
Course Syllabus for SPAN 4364.001 (Advanced Spanish Culture)

Instructor:	George Henson	Email: george.henson@utdallas.edu
Term:	Spring 2311	Office Number: JO 5.408
Section	001	Office Hours: 1:00-2:00 MWF
Schedule:	MWF 3:00AM – 3:50AM	Office Phone: (972) 883-4506
Class location:	SLC 1.202A	Final Exam: 5/8/2013 2-4:45

NOTE: Students are responsible for all assignments, dates and policies contained in the syllabus. All matters associated with this course are subject to change at the instructor's discretion. Any changes related to policy and/or scheduling will be communicated to students in writing. Assignments may be added to the syllabus on an ongoing basis. (Missing class does not excuse students from completing and turning in assignments on the due date.)

Course Description

This course will provide students with a basic knowledge of and appreciation for the Spanish language, Hispanic culture and civilization as found in Spain, Latin America, and the Hispanic communities in the U.S.A. The traditional elements and new trends of the culture as revealed in the arts, music, film and literature will be covered. Classes will be conducted in Spanish with occasional use of English for clarification of difficult concepts only. Prerequisite: SPAN 3364 or equivalent or permission of instructor.

Student Learning Objectives

- This is a content-driven course that employs topics related to Hispanic culture (both in Spain, Latin America and the United States) as a basis for developing and strengthening the students' proficiency in the Spanish language, both spoken and written.
- To deepen the students' knowledge of Hispanic culture.

Chapter objectives include:

- Developing an understanding of the historical roots of Hispanic culture in the Iberian peninsula
- Understanding the indigenous substrata that formed a foundation for Hispanic culture in the Americas
- Tracing the historical development of Hispanic culture in the Americas during the colonial period
- Exploring the development of independent Latin American countries following independence
- Exploring the impact of modernity, its advanced institutions in the development Latin America and Spain
- Examining periods of upheaval: revolutions, civil wars, the "guerrilla"
- Examining the role of Hispanics in the culture of the United States

Required Text(s) (bring to class daily)

- *Civilización y cultura, 10th edition, Sandstedt and Kite. (Heinle/Cengage)*

Required Supplies in addition to text (bring to class daily/failure to bring these to class will result in a "0" as a daily participation grade)

- Pencil and eraser (all quizzes and tests must be taken in pencil)
- Dry-erase marker (any color except red, no neon colors)

Grading

1. Writing Assignments	20%
2. Short Presentations	10%
3. Oral Presentation	10%
4. Blackboard Participation	10%
5. Final	20%
6. Daily Participation	30%
Total	100%

(I will make use of the +/- system in grading as stipulated by the [University of Texas at Dallas Undergraduate Catalogue, 2008 – 2010.](#))

Graded Categories

1) Writing Assignments – Students will write a number of paragraphs, to include summaries, responses, reviews, of readings and films.

2) Short Presentations – Each student will make three brief (5 minutes) presentations on topics related to current events relevant to Hispanic culture gleaned from the media (newspaper, magazines, television): one political, one high culture, one popular culture

3) Oral Presentation – Each student will give a 15-minute oral presentation using PowerPoint or Prezi on a topic relevant to Hispanic culture to be determined in consultation with the professor.

4) Blackboard – Students will be required to respond to a variety of topics, questions, postings, films (to be viewed outside class) using the Blackboard discussion forum.

5) Final exam will be comprehensive. It will be taken at the specified time during finals week. THERE WILL BE NO EARLY OR LATE EXAMS. IF YOU MISS THE FINAL, YOU WILL RECEIVE A '0'.

6) Daily active participation includes responding when called on, volunteering, group work, and any other activity assigned by the instructor. This is a language class. Speaking is the most important of the four skills. Students are expected to be active listeners AND speakers. Effort is important. Answers don't have to be perfect, but they need to be comprehensible. Your participation will be graded daily. Your success in this course and your ability to communicate effectively in Spanish is a function of your level of engagement in this class. I am interested both the quantity and quality of your participation. Simply attending class does not guarantee a student a good participation grade.

Class Attendance

Attendance is absolutely crucial to your success in Spanish 4364. Each student is allowed three missed classes, no questions asked. Save them for when you really need them. Students who miss for any reason will receive a "0" participation grade for that day. Each additional absence above three will cause 3% to be deducted from your final letter grade for the semester.

Example: If you miss seven times, three are free; four will be penalized at 12%.

