HU 3291: Level II-A: Spanish Language and Culture
Fall 2007

Instructor: Prof. Natalia Crespo
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Office: Walker 337. Tel.: 487-3246.
Office Hours: M-W-F from 9:30 to 10:50, or by appointment.
Classes meet: M-W-F from 11:05 to 11:55; M-W-F from 12:05 to 12:55, both in Fisher 125.

Prerequisite: A minimum score of 341 in the Placement Test or successful completion of HU 2291/2292 (with a grade of C or better).

Required Materials:

- A large Spanish/English dictionary, such as Collins, Cassells, Webster’s, or Larousse.
- A binder. For organizational purposes, I suggest that you divide your binder in the following sections: 1) Class activities and notes, 2) Vocabulary, 3) Grammar, 4) Compositions and exams.

Philosophy:
We learn to talk by talking. We learn to write by writing. The acquisition of a second language is only possible if you practice every day. So, be prepared to do a lot of work in the classroom and outside of it.

Course Goals:
This course will be taught completely in Spanish. It is designed to provide students opportunities to acquire an improved proficiency in five basic areas: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and cultural awareness of the Spanish-speaking World. Proficiency levels mentioned here are the ones established by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. Students will build upon previous knowledge through diverse activities with a communicative and cultural approach. Although in this course emphasis is not on grammar, we will review and master some basic linguistic structures. Students are expected to attend regularly and participate actively in the coursework. Each student will have to complete at least one hour of daily work at home.

Some of the grammatical structures to be reviewed in this class are: Differences between preterito and imperfecto, use of the subjunctive with certain clauses, prepositions and prepositional structures, the multiple uses of the verb “haber”, appropriate use of transitive verbs (such as gustar, faltar, etc.), commands with imperative mode, the impersonal “se”, the “se” passive and reflexive verbs with “se”, adverbs.

Crespo. HU 3291: II-A. 1
On Fridays, the class will meet in the CCLI (Walker 114) and not in Fisher 125. During CCLI classes, you will be required to complete reading and writing activities in small groups or by yourself. We will work with diverse authentic cultural materials, such as on-line newspapers, articles, and different Spanish Web pages through the Internet. As a warm-up activity for Friday classes, you will have to compose and send an e-mail to me addressing a particular issue posed during the first minutes of the class. The content and form of this brief text will be counted as part of your participation grade of the day. Hence, it is very important for you not only to be present on Friday classes but also to arrive on time.

Requirements

- **Attendance, Punctuality, and Participation: 20 %**

Being present in class does not mean the same as participating. I understand participation as your intelligent and helpful engagement with and completion of all the activities and assignments during and after class. In order for your enriching comments to be considered as participation they should be made entirely in Spanish, regardless of the possible mistakes you might commit. To derive the utmost benefit from class time, you must actively participate. Not doing so will make you miss opportunities to speak and hear Spanish. Be aware that information from class discussions and lectures will appear on the exam.

**Punctuality** does not only refer to your arrival on time to class but also to your capability to complete assignments on time. Hence, it is very important that you comply with the **deadlines** established in the *Programa de clases* for each assignment.

We will cover five chapters of the book *De paseo* during the semester. I plan us to work for two weeks on each chapter. You are expected to come to class with the assigned pages for each day already read and revised. You are also required to keep up with new vocabulary and new structures.

Since the course meets three times a week, each student is allowed three absences. After the third absence, your grade will be lowered by 5 % for each additional cut or unpunctuality, unless you present an official documentation. Examples of official documentation include: doctor’s notes, or a letter from the Dean of Students providing explicit documentation for all the days you were absent. An e-mail is not considered an official documentation. Cases of students with extended absences (more than one week of consecutive class periods) that are appropriately documented will be
considered individually. If you are more than five minutes late, your lack of punctuality will be counted as a half-absence.

Any student who is absent is responsible for all assignments and in-class activities for the following class day. Please exchange e-mails and phone numbers with at least three peers at the start of the semester so that you will have someone to call to get what you missed during your absence.

- **Informes Orales: 20 %**

Among its many resources, the Language Lab has a Web Cam settled in one of its computers. You will be required to record four informes during the semester. The informes will be oral performances on specific topics previously assigned. You will have to talk in front of the screen (and RECORD it) for five minutes. You are not allowed to read while you record your informe.

There is a specific computer in the Language Lab assigned for recording the informes. You will have to record your informes there. In this computer, you will also find my examples of each informe. You may record the same diario as many times as you need. Once you are satisfied with it, you will have to save your final version of each informe and delete the previous ones. To record each diario, you have to write:

**RO (for section) + the number of your section (1 or 2)+ In (for Informe) + the number of each informe + your last name.**

Thus, each informe oral recorded should read as follows: E.g: **R01.In.1.Crespo**

Please, do not send me your informes by e-mail, just record them in the computer assigned for that purpose. I will correct each informe from there and then give you a written feedback and a grade. Please see the Grading Criteria for Informes Orales.

