that reflect preparation of material; cooperates in small groups and works actively to keep the group on task; makes a concerted effort to maintain conversation in Spanish; arrives on time.

B  Generally, participates in oral activities with enthusiasm and a positive attitude; regularly volunteers answers to homework activities that are reviewed in class based on at-home preparation; occasionally asks questions that reflect preparation of material; makes constructive contributions in small group work and assists in keeping the group on task; almost always speaks in Spanish; arrives on time.

C  Sometimes participates in oral activities with enthusiasm; sometimes volunteers answers to homework activities that are reviewed in class, reflecting inadequate at-home preparation; infrequently asks questions which reflect preparation of material; is often unfocused or does not contribute in small group work; attempts to speak in Spanish, but is limited by vocabulary and/or grammar and English; usually arrives on time.

D  D/F Lack of at-home preparation makes it difficult for student to participate in oral activities; rarely volunteers answers to homework activities that are reviewed in class; does not ask questions which reflect prior review of material; lapses into English frequently and does not stay focused on tasks in small groups; frequently arrives late

Attendance

Attendance is required for SPNS321. Students are expected to arrive on time, to be fully prepared for each class, and to participate actively. Tardiness will adversely affect your participation grade. You are expected to read or view the material before each class in order to participate in class discussions. If you are not prepared, your in-class participation grade will be affected.

Grading Scale:
**All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University.**

All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm/page/1321

**The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with DSS, please contact DSS in Lommasson 154. I will work with you and DSS to provide an appropriate accommodation.**

**Calendario**

Algunas fechas pueden variar. La profesora les avisará con la debida anticipación. Deben consultar en Moodle si hay algún cambio en el programa o los planes de la semana. SE enviarán las tareas específicas a través de Moodle.

**ENERO**

**Jueves 10:** Presentación del curso. Presentación de los integrantes de la clase. DEBEN VER VOLVER PARA EL JUEVES 17.

**Semana 1**
- Martes 15: Introducción a Volver.
- Jueves 17: Volver

**Semana 3**
- Martes 22: Volver
- Jueves 24: Volver y Discusión de Podcast.

**Semana 4**
- Martes 29: Y también la lluvia.
- Jueves 31: Y también la lluvia

**FEBRERO**

**Semana 5**
- Martes 5: Y también la lluvia y Discusión de Podcast.
- Jueves 7

**Semana 6**
- Martes 12: Mar adentro.
- Jueves 14: Mar Adentro

**Semana 7**
- Martes 19: Mar Adentro y Discusión de Podcast.
- Jueves 21: Mar Adentro.

**Semana 8**
- Martes 26: Diarios de Motocicleta.
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<tr>
<td>Jueves 28</td>
<td><em>Diarios de Motocicleta.</em></td>
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<td><strong>MARZO</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Semana 9</strong></td>
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<td>Martes 5</td>
<td><em>Diarios de Motocicleta</em></td>
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<td>Jueves 7</td>
<td><em>Podcast y Diarios de Motocicleta.</em></td>
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<td><strong>Semana 10</strong></td>
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<td>Martes 12</td>
<td><em>Presunto culpable.</em></td>
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<td>Jueves 14</td>
<td><em>Presunto culpable.</em></td>
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<td><strong>Semana 11</strong></td>
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<td>Martes 19</td>
<td><em>Presunto culpable</em> y Discusión de Podcast</td>
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<td>Jueves 21</td>
<td><em>Presunto Culpable.</em></td>
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<td><strong>Spring Break:</strong> Marzo 26-28</td>
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<td><strong>Semana 12</strong></td>
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<td>Martes 2</td>
<td><em>No</em></td>
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<td>Jueves 4</td>
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<td><strong>Semana 13</strong></td>
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<td>Martes 9</td>
<td><em>No. Discusión de podcast.</em></td>
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<td>Jueves 11</td>
<td><em>No</em></td>
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<td><strong>Semana 14</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Martes 16</td>
<td><em>Todo sobre mi madre.</em></td>
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<td>Jueves 18</td>
<td><em>Todo sobre mi madre.</em></td>
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<td><strong>Semana 15</strong></td>
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<td>Martes 23</td>
<td><em>Todo sobre mi madre. Discusión de podcast.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jueves 25</td>
<td><em>Todo sobre mi madre.</em></td>
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**DIA DE EXAMEN FINAL:** Entrega del trabajo escrito.