HU 2293: Transitional Level I Spanish Language and Culture (Summer 2004)

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Office Hours: Mon. 2–3, Wed. 11–12 and by appointment

Course location: Walker 108
Course meeting times: MTWR 12:05–1:40
Track A (May 17–June 24)

REQUIRED TEXTS:
Knorre et al. Puntos en breve textbook and student CD
Puntos en breve workbook/laboratory manual

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS:
HU 2293 is a course for students who have already studied some Spanish, for those who have a solid background in another Romance language, or for highly motivated students with no previous study of Spanish. It is designed to develop basic proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing Spanish, as well as to foster knowledge of Spanish-speaking cultures. The course focuses on active language use, which involves interacting meaningfully with other class participants and developing communicative strategies. By the end of the course, with reasonable effort, you will be able to: handle routine situations of a concrete personal and social nature that involve supplying information about yourself and others, get necessary information by asking questions about people and things, navigate a simple survival situation such as ordering food, and create with the Spanish language by combining learned elements.

EXAM DATES:
Unit 1 Exam (capítulo preliminar, capítulos 1, 2, 3) Monday, May 24
Unit 2 Exam (capítulos 4, 5, 6, 7, 8) Thursday, June 3
Unit 3 Exam (capítulos 9, 10, 11, 12) Tuesday, June 15
Unit 4 Exam (capítulos 13, 14, 15, 16) Thursday, June 24

ATTENDANCE:
Because success in this course is based on the interaction between class participants, unexcused absences will lower your grade. Attendance is particularly crucial in an intensive course like this one. One (1) unexcused absence is allowed, after which your Participation Grade will be lowered by 5% for each unexcused absence. There is a strict NO MAKE-UP policy for assigned work, including homework, quizzes, and exams. A grade of zero will be given for any such missed work. In the event of an unforeseen emergency or serious illness, it is your responsibility to contact your instructor promptly and to supply adequate documentation.

GRADING:
Exams and Quizzes 40%
Homework 30%
Attendance, Participation, Lab 20%
Assessment of Oral Proficiency 10%

Grading Scale:
A = 93-100 % AB = 88-92% B = 83-87% BC = 78-82% C = 73-77% CD = 68-72% D = 60-67% F = 0-59%
EXAMS AND QUIZZES:
Unit exams will be given on the dates indicated above. The exams are achievement tests, enabling you to demonstrate your understanding of the assigned material. Please note that due to the accelerated nature of HU 2293, each exam will cover key aspects of several chapters. Short quizzes (either announced or unannounced) will be given to assess your knowledge of vocabulary and basic grammatical structures.

HOMEWORK:
Homework is an essential component of your learning in this course. Homework includes daily workbook and lab assignments, written assignments from our textbook, and other tasks designed to help you practice and learn Spanish. Homework assignments will be checked or collected, on an unannounced basis, at the BEGINNING of the class period only. No late work will be accepted.

CLASS PARTICIPATION:
Participation includes attendance and promptness, preparation, and involvement in conversations, group work, role-playing, and other in-class activities designed to assess that you are maintaining appropriate progress. (Please see above section on Attendance)

LAB:
In order to develop all four language skills, we will be using a variety of multimedia tools, including lab CDs, which will be available for your use in the Language Lab (Walker 114). You are required to spend ONE HOUR per week in the Lab, and to use log sheets to record your time. The lab also offers videos, CD-ROMs, and access to websites.

ASSESSMENT OF ORAL PROFICIENCY:
Because this is an accelerated summer course, there will be no formal oral exams or presentations. Your proficiency in spoken Spanish will be assessed on an ongoing basis in class and during outside-of-class meetings with your instructor.

WHAT ARE THE KEYS TO SUCCESS IN THIS COURSE?
Keep in mind that learning a language is a challenging but deeply rewarding process. You should plan to spend some time studying Spanish every day. When learning a language, studying in short, frequent sessions is much more effective than “cramming.” You will need repetitive practice to learn vocabulary and grammatical structures. I highly recommend that you use flashcards and a vocabulary notebook. Try to read keywords in Spanish-language texts (including online news sites) and to listen to spoken Spanish (such as on Spanish-language television channels or via online news broadcasts) as often as possible. See our course website for additional suggestions as well as a link to the textbook’s website: <http://www.hu.mtu.edu/~hibliotic/HU2293Spanish.htm>

A FINAL NOTE:
MTU complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at MTU, please call Dr. Gloria Melton, Associate Dean of Students, 487-2212. For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department chair, or the Affirmative Action Office (487-3310).

⇒ This syllabus is subject to modification at the discretion of the instructor, in response to student needs and abilities. ⇐