SPAN 3010-001: Advanced Conversation and Composition I
University of Colorado – Denver
Department of Modern Languages
Spring 2012 (2:00-3:15)
Classroom: Arts 298

Instructor: Prof. Michael Abeyta
E-mail: michael.abeyta@ucdenver.edu
Office: Plaza 118D
Office Hours: Tues 11:50-12:00/Th 3:30-4:30

Note: The official syllabus for this class will be on Blackboard. While students may print copies for their own reference, please be aware that, with exception of exam dates, certain class activities or assignments may be subject to change.

I. Introduction
This is an upper-division course that partially fulfills the requirements for the Spanish major and minor. Either SPAN 2120 or SPAN 2130 is a prerequisite for this course. The goal of this course is to improve your writing and speaking skills by an advanced analysis of grammar and composition techniques and through various speaking and writing assignments. By the end of this course, you should be able to do the following:

- Maintain short conversations in Spanish with native speakers of the language on everyday topics, such as school, work, and personal interests.
- Write essays several paragraphs long on a variety of topics
- Understand the basic rules of Spanish grammar and use them in speaking and writing

II. Textbook
The primary textbook for this class is the following:


Students are also expected to have and use a good Spanish-English dictionary. This dictionary should be too big to fit in your pocket and give reasonable explanations on how to deal with irregular verbs. New World, LaRousse, and University of Chicago and Oxford publish adequate ones.

While not required for this course, an excellent reference text for additional grammatical information is A New Reference Grammar of Modern Spanish (4th ed.) by John Butt and Carmen Benjamin. ISBN: 0071440496
III. Communication
Each student is required to maintain an official UCD email account (firstname.lastname@email.cudenver.edu) for all communication related to this course. This is the email address that I will be using to communicate with you during the semester, so you should check your email daily. Failure to receive or read emails does not excuse you from assignments or announcements.

IV. Attendance
Absences: The Department of Modern Languages has an attendance policy (see http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/CLAS/Departments/ModernLanguages/Students/Policies/Pages/Attendance.aspx), which states that any student who is absent from class more than 20% of the semester will receive an automatic failing grade (read: 'F') for the course, regardless of the reason for the absence. In other words, if you miss more than six (6) classes, you will receive an 'F' for the semester. This includes every day (including the first and last) of the semester. This policy eliminates the need for determining whether an absence is “excused” or “unexcused.”

Tardiness/Leaving class: In order to be counted present for a class session, you must be in the room for 65 of the 75 minutes of the class session. This means that you may not enter class more than 10 minutes after it starts, or leave more than 10 minutes before its scheduled conclusion and still be counted as present. In addition, it is not acceptable to enter or leave class late on a regular basis. If you have a scheduling conflict that prohibits your timely arrival in class, this is not the semester for you to take this course.

Please take the attendance and tardiness policies into account as you go through the semester, and conserve your allowable absences for as long as possible!

V. Evaluation
Your grade in this course is calculated out of a total of 1000 points. The components of your grade are: three exams, four essays, two in-class oral presentations, chapter reading quizzes and homework (turned in during class). Grade distribution is as follows:

4 Essays = 40% [400 pts]
2 Oral Presentations (in-class) = 10% [100 pts]
3 Exams = 30% [300 pts]
Reading quizzes/Homework = 20% [200 pts]

Letter grades for this course correspond to the grading scale (see below) for all courses in the Department of Modern Languages.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
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<td>60-62.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
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Please take a look at the grading scale carefully.
V. 1. Essays

As indicated above, essays are worth 40% of your total grade in this course. Therefore, each of the four essays is worth 10%. This 10% is divided into two parts: (a) the first draft of the essay and (b) a subsequent corrected draft. Each essay grade is broken down as follows:

(a) 1st draft of essay = 65% [65 pts]
(b) corrected draft = 35% [35 pts]

Part (b), or “corrected draft,” works as follows: When I return your essay, I will indicate 5 errors by circling, underlining, or highlighting what you should correct. I may indicate a single word or a segment of a sentence that has multiple errors. These corrections, along with the original essay, are due the class period immediately following the one in which the graded draft is returned to you.

When you correct your 5 errors (or phrases/sentences with errors), each correction should look like this:

Example of Error Correction (Phase b)

Sentence you originally wrote: Yo me gustan ↑vacaciones más que ↑escuela. [There are 3 errors that I’ve marked in this sentence]

To receive credit for correcting this sentence, you need to do the following 3 steps:

1. Write the whole sentence and underline all errors: Yo me gustan ___ vacaciones más que ___ escuela.
2. Rewrite the sentence with the errors corrected: A mí me gustan las vacaciones más que la escuela.
3. Write an explanation (in English or in Spanish) about each error and your correction, referring to the rules of grammar that you’ve learned.

   Yo is never used with gustar. Las vacaciones is the subject of the sentence. Literally, the sentence translates to “to me holidays are pleasing…” The phrase a mí simply adds emphasis to the indirect object me.

   Definite articles (el, la) are always used with nouns that refer to abstract things or concepts (e.g., vacation, school, life, hope) in Spanish, especially when the nouns are the subject of a sentence. Definite articles are not used with these kinds of nouns in English. So we say las vacaciones and la escuela in Spanish.

