

SPN 400 - Spanish in Costa Rica (advanced level)
Professor: Office: LASP Phone: Teacher's mail:
Office hours: by appointment

Texts and other materials:

Latin American Studies Program, (LASP), Español conversacional avanzado, San José, Costa Rica, 2016.

Diccionario Cambridge Lett Pocket Español-Inglés. Cambridge (England): Cambridge UP, 2002.

Videos about Costa Rica and other topics.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course places special emphasis on intensive grammar review and involves practice in everyday communication situations with emphasis on vocabulary and speaking proficiency, while learning about Costa Rican culture. In addition to the formal program, the student will live with a Costa Rican family, which will enhance his/her language and cultural assimilation. This course is for students who have had the third level of Spanish as evidenced in their placement exam. Students will receive a total of 81 hours of classes plus 9 hours of experiential activities, for a total of 90 hours of Spanish instruction.

General Course Goal: To enable you to review basic communicative skills in order to communicate effectively with native speakers by developing each of the four language skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing) while also providing you with opportunities to learn about the cultures of the Spanish-speaking world, especially about Costa Rica. Special attention will be given to speaking and listening skills. All instruction and activities will be conducted in Spanish. Students will be able to reach the equivalent of Advanced Mid on the ACTFL proficiency scale.

Specific Course Objectives: By the end of the course, the successful student will demonstrate proficiency at the intermediate level and will be understood by native speakers who are accustomed to listening to foreigners and will be able to do the following with greater ease, expanded vocabulary and enhanced grammatical accuracy.

- 1) Handle successfully a variety of uncomplicated communicative tasks in social situations.
- 2) Talk about personal relationships, shopping, social events, vacations and traveling, professions and personal finances.
- 3) Obtain information, give directions, explain what people do, and describe how things are done.
- 4) Describe people, places and events in the past.
- 5) Discuss specific and ongoing events in the present and in the past, and express what has and has not happened, how long ago something happened or how long since it has been occurring.
- 6) Express emotions, desires and intentions; uncertainty, doubt and disbelief, and ideal situations that may or may not exist.

- 7) Learn basic strategies for improving comprehension when reading a short literary text.
- 8) Learn basic strategies to make simple translations.
- 9) Describe various aspects of Hispanic culture (with emphasis on Costa Rican culture) including those presented in some short literary, cultural or musical selections.
- 10) Write medium-length, fairly sophisticated compositions in Spanish.
- 11) Prepare spontaneous oral presentations.

Class Participation and Attendance Policy

Class participation is a major component of a foreign language course and a great deal of the development of foreign language proficiency occurs as a result of activities conducted in class. Expected class participation includes:

- coming to class prepared,
- being attentive and actively engaged,
- volunteering often,
- answering and asking questions frequently,
- responding in class in complete sentences in the target language,
- demonstrating effort throughout the semester

Attendance is taken at the beginning of class. A student is expected to arrive on time and be present for the entire class period. Take care of personal needs (bathroom break, eating, etc.) prior to class. Absence from class during the day immediately before and immediately following scheduled breaks or holidays will result in the loss of a full letter grade, unless it is due to a verified illness or an emergency. Three tardies (more than 5 minutes late) equals one absence. Students may turn in written work before an absence, but will not be able to make up an exam or quiz missed during an absence. Additionally, more than two unexcused absences during the semester will result in the loss of a full letter grade. Excused absences include serious illnesses or injuries or absences that are pre-authorized by the Spanish Coordinator, Carmen Luna. **Class absences due to family visits are not excused absences**

Assignments: Frequent homework is necessary and expected in a foreign language class. Individual professors will provide the course policy regarding assignments, how they are counted, arrangements on late assignments, etc.

Exams: LASP has a policy of no make-up exams. In extreme circumstances or emergencies, contact the professor before the day of the scheduled exam.

Final Exam and Oral Presentation: You must take the final written exam on _____ and the oral presentation on _____. Only the Spanish Coordinator, Prof. Carmen Luna, can grant an exception.

GRADING BREAKDOWN

Preparation, participation in class.....	20%
Attitude and attendance.....	5%
Exam (oral and written).....	15%
Quiz.....	10%
Oral Presentation	20%
Homework and writing assignments	10%
Final Exam	20%

➤ Some strategies that will enhance your acquisition of the Spanish language and culture includes studying together in small groups, watching Spanish language TV, listening to Spanish music, etc. **Participate with your tica family in different activities as much as possible, and especially try to talk with them in Spanish as often as possible.**

Students are expected to:

- refrain from cheating, including plagiarism,
- refrain from lying,
- express opinions with civility and with consideration for the opinions of others, and
- promote the importance of the honor code in all their interactions for the benefit of the learning community.

Note: A student's continued enrollment in this foreign language course implies his/her understanding of the policies with regard to attendance, lateness, participation and make-up work.

CRITERIA FOR GRADING PARTICIPATION

- A. Excellent preparation of vocabulary, grammatical concepts, and reading assignments; active and voluntary participation; student makes a good effort to speak in Spanish to instructor and other students on own initiative and not merely in response to questions; student listens attentively and understands most of the Spanish spoken in class; student demonstrates enthusiasm and takes initiative, particularly during pair and group activities. Student demonstrates exemplary behavior.
- B. Very good preparation of vocabulary, grammatical concepts, and reading assignments; frequent participation; student speaks in Spanish to instructor and other students; student listens attentively and understands much of the Spanish spoken during class; student demonstrates positive attitude; makes meaningful contributions during pair and group activities. Student always demonstrates good behavior.
- C. Adequate preparation of vocabulary, grammatical concepts, and reading assignments; student responds when called on, but does not generally volunteer; sometimes inattentive in class; sporadic and/or unenthusiastic contributions during pair and group activities. Student demonstrates good behavior most of the time.

- D. Little preparation for class; rarely volunteers; may demonstrate indifference; mostly inattentive during class; infrequent attempts to express himself/herself in Spanish; uses English when it could be avoided; rarely contributes during pair and group activities. Student demonstrates poor behavior.
- E. Little or no preparation for class; does not volunteer; demonstrates poor attitude; uses only English; inattentive during class discussions; does not contribute to pair or group activities. Student demonstrates inappropriate behavior.

Golden Rules

- **Disrespectful opinions and behaviors will not be tolerated.**
- **Refrain from arguing in front of your classmates. See me after class, or in my office, if you disagree with my comments about your work and the grade you have received.**
- **If you have many questions, make an appointment with me or take advantage of my office hours. Do not use time that belongs to all the students for your excessive inquiries.**