- **Diarios Escritos: 20 %**

You will have to write four diarios escritos during the semester. Each diario escrito will be about a particular topic previously assigned. In general, you will be required to write about the same themes that we are covering in class and in the book, but you might also have to write a critical response about excerpts of a film ², a brief literary work, or about cultural materials from the Web. All diarios will be at least one page in length, well-organized, thoughtful analysis of the topic assigned and will display an effective use of grammar, syntax, and vocabulary. The final evaluation of the diario escrito will be based on both content and form. All diarios must be typewritten in Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, double-space and with four margins of 1” each. You are allowed to revise each diario escrito up to two times. Always hand in your diario escrito along with a copy of the correspondent grading criteria. When handing a revised text, you will have to staple the corrected version of your diario to the previous one and to the already used page of grading criteria.

**Important Note:**

All students must abide by the Academic Integrity and Honesty Code at MTU. Plagiarism, dishonesty and cheating are extremely serious matters for us. All diarios escritos, informes orales, exams, as well as any other homework (unless explicitly specified the contrary by your instructor) must be the result of your entirely individual effort. These assignments are not intended to be collaborative works, and thus you are not allowed to seek help from any person outside the classroom, nor from any classmates unless indicated the contrary by your professor. **Your work must to be original.***

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² You will be required to watch Spanish films at the Modern Languages Lab (Walker 113). You will receive specific information about the use of the Lab and its operating hours during the second or third week of classes.
The effective use of the bibliography and of the World Wide Web requires, as almost everything in life does, that you are a person with a clear ethical integrity, and I believe you all are. Always bear in mind that it is very easy for any person to check whether a text is original or plagiarized from the Web, and I do take the time to check this if I suspect any abnormality in my students' works. The use of electronic translators is completely prohibited in this class. Please do not place yourself and your professor in a violent situation. For more information on Academic Integrity at MTU contact: Office of Student Affairs, (906) 487-2212, (906) 487-2465.

- **Mid-Term Exam: 15 %:**
  This exam will cover the linguistic and cultural materials seen in De paseo during class activities and homework assignments. More information on the midterm exam will be given later in the semester. The date is indicated in the Programa estimativo de clases below. **No make-ups allowed!** So please plan ahead.

- **Final Exam: 15 %:**
  This exam will cover the linguistic and cultural materials seen in De paseo during class activities and homework assignments. More information on the midterm exam will be given later in the semester. The date is indicated in the Programa estimativo de clases below. **No make-ups allowed!** So please plan ahead.

- **Skits: 10 %:**
  As a tradition established by my colleague Dr. Sandra Boschetto-Sandoval, I am pleased to announce that on the last day of class (14th week), we will meet in the MUB for the final group skit presentations. Prof. Boschetto-Sandoval has created these skits as an opportunity for you to display some of the cultural knowledge and linguistic skills acquired throughout the course. Members of the Spanish Faculty, as well as other highly qualified visitors, will function as a Committee for evaluating your performances. Prizes will be awarded to the best presenters. You will receive a handout with further instruction about the Skits during the semester.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS: Any student who believes s/he has a condition that may prevent full demonstration of their abilities should contact the professor to discuss needed accommodations.

**Grading Scale:**

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<tr>
<td>A</td>
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<td>88-82</td>
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**Internet. Sitios interesantes.** Here are some interesting Spanish Websites that you can navigate in your spare time:

Some Hispanic Important Newspapers:
- [http://www.jornada.unam.mx](http://www.jornada.unam.mx) (Diario La Jornada, Mexico)

Some Webpages about Hispanic Art and Culture:
- [http://www.epdlp.com](http://www.epdlp.com) About art in general, but all in Spanish.

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Crespo. HU 3291: II-A. 4
Grading Criteria for Informes Orales

Name: ___________________________ Date: ________________

Informe Oral #: _______ Topic: ________________________

1) Content and organization
   • Well developed ideas, clear, to the point. Very well organized. 20
   • Ideas mostly well developed, fairly clear and relevant. Clear organization. 15
   • Ideas present but not well developed. Somewhat disconnected. 10
   • Minimal and/or irrelevant information. Very disorganized. 5

2) Vocabulary
   • Rich and extensive vocabulary; very accurate usage. 20
   • Occasionally lacks basic words; generally adequate for situation. 15
   • Mostly inaccurate or inadequate vocabulary. 10
   • Very limited vocabulary. 5

3) Comprehensibility
   • Completely comprehensible to a broad audience. 20
   • Mostly comprehensible but with some errors, sometimes slow and simple. 15
   • Frequent errors in use of language, sometimes impede comprehensibility. 10
   • Mostly incomprehensible to native speakers of Spanish. 5

4) Fluency
   • Speech generally natural and continuous; no unnatural pauses. 20
   • Some definite stumbling, but manages to rephrase or continue. 15
   • Speech frequently hesitant and jerky: sentences may be left uncompleted. 10
   • Speech halting and fragmentary: long, unnatural pauses or utterances. 5

5) Pronunciation
   • Generally good, accurate stress. 20
   • Rather good but with some striking non-Spanish sounds. 15
   • Generally poor, use of non-Spanish vowels and consonants incorrect stress. 10
   • Very poor and inaccurate pronunciation patterns. 5

GRADE: _______ /100
Comments: __________________________________________

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1 Adapted from www.umass.edu/spanport/handouts/culturalproject.