   Note how extensive and explicit the explanations are. It is not enough to write something like ‘I wrote vacaciones and it should have been las vacaciones’ or ‘I needed preterit, not imperfect.’ You must explain clearly the rule behind the correction. Remember that you may ask
for my help in locating the place in your textbook where the appropriate rule is given and
discussed, but you may NOT get help from a friend or a tutor (refer to section on Academic
Dishonesty below).

Essays should be typed, double-spaced, with one-inch margins on all four sides and
Times New Roman (or equivalent) 12-point font. Handwritten compositions are not accepted.
All essays are to be turned in at the beginning of class on the date assigned, regardless of
whether or not you are in class. Late assignments will be assessed a 25% penalty up to 24 hours
late and a 50% penalty up to 48 hours late. Problems with illness, girl/boyfriends, computers,
printers, cars, pets, etc., do not exclude you from deadlines.

**IMPORTANT NOTE ON ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:** Your written assignments (e.g.,
theses, homework) must be your own work. You may not receive outside help when writing
your compositions. They are designed to help you improve your Spanish, and learning from your
mistakes is an excellent way to do that. Writing that appears to be primarily the work of someone
else or that appears to be written in English and then translated by an online translation program
will receive a grade of 0% for that assignment. If you have grammatical or stylistic questions,
there are two sources that you may consult: 1) A grammar or composition book. 2) Me.

V. 2. Oral presentations

Each student will be required to give two 5-minute oral presentations in class during the
semester. Presentations that are well below or well beyond the 5-minute time limit will be
penalized. You **may not use any notes** while giving the presentation; however, your
presentations should include visual aids. These visual aids should be large enough to be seen by
all students at the same time. Please do not pass items around the classroom to be viewed
individually.

1. The topic of the first presentation is “Show and Tell.” You should bring in an object
and explain why it is significant to you.

2. The topic of the second presentation is a “How-to-do” demonstration. You will give a
brief lesson on some skill to your classmates. Again, the time limit is significant.

Your presentations will be graded on the following four categories, with equal emphasis given to
each.

- **Preparation** includes factors such as adhering to the 5-minute time limit for the
presentation; preparing a presentation that would keep the attention of the audience,
having prepared difficult or specialized phrases ahead of time, etc.

- **Vocabulary** deals largely with using the appropriate words for the presentation and
avoiding generic terms with little meaning, such as ‘cosa’, ‘buena’ or ‘interesante’. Points
are deducted for use of English words or ‘guesses,’ rather than providing the appropriate
term. This applies to both specialized words for the presentation as well as overall
general vocabulary.
• **Comprehensibility** is the ability for me, or a fluent/native speaker of Spanish, to understand what you are talking about.

• **Grammar** is based on the correct use of the language structures covered in class (e.g., subject-verb agreement; noun-adjective agreement; past vs. present; subjunctive vs. indicative; etc.).

Presentations must be given on the date assigned. There will be NO make-ups. If you know that you will be away from class on the date assigned, contact me as soon as possible to arrange for a change in the presentation schedule. You must do this **before** your scheduled presentation date, NOT after that date.

V. 3. **Exams**

Three exams, which will test grammar and writing skills, will be given during the semester. Make-up exams will NOT be given except in the event of a medical **emergency** (for example, **emergency** surgery or giving birth). If you are faced with such an emergency, contact me as soon as possible. Do not simply come to class the next class period and tell me that you couldn't make it. Also, note the date of the final exam (to be posted online as soon as it is made available by the University) and plan to be here. Vacation plans should be made around the exam, and not vice versa.

V. 4 **Reading Quizzes/Homework**

Assignments labeled **Lectura** refer to readings from the textbook, or (on occasion) from the professor (either online or by hardcopy in class). For each reading assignment there will be a short, online quiz. These are made available on Blackboard immediately after the class session before the reading is due and then closed by class time on the day it is due. Therefore, each quiz is to be completed **before** the class period for which it is assigned. The quizzes are graded on a pass-fail basis (passing is 60%). If you pass the quiz, you receive full credit; if you fail the quiz, you receive the credit earned on the quiz.

Written homework will often be assigned in addition to an online quiz for a particular reading in the textbook. In order to receive credit, assignments must be turned in **at the beginning** of the class period in which they are due.

Do not ignore quizzes and homework assignments! At 15%, they provide a good way to help your overall grade.

Calendario – Primavera 2012
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<th>Blackboard*</th>
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<tr>
<td>martes 17</td>
<td>Introducción</td>
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<tr>
<td>jueves 19</td>
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<td>Q1 + Hwk</td>
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<td>jueves 1</td>
<td>Lección 10 cont.</td>
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<td>martes 6</td>
<td>Lección 12 (pp. 102-110)</td>
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<td><strong>Ensayo 3</strong>*</td>
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<td>Hwk</td>
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<td>Repaso</td>
<td>Hwk</td>
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<td>Repaso</td>
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<td>TBA</td>
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<td><strong>EXAMEN 3</strong></td>
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### Spring 2012 CLAS Academic Policies

The following policies pertain to all degree students in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS).

