HU 292 Second-Year Spanish and Culture: Course Guidelines

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Required Texts and Materials
- A good bilingual dictionary such as the University of Chicago Dictionary of Spanish.

Course Objectives
The Humanity Department’s sequence of three second-year Spanish courses (HU 291, 292, 293) is designed to reinforce the usage and grammar you have learned in HU 191-193 (or equivalent), to increase your knowledge of Hispanic cultures, and to expand your intercultural communication skills. HU 291-293 put special emphasis on writing, reading, and communication/discussion, so be prepared to read, write, and talk a lot. The resources at your command include our basic textbook, the workbook, your dictionary, the tapes, grammars, journals, videos, and CD-ROMs available in the language lab (Walker 114), and the World Wide Web.

The topics we will cover during the winter quarter include the environment, technology, and “Latinos” in the United States. In addition, we will read excerpts from the work of Gregorio López y Fuentes, Marco Denevi, and Sandra María Estévez.

Your Responsibilities
Learning a language is a challenging and rewarding enterprise. The keys to success are curiosity, open-mindedness, humor, the willingness to take risks, and, above all, continuous practice. Be prepared set aside at least 5-6 hours per week to study outside of class. Additionally, you are expected to:
- Attend and actively participate in each class.
- Come prepared to class. Preparation is absolutely crucial; otherwise, you and I will waste our time.
- Bring your dictionary, the textbook, and the workbook (Diario de Actividades) to class every day.
- Keep up with your Diario de Actividades assignments, which are designed to reinforce the work we are doing in class.
- Complete the video assignments in the language lab (Walker 114).
- Be prepared to do a lot of team-work, role-games, and to give small presentations to the class.
- Be respectful and supportive of each other and learn to laugh at your mistakes.
- Ask for clarification whenever you feel lost. I want each of you to be the best student you can be. However, I am not a mind reader. It is your responsibility to let me know what you need …!
- Behave like responsible adults. This is a university *not* a high school and I expect you to behave accordingly.

Your Reward
The payoff for all the work you’ll do in this class is one of the most exciting and important things that can happen to a human being: the “stretching” of your mind and soul through the encounter with “others” and a deepened understanding of yourself and the culture(s) you belong to. On a more “material” level, the 2nd year sequence of Spanish courses fulfills a substantial part of the requirements for the Spanish Language Certificate, which is a nice addition to any professional portfolio.
A Note on Attendance and Participation
Every day I will circulate a sign-up sheet during the first minutes of class. Make sure you’re in on time to sign it. Otherwise, you will be considered absent for that day. For every day of class you will get one point for attendance and two for participation. If you are late or unprepared, or if you aren’t actively involved in the class, you will lose the participation points for that day.

Interaction and communication are absolutely crucial for successful language learning. Therefore, you will not pass this course if you miss more than 5 classes without an official excuse (a doctor’s note or a note from the dean of students). Since the flesh is weak and the winters up here are dark and long, I grant each of you 1 (ONE) unexcused absence. Note, however, that you cannot make up for any test, quiz, or other assignment you’ll miss that day.

Your Grade
I do not like surprise quizzes and will avoid them unless forced to do otherwise. We will, however, write an exam after each lesson, i.e. there will be 4 (FOUR) one-hour exams. At least one of these will be a take-home exam. If asked to do so, you have to revise and resubmit these exams within one week after you have received them back; otherwise, exam revisions are optional. Exam revisions can improve your grade by up to 10%, or, if you fail to fulfill the revision requirement, lower your grade by up to 10%. Note that you cannot make up for any exams you miss without an official excuse.

There are no finals for this class.

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

Attendance and participation 20 %
Papers 30 %
Assignments (Diario de Actividades + self-correction; homework) 26 %
Exams 24 %

Grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

94-100 A 70-76 C
93-89 AB 65-69 CD
88-82 B 60-64 D
81-77 BC < 60 F

Assignments
Submit your assignments at the beginning of class. Written assignments should be double-spaced. Longer papers must be typed. I will collect your homework randomly, so be prepared. Late assignments will not be accepted and there will be no make-ups unless you have an official excuse. Do contact me if you need help with any assignment or if you need to renegotiate any deadlines.

Notes
- If you face circumstances that could affect your performance in this class, please see me ASAP so that we can make appropriate arrangements
- MTU complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disability Act of 1990 (ADA). If you have a disability and need reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at MTU, please call Dr. Gloria Melton, Associate Dean of Students at 487-2212. For all other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department chair, or the Affirmative Action Office at 487-3310.
- The syllabus and course schedule may be revised during the term in response to the needs of the students and the course. You will be notified of such changes should they occur.