

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
CONVERSATIONAL SPANISH II
SPN 369.01
TIME: 02:00 – 02:50 MWF EV315

Spring 2008

Instructor: Maria-José Rico
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Office hours: WF 3-4:00 PM or by appt.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This class is a continuation of SPN 368 and requires to speak and converse in Spanish. Reading materials and movie watching will provide the basis for conversation and composition. Emphasis is placed on extemporaneous speaking and conversation. A variety of topics will be presented to the student to do research for presentations in class, participation in class is key to improve conversational skills as well as understanding of the material and cultural topics presented in class.

GOALS OF THE COURSE: Part of the student's success will depend on arriving at class well prepared and able to respond quickly when called on and participate in the conversations in class. Communication with other students will be encouraged. SPN 369 is also designed to further expand the student's Spanish speaking proficiency in a variety of situations. This class also will help you to understand different cultural topics introduced by the different movies you will watch during class. The use of a dictionary to search for new vocabulary will be emphasized during this semester. You will have an increased **AWARENESS** of and **APPRECIATION** for Hispanic language and culture after you take this course.

TEXTBOOK: None, but every student needs to get a good English- Spanish dictionary and need to learn to use the online Real Academia Espanola online dictionary. <http://buscon.rae.es/draeI>, and many other online dictionaries from our SHSU library online resources.

COMPUTATION OF YOUR GRADE:

Participation: 10% or 10 points

Presentations 5 75% or 15 points each

Final interview/exam 15% or 15 points

Every student is responsible for doing 5 presentations preferably one for every movie watched. Presentations will be done in groups of two or three students and must be preferably done without reading or a combination of reading and conversation (not just reading). For each presentation the group must present a summary to the professor and for the class and it has to be in a written format if presented using power point. If a presentation summary is translated using a computer program the written part of the presentation will not be valid. (Each presentation has 15 points 5 points will be for the written material given to the students and the professor)

EVALUATION OF YOUR ORAL PERFORMANCE: The key areas for the evaluation of your oral performance and proficiency will be the following:

1. How well you make yourself understood (Comprehensibility)
2. How fluently you speak (Fluency)
3. How much information you communicate (Vocabulary/Structure)
4. How grammatically correct your speech is (Structure)
5. How much effort you make to communicate (Fluency/comprehensibility)
6. How believable your words and actions are in their cultural setting (Vocabulary/Structure/Content)

FINAL ORAL INTERVIEW/EXAM: It will consist of 3 parts:

1. Student's Monologue (40%). 120 second monologue about a subject covered in class or of your choice to be given in advance to your professor.
2. Answering questions on Monologue (20). Instructor asks questions on your monologue.
3. Written part (40%). Questions your professor will give you about your chosen topic.

ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY: You are only permitted three absent hours, after that for each hour missed 5% will be deducted from your semester grade. Regardless of the reason for your absence, you are required to complete any in-class work, and prepare your presentations and assignments. If you miss more than 7 hours of class you will not be able to pass the course. You can't participate in this class if you are not present to watch the movies and talk about the topics introduced in the class by your professor and your classmates.

BLACKBOARD: Blackboard will be used to post course documents (syllabus and other materials), and give important updates and reminders from your instructor. Don't forget to check it periodically. You may submit your assignments on line, but I would prefer you give them to me in written format for the benefit of material and research collaboration with your classmates.

Movies that will be watched in class: You can read synopsis and movie information regarding actors, directors and plots in www.IMDB.COM, international movie data base or any other movie database like <http://cinemexicano.mty.itesm.mx/front.html>

1. *Nosotros los pobres* (1947) topics: Poverty. Don Juan Tenorio, machismo, arrabal, drug use, family union and family disintegration.
2. *Ustedes los ricos* (1948) Poverty, social ladder, social climbing, tragedy, mexican jails, etc.
3. *Su excelencia* (1967): Comedy, politics, ridicule, comunism and capitalism, third world countries and politics.
4. *Ni de aquí ni de allá* (1988): Comedy, immigration, poverty, ilegal aliens, etc.
5. Comparación entre *Frida* (2002) y *Frida: Naturaleza viva* (1986): Life and works of Frida Khalo.