- **Schedule verification:** It is each student’s responsibility to verify online that his/her official registration is correct: verify before classes begin and prior to the drop/add deadline. Failure to verify schedule accuracy is not sufficient reason to justify a late add or drop.

- **E-mail:** Students must activate and regularly check their official student e-mail account for CU Denver business: [http://www.ucdenver.edu/student-services/Pages/WebMail.aspx](http://www.ucdenver.edu/student-services/Pages/WebMail.aspx). Those who forward email must check CU Denver e-mail regularly for messages not automatically forwarded.

- **Waitlists:**
  - Students are not automatically notified if they are added to a class from a waitlist.
  - Students are not automatically dropped from a class if they never attended, stopped attending, or do not make tuition payments.
  - Waitlists are purged after the 1st week of classes, after which a paper Schedule Adjustment Form (drop/add form) is required. It is the student’s responsibility to get the form (online or at the Advising Office, NC 4002), have it signed, deliver it to the Registrar (Annex 100) or the Student Services Center (NC 1003), and verify her/his schedule online.

- **Late adds** (after 1 February) will be approved only when circumstances surrounding the late add are beyond the student’s control. This will require a written petition and verifiable documentation. Petition forms are available in NC 4002. The signature of a faculty member on a Schedule Adjustment Form does not guarantee that a late add petition will be approved.

- **Late drops** (after 1 February) will be approved only when circumstances surrounding the late drop have arisen after the published drop deadline and are beyond the student’s control. This will require a written petition and verifiable documentation. The signature of a faculty member does not guarantee that a late drop petition will be approved.

- **Tuition:** Students are responsible for completing arrangements with financial aid, family, scholarships, etc. (depending on tuition plan selected) to pay their tuition prior to Census Date (1 February). Students who drop after that date are (1) financially responsible for tuition and fees, (2) academically responsible and will receive a "W" grade, and (3) are ineligible for a refund of COF hours or tuition.

- **Graduation:**
  - Undergraduate students wishing to graduate in spring 2012 must complete the online Intent to Graduate Form and meet with their academic advisor to obtain a graduation application. This application must be submitted by Census Date (1 February). You can obtain an application only after meeting with your advisor. There are no exceptions to this policy.
  - Graduate students wishing to graduate in spring semester 2012 must complete
the online Intent to Graduate form and have a Request for Admissions to Candidacy on file with the CU Denver Graduate School (LSC 1251) no later than 5 PM, February 1, 2012.

### Important Dates and Deadlines

- **January 17, 2012:** First day of classes.
- **January 22, 2012:** Last day to add or waitlist a class using the UCDAccess student portal.
- **January 23, 2012:** Last day to drop without a $100 drop charge—this includes section changes.
- **January 24, 2012:** Waitlists are dropped. Students are no longer automatically added from a waitlist (and names not on the official course roster are not registered for the course). Adding a course now requires the completion of a Schedule Adjustment Form. This is the first day an instructor may approve a Schedule Adjustment Form to add a student to a closed course.
- **January 24 - February 1, 2012:** Students are responsible for verifying an accurate spring 2012 course schedule via the UCDAccess student portal. Students are not notified of their waitlist status by the University. All students must check their schedule prior to February 1 for accuracy.
- **February 1, 2012:** Census date.
  - **2/1/12, 5 PM:** Last day to add structured courses without a written petition for a late add. This is an absolute deadline and is treated as such. This deadline does not apply to independent studies, internships, project hours, thesis hours, dissertation hours, and late-starting modular courses.
  - **2/1/12, 5 PM:** Last day to drop a spring 2012 course or completely withdraw from all spring 2012 courses using a Schedule Adjustment Form and still receive a tuition refund, minus the drop fee. After this date, tuition is forfeited and a "W" will appear on the transcript. This includes section changes. This is an absolute deadline and is treated as such.
  - **2/1/12, 5 PM:** Last day to apply for spring 2012 graduation. Undergraduates must make an appointment and see their academic advisor before this date to apply for graduation. Graduate students must complete the Intent to Graduate and Candidate for Degree forms.
  - **2/1/12, 5 PM:** Last day to request pass/fail or non-credit option for a course.
  - **2/1/12, 5 PM:** Last day to petition for a reduction in Ph.D. dissertation hours.
- **February 13-22, 2012:** Faculty can use the Early Alert system.
- **March 19-25, 2012:** Spring break (no classes/campus open).
- **April 2, 2012 at 5 PM:** Last day for non-CLAS students to drop or withdraw without a petition and special approval from the academic dean. After this date, a dean's signature is required.
- **April 16, 2012 at 5 PM:** Last day for CLAS students to drop or withdraw with signatures from the faculty and dean but without a full petition. After this date, all schedule changes require a full petition. Petition forms are available in NC 4002 for undergraduates and LSC 1251 for graduates.
- **May 7 - 12, 2012:** Finals Week. No schedule changes will be granted once finals week
has started. There are NO exceptions to this policy.

- **May 21, 2012**: Final grades available on UCDAccess (tentative).