Excused Absences: Excused absences are limited to the following: school-sponsored activities, including fieldtrips and athletic events; religious observance; doctor's appointments and/or hospital stays. In the case of school activities or religious observance, the student must notify the instructor in writing in advance. In the case of fieldtrips, the student must provide a letter or email from the sponsoring department or professor in advance. Athletes must provide a letter and calendar of events. In the case of illness, students must present a letter or note on letterhead or stationary from the physician the first upon returning to class. There are no exceptions to this policy.

In the event of a family emergency, such as the hospitalization or death of an immediate family member, you must contact your instructor via email as soon as possible. Documentation may be requested. The professor reserves the right to make a determination as to the validity of these absences on a case-by-case basis.

Please note: Work may not be made up for unexcused absences.

Nota bene: It is possible to fail this course based solely on attendance (or lack thereof). It is your responsibility to withdraw from the course to avoid receiving an "F."

Punctuality

Tardiness is disrespectful to both your instructor and your peers. Arriving late to class will affect your daily participation grade in the course. Every three tardies will result in an unexcused absence for the course; I will consider you absent if you arrive more than 10 minutes late to class. In some instances, attendance will be taken by roll call; in others, it will be taken via a sign-in sheet. Time is measured by my watch, not yours. In addition, leaving class early will be treated as a tardy.

Late Work

All work is due on the dates specified. No late work will be accepted in accordance with the policies outlined above. No exceptions. Please do not ask me to deviate from this policy. If you do, I will simply say, "Refer to the syllabus," and I will consider the matter settled.

Nota bene: As free agents, you are free to make decisions about coming to class and completing your assignments on time. But every decision (action) carries a consequence. The consequence for missing class is outlined above. The consequence for missing an assignment deadline (regardless of the reason or "intention") is a zero on the assignment.

Personal Communication Devices

Unauthorized texting, use of laptops, MP3s, and other personal communication devices is prohibited. If I catch you using any of these devices, I will count you absent for the day and/o

confiscate the device. If necessary, I will refer you to the Dean of Students. I take this matter very seriously, and I suggest you do too.

Classroom Comportment/Manners

Students should stay on task at all times. Students may not eat any kind of food/snack in class. No exceptions. Staying on task means paying attention, being prepared to respond when called on, not: talking to classmates except during group work, texting, reading emails, daydreaming, working on assignments for other classes, etc. If you must yawn, cough or sneeze, please cover your mouth. Students are expected to remain in class and be seated, unless otherwise instructed. Students should take care of biological functions before or after class. If you must leave class, please do it quickly and inconspicuously. Failure to adhere to these guidelines will result in a "0" participation grade for the day.

Email and Course Communication

Students must use their UTD email account for all correspondence. Please be aware of the following:

- Failure to receive a reply does not constitute permission.
- No homework should be sent via email without prior approval.
- Emails sent at night or on weekends may not be answered until the next class day.
- Students must place their class number and section, e.g. Spanish 4364, in the subject field; emails must include a salutation and closing, and follow standard rules of style (grammar, capitalization, spelling). Emails that do not adhere to these guidelines will be deleted unanswered.
- Please make sure your UTD email account is not full.
- Questions of a technical nature related to myspanishlab.com must be addressed to the Pearson Student Support.
- Questions regarding language/grammar/usage should be addressed in class or in my office. Do not email me with issues related to your myspanishlab.com.

Language Assessment

All students who are taking Spanish for the first time at UT Dallas must take an online placement exam before enrolling.* Students who have not taken this exam may be asked to take it before being allowed to continue in the course. Please pay close attention to item 6.

To complete the Spanish placement exam:

1. Go to the testing website:
<https://www.aetip.com/student/RegisterStudent.cfm>
2. Complete the online registration form.
Organization = "The University of Texas at Dallas"
Language = Spanish, French, or German
Email = your UTD email address
3. Pay for the exam. The cost of the exam is \$10.00 for one test attempt. You may pay using a debit or credit card.

4. You will receive an email confirmation of your purchase with the link and exam ID (password). You do not have to take the exam immediately after registering, but you must take the exam before you can enroll.
5. Take the exam. When you begin the exam, you may not stop and go back. Make sure you have uninterrupted access to the Internet for a period of about an hour.
6. Print your results (score and course placement). Students must enroll in the highest level course available as determined by their placement score. **Instructors reserve the right to require additional coursework for those students who fail to enroll in a course at the appropriate level.**
7. You will need to give your advisor a copy (print out or digital version) to enroll in the course. You are also required to bring a copy of your results to your instructor on the first day of class.

*You need not take the exam if prior courses and/or credit by exam scores satisfy SPAN, FREN, or GERM course prerequisites (this includes credit through courses at UT Dallas, transfer credit, and AP or CLEP credit).

University Policies

Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and adhere to University policies, which are available here: <http://coursebook.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies/>