Other movies recommended: One of these movies will be watched in class (to be decided by the students).

1. *El Bracero del año*. (1967)
2. *El bola* (2000)
3. *Belle epoque* (1992)
4. *Camila* (1985)
5. Any Pedro Almodóvar movie like: *Volver*, *Todo sobre mi madre*, *Tacones lejanos*, *Atame*, *Mujeres al borde de un ataque de nervios*, *Hable con ella*, etc.
6. *María llena de gracia* or *Maria full of grace* (2004)
7. *Diarios de motocicleta* (2004)
8. *Y tu mamá también* (2001)

If you would like to watch more movies or topics related to the ones presented in class you can present your ideas in class. Some movies can be rented and watched before or after class, some can be found in Blockbuster, Netflix, Hastings, etc.

***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.

YOUR ENROLLMENT IN THIS CLASS CONSTITUTES YOUR LEGAL AND MORAL OBLIGATION TO THE HONOR CODE. Because this course is a listening, speaking, reading, and writing one, I encourage you to work together. HOWEVER, plagiarism--copying others' work with out crediting them for it--is legally and ethically

unacceptable--AND GROUNDS FOR FAILURE, NOT JUST IN THE ASSIGNMENT, BUT IN THE CLASS. Paraphrases, as well quotes, must be documented. See the article, *Plagiarism*, posted in documents in Blackboard.

PHILOSOPHY

This is an UNIVERSITY-LEVEL ACADEMIC COURSE WITH APPROPRIATE ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS. You earn your grade on that basis. You do not receive university credit for "gender and/or ethnic consciousness" or language ability per se. Academic credit is based upon your intellectual and academic efforts, willingness and ability to reflect upon and respond to requirements of the class.

INTERACTION

RESPECT FOR OTHERS' VIEWS AND SPACE, not necessarily in agreement with one's own, is required on the part of every participant, including what is expressed, shared, etc., in the course of class interaction.

***CELL PHONES & PAGERS**

Please refer to Section 5.2.22 of the Code of Conduct.

CELL PHONES AND PAGERS must be on vibrate during class time except in pre-arranged-with-the-professor possibility of medical emergency to avoid grade sanctions. No text messaging allowed in class.

GENERAL STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL MATERIAL, presented in class, etc., whether you are listening or not.

YOU ARE PERSONALLY & SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR ACTIVITIES (ASKING QUESTIONS OR DOING your presentations) IN ORDER TO MEET YOUR PERSONAL EXPECTATIONS AND DESIRE FOR SUCCESS/GRADE. Probable daily time needed for presentations outside class will be a minimum of one to two hours per hour spent in class (3-6 hours per week). "presentations" are largely left to your discretion--you must assess how well you understand and how much practice, reading or written work outside of class you need. You are responsible for anything and everything in the syllabus. You are expected to highlight reading and take notes in class. You are expected to keep in contact with the professor and other students as personally needed.

GENERAL FACULTY RESPONSABILITIES

I INTEND TO BE AVAILABLE TO DISCUSS, ADVISE, ETC., DURING AND OUTSIDE OF CLASS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. Please set prior appointment times. Once in a while I may not be available. If so, I will leave a note as to my return. Please also either honor your appointment or call to cancel. I will afford you the same courtesy if I have an unavoidable conflict. Email is always better than telephoning.

I INTEND TO RETURN ASSIGNMENTS WITH COMMENTARY AND/OR GRADES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, usually within a week.

***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 holyday” 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.

***STUDY TIPS**

MODERN LANGUAGE LEARNING STRATEGIES: SPANISH

GENERAL RULE OF THUMB: TRY TO INCORPORATE SPANISH INTO YOUR REGULAR, EVERYDAY LIFE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

Practice listening and speaking:

- make a friend who speaks Spanish (either as a student or as a native:
- attend Charla or Tertulia (to be scheduled)
- attend Spanish Club

Practice listening:

- watch television: news reports on Univision, Telemundo, Galavision, etc.
- go to movies or rent videos in Spanish do watch them without English subtitles.

Practice reading:

Buy or borrow books or articles in Spanish: children's level, your particular interest: cookbooks, medical studies, etc.

Subscribe to, buy or borrow a newspaper or magazine: TV y Novelas, VANIDADES, BUEN HOGAR, COSMOPOLITAN, PEOPLE in Spanish.

Practice writing:

- find a pen pal: write and receive letters in Spanish
- keep a journal/diary in Spanish
- write your notes in Spanish
- write creatively (stories) in Spanish
- use computer programs

SPECIFIC STUDY STRATEGIES

- Study with other students

- get a tutor
- Buy or borrow a workbook or a text by another author:
- write out exercises
- Review your text:
- table of contents (write all you know and check)
- exercises (redo)
- Make note cards:
- use ink colors to indicate gender of nouns, etc.
- make visualization/collage cards
- Listen to your text tapes extra times or get other tapes
- repeat
- do exercises in accompanying workbooks
- Use computer programs:
- Language Lab
- Library
- Personal software available

**SHSU SPN 369 COURSE OUTLINE/ TENTATIVE SCHEDULE
SUBJECT TO ADAPTATION FOR INSTRUCTIONAL PURPOSES**

Conversational Spanish II

	Week/date	Description
WED	JAN 16	Introducción
FRI	JAN 18	Película “Nosotros los Pobres”
MON	JAN 21	Martín Luther King holiday
WED	JAN 23	Nosotros los pobres-discussion
FRI	JAN 25	Nosotros los pobres-discussion
MON	JAN 28	Nosotros los pobres- final
WED	JAN 30	Vocabulario
FRI	FEB 01	Preguntas y video de Pedro Infante-12 TH . CLASS DAY LAS DAY TO DROP WITHOUT GETTING A Q AND GET FULL REFUND
MON	FEB 04	Presentaciones
WED	FEB 06	Presentaciones
FRI	FEB 08	Presentaciones
MON	FEB 11	Película “Ustede los ricos”
WED	FEB 13	Ustedes los pobres
FRI	FEB 15	Ustedes los pobres-discussion
MON	FEB 18	Ustedes los pobres-final y preguntas
WED	FEB 20	Vocabulario
FRI	FEB 22	Presentaciones
MON	FEB 25	Presentaciones
WED	FEB 27	Presentaciones
FRI	FEB 29	Introduccion Película “Su excelencia”
MON	MAR 03	Su excelencia-discussion
WED	MAR 05	Su excelencia-discussion
FRI	MAR 07	Su excelencia-final-vocabulario

MON	MAR 10	SPRING BREAK WEEK
WED	MAR 12	SPRING BREAK
FRI	MAR 14	
MON	MAR 17	Presentaciones
WED	MAR 19	Presentaciones
FRI	MAR 21	GOOD FRIDAY HOLIDAY
MON	MAR 24	Película "Ni de aquí ni de allá"
WED	MAR 26	Continuación película
FRI	MAR 28	Ni de aquí ni de allá
MON	MAR 31	vocabulario-discussion
WED	APR 02	Presentaciones- preguntas
FRI	APR 04	Presentaciones-preguntas
MON	APR 07	Película "Frida naturaleza viva"
WED	APR 09	Película "Frida naturaleza viva "-discussion
FRI	APR 11	Película Frida-Comparissons
MON	APR 14	Comparissons-comparaciones - discussion
WED	APR 16	Presentaciones
FRI	APR 18	Presentaciones
MON	APR 21	Película opcional
WED	APR 23	Película opcional
FRI	APR 25	Preguntas- discussion
MON	APR 28	ORAL presentations
WED	APR 30	ORAL presentations
FRI	MAY 02	Finish oral presentations
MON	MAY 05	Repaso for final exam
WED	MAY 07	Repaso for final LAST CLASS DAY <u>LAST DAY TO DROP CLASS W/O F</u>
THU	MAY 08	LAST CLASS DAY-SHSU
FRI	MAY 09	STUDY DAY
MON	MAY 12	FINALS BEGIN

MONDAY MAY. 19TH. 9 A.M. DEADLINE FOR FILING GRADES

