

**SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**DEPT. OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES**  
**SPN 361W.03 SPANISH GRAMMAR AND COMPOSITION**  
**3 credit hours**  
**Fall '07**  
**EVANS 313**  
**TTh 2:00- 3:20**

Dr. Frieda Koeninger

**Office:** EV 308

**Phone:** 936-294-1443

**E-mail:** fol\_fck@shsu.edu

**FAX:** 936-294-4144

**Office hours:** T, W, Th 9-11:00; other days & times by appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course is designed for those desiring a more thorough knowledge of Spanish syntax. Prerequisite is SPN 264 or the equivalent. Students improve their composition skills in Spanish through reading, speaking, listening, writing and grammatical analysis. The course prepares the student by stimulating the development of vocabulary and by encouraging practice in strategies for effective written along with spoken expression. Students are expected to use the language within the limits of their developing skills, to participate actively in class and to prepare assignments on time.

**GOALS OF THE COURSE:**

Students improve their composition skills in Spanish through reading, speaking, listening, writing and grammatical analysis and practice. The course prepares the student by stimulating the development of vocabulary and by encouraging practice in strategies for effective written expression. Students are expected to use the language within the limits of their developing skills, to participate actively in class and to prepare assignments on time. SPN 361 is designed to expand the student's proficiency in writing in Spanish by exploring and practicing the different steps in the writing process. We will cover four different writing formats: description, narration, exposition, and argumentation.

**COURSE FORMAT:** The class meets three hours a week. The classroom will provide the necessary background for learning, but much individual effort outside the classroom is essential to develop the Spanish language skills that are the goals for this course.

**TEXT: REPASE Y ESCRIBA: CURSO AVANZADO DE GRAMATICA Y COMPOSICION.** Fifth Edition. María Canteli Dominicis y John O. Reynolds

**ATTENDANCE:** Everyone is expected to attend all classes and to participate actively in class activities. Absences and tardiness are frowned on by professor. You are allowed a total of three absences without penalty during the semester. Use these absences wisely because all absences for whatever reason (illness, athletic event, religious holiday, etc.) count. If you are absent more that 3 times during the semester one point will be deducted

from your final percentage grade for each absence in excess of three. Three tardies equal one absence.

If you have a serious illness or a death in the family, it is appropriate for you or a parent to notify the Office of Student Life, 409-294-1785, as soon as possible. They then notify all of your teachers.

**GRADES:** Students will be evaluated in a variety of ways throughout the semester for their skills in listening comprehension, reading, writing, speaking, as well as grammatical and cultural knowledge. However, since this is a writing-enhanced course, written expression will be the major emphasis of the course. Evaluations for the course will be distributed in the following way:

**A. COMPOSICIONES: 80%** A series of formal compositions covering various topics, based on rough drafts begun in class, then polished with help and feedback from the professor and classmates, and, after several drafts, turned in for evaluation. Always staple the latest draft on top of all earlier drafts.

**B. PRUEBAS: 20%** These will be brief quizzes on reading assignments, grammatical points and accentuation. There will be no makeups for these quizzes.

#### **\*CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT**

Please refer to <https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>

#### **\*ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Please refer to Academic Policy Statement 810213.

\*All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of f resource materials.

#### **\*CELL PHONES & PAGERS**

Please refer to Section 5.2.22 of the Code of Conduct.

#### **\*INSTRUCTOR EVALUATIONS**

\*Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form towards the end of the semester.

#### **\*AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

\*It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the University. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. The students

should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

\*SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If a student has a disability that may affect adversely his/her work in this class, then the student is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how best to deal with the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. **NOTE: No accommodation can be made until the student registers with the counseling Center.**

### **\*RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS**

\*Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. "Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

### **\*VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM**

\*Unannounced visitors to class must present a current official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

This policy is not intended to discourage the occasional visiting of classes by responsible persons. Obviously, however, the visiting of a particular class should be occasional and not regular, and it should in no way constitute interference with registered members of the class or the educational process.

### **\*REQUIRED SUPPLIES**

- something with pockets for class materials (handouts, notes, etc.) with lined notebook paper for your own use plus journal entries
- pencil or pen for taking notes in class
- personal skills and attitudes: enthusiasm and interest; listening skills, willingness to speak and open-mindedness; time every day outside of class for reading and reflection, awareness that this class is an academic experience which requires intellectual efforts and results

**THE GRADES FOR YOUR ESSAYS WILL BE BASED ON THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:**

6 SUPERIOR-- Un trabajo superior se dirigirá a todos los aspectos de la tarea bajo cuestión. Estará bien organizado con suficientes detalles y, en general, bien redactado. También demuestra originalidad en las ideas y en la expresión. Utiliza el registro apropiado, un vocabulario amplio y pleno dominio de estructuras gramaticales complejas, sin ningún error de concordancia. No tendrá ningún error de ortografía ni acentuación. Tampoco tendrá ningún problema de puntuación. (95-100 pts.)

5 MUY BUENO-- Este trabajo tendrá muchas de las características del trabajo superior, pero tendrá unos pocos errores de ortografía, acentuación o puntuación. (90-94)

4 BUENO-- Estas calificaciones se designarán a trabajos que sean buenos pero que demuestran alguna debilidad que no tiene el trabajo superior. Puede ser que le falte desarrollo, o que no esté tan bien organizado como el trabajo superior o que tenga problemas gramaticales menores. No demuestra originalidad, ya sea en las ideas o en la expresión. El vocabulario es más limitado que el de un trabajo superior, pero hay un dominio de estructuras gramaticales sencillas. Posiblemente utiliza un registro inapropiado. Tal vez tenga algunos errores de ortografía, acentuación o puntuación. (80-89 pts.)

3 SUFICIENTE-- Este nivel de trabajo demuestra poco desarrollo de las ideas, posiblemente repetitivo y, por lo general, superficial en cuanto a ideas. No demuestra originalidad, ni en las ideas ni en la expresión. Este trabajo tendrá errores gramaticales, pero, por lo general, éstos no impedirán la comunicación. Tal vez tenga muchos errores de ortografía, acentuación o puntuación. (70-79 pts.)

2 BAJO-- Esta calificación es para trabajos que demuestran debilidades serias de estructura, desarrollo y cuestiones mecánicas. Se interrumpe la comunicación frecuentemente. Tiene muchos errores de concordancia y el vocabulario es inestable. Puede tener problemas serios de puntuación. (60-69 pts.)

1 INSUFICIENTE-- Esta calificación es para trabajos que no demuestran una comprensión de la tarea bajo cuestión o revelan una obvia incompetencia en la lengua española. (0-59 pts.)