HU 2293: Transitional Level I Spanish Language and Culture (Fall 2007)

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Office Hours: Mon. 2:00–3:00, Thurs. 3:30–4:30, or by appointment

Course location: Walker 109
Course meeting time: MWF 11:05–11:55

REQUIRED TEXTS:
¡Qué tal?, 7ª edición, Dorwick et al., McGraw-Hill
¡Qué tal? Workbook/Laboratory Manual

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS:
This is a course for students who have already studied some 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 basic context-specific situation such as ordering food, and create with the Spanish language by combining learned elements.

EXAM DATES:
Unit 1 Exam (capítulos preliminar, 1, 2 y 3) Friday, September 21
Unit 2 Exam (capítulos 4, 5, 6 y 7) Friday, October 12
Unit 3 Exam (capítulos 8, 9, 10 y 11) Friday, November 2
Unit 4 Exam (capítulos 12, 13, 14 y 15) Friday, November 30
Unit 5 Exam (capítulos 16, 17 y 18) Friday, December 14

ATTENDANCE:
Because success in the course is based on the interaction between class participants, attendance is required and unexcused absences will lower your grade. A maximum of three (3) unexcused absences are 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, quizzes, and exams. A grade of zero will be given for any such missed work. Excused absences (such as those resulting from an official MTU activity) must be documented at least 2 weeks in advance, and work must be completed prior to the anticipated excused absence. In the event of an emergency or serious illness, it is your responsibility to contact your instructor promptly and to supply adequate written documentation.

GRADING:
Exams (35%), Quizzes (5%) 40%
Homework 30%
Attendance, Participation, Lab 20%
Assessment of Verbal 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:
Five unit exams will be given on the dates indicated above. MAKE NOTE OF THESE DATES. DO NOT MISS EXAMS. A GRADE OF ZERO WILL BE GIVEN FOR ANY MISSED EXAMS. The exams are achievement tests, enabling you to demonstrate the skills and information you have learned in each unit of the course. Please note that due to the accelerated nature of HU2293, each exam will cover key aspects of several chapters. Short quizzes (averaging two per unit), either announced or unannounced, will be given to assess your knowledge of vocabulary, basic grammatical structures, and verb conjugations.

HOMEWORK:
Homework is an essential component of your learning in this course. It 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. If you know that you will have to miss a class, you may turn in homework in advance.

CLASS PARTICIPATION:
Participation includes attendance and promptness, careful preparation, and constructive involvement in conversations, group work, role-playing, and other in-class activities. The use of electronic gadgets in class is strictly prohibited. Cell phones must be turned off. If your cell phone rings during class, you will be counted absent. Kindly tell your friends, family, and entourage that you will be unreachable during class time. (see also section above on ATTENDANCE)

ASSESSMENT OF VERAL PROFICIENCY:
Because this is an accelerated course, there will be no formal oral exams or presentations. Your proficiency in spoken Spanish will be assessed on an ongoing basis in class. Active participation is crucial.

LAB/MULTIMEDIA:
In order to develop all four language skills, we will be using a variety of multimedia tools, including lab CDs, videos, CD-ROMs, and websites. In order to complete some homework assignments, you will need to use resources in Language Lab (Walker 114). You will use log sheets to record your time spent in the Lab. You will also make active use of the course website, www.mhhe.com/quetal7.

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 study Spanish every day, for a total of at least nine hours per week. Consistent preparation is crucial. It includes studying the assigned pages, reviewing, and completing the homework assignments. When learning a language, studying in short, frequent sessions is much more effective than “cramming.” You will need repetitive practice—both verbal and written—to learn vocabulary, grammar, and verb conjugations. I highly recommend that you use flashcards and a vocabulary notebook. Try to read keywords in Spanish-language texts (including online news sites) and try to listen to spoken Spanish (such as Spanish-language television programs or online news broadcasts) as often as possible. The course website offers many resources: www.mhhe.com/quetal7. You are encouraged to meet with your instructor outside of class for extra help or feedback.

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 professor, in response to student needs and abilities.