Crespo. HU 3291: II-A. 5
Grading Criteria for Diarios Escritos

Name: ___________________________ Date: ____________
Diario Escrito #: _____ Topic: __________________________

1) Organization

- Composition is a series of separate sentences with no transitions; lacks a formal essay structure (introduction, discussion, conclusion); ideas confused or disconnected. 0 - 5
- Composition is disjointed but has a few transitions and a formal essay structure; main ideas present, though not clearly stated. 10 - 15
- Composition flows smoothly with adequate transitions; has a formal essay structure; main ideas well stated, well organized. 20 - 25

2) Vocabulary

- Inadequate / limited range for this level; incorrect use of vocabulary recently covered; frequent spelling errors. 0 - 5
- Adequate range but not impressive for this level; occasional incorrect use of vocabulary recently covered; occasional spelling errors. 10 - 15
- Broad range; almost precise; impressive for this level; mostly correct use of vocabulary recently covered; very few spelling errors. 20 - 25

3) Content

- Minimal information provided; inadequate development of topic 0 - 5
- Information is adequate, mostly relevant to topic but lacks detail; adequate development of topic. 10 - 15
- Information is very complete and relevant to topic; thorough development of topic 20-25

4) Grammar

- Almost complete lack of attention to grammatical points covered up to this point; frequent errors. 0 - 5
- Adequate accuracy in basic grammatical points recently covered; adequate range of grammatical structures covered up to this point; occasional errors 10 - 15
- Wide range of grammatical structures covered up to this point including recently covered grammar with few significant errors; few errors. 20 – 25

GRADE: ........ /100

Comments: _______________________________________________________

* Adapted from http://www.nacc.cc.al.us.
Programa Estimativo de Clases

Semana 1:
Miercoles 5 de septiembre: Presentacion del curso y del Syllabus.
   Tarea: (solo para la clase de las 12:05, R02): Repaso
Viernes 7 de septiembre: Repaso general (solo para la clase de las 11:05, R01)
   K-Day (solo para la clase de las 12:05, R02).
   Por ser el primer viernes, nos reunimos en Fisher 125.

Semana 2:
Lunes 10 de septiembre: Capitulos I del libro *De paseo*.
   Tarea: Paginas a asignar del libro.
Miercoles 12 de septiembre: Capitulos I del libro *De paseo*.
   Tarea: Paginas a asignar del libro.
Viernes 14 de septiembre: Nos reunimos en el CCLI (Walker 114). A partir de
   ahora, todos los viernes la clase sera en el CCLI.

Semana 3:
Lunes 17 de septiembre: Capitulos I del libro *De paseo*.
   Tarea: Paginas a asignar del libro.
   Entrega del Diario Escrito # 1
Miercoles 19 de septiembre: Capitulos I del libro *De paseo*.
   Tarea: Paginas a asignar del libro.
Viernes 21 de septiembre: Nos reunimos en el CCLI (Walker 114).

Semana 4:
Lunes 24 de septiembre: Capitulos II del libro *De paseo*.
   Tarea: Paginas a asignar del libro.
   Ultima fecha para grabar el Informe Oral # 1.
Miercoles 01 de octubre: Capitulos II del libro *De paseo*.
   Tarea: Paginas a asignar del libro.
Viernes 03 de octubre: Nos reunimos en el CCLI (Walker 114).

Semana 5:
Lunes 01 de octubre: Capitulos II del libro *De paseo*.
   Tarea: Paginas a asignar del libro.
   Entrega del Diario Escrito # 2
Miercoles 03 de octubre: Capitulos II del libro *De paseo*.
   Tarea: Paginas a asignar del libro.
Viernes 05 de octubre: Nos reunimos en el CCLI (Walker 114).
Semana 6:
Lunes 08 de octubre: Capítulo III del libro De paseo.
Tarea: Páginas a asignar del libro.
Última fecha para grabar el Informe Oral # 2.
Miercoles 10 de octubre: Capítulo III del libro De paseo.
Tarea: Páginas a asignar del libro.
Viernes 12 de octubre: Nos reunimos en el CCLI (Walker 114).

Semana 7:
Lunes 15 de octubre: Capítulo III del libro De paseo.
Tarea: Páginas a asignar del libro.
Miercoles 03 de octubre: Capítulo III del libro De paseo.
Tarea: Repaso para el Mid-Term exam.
Viernes 05 de octubre: Nos reunimos en el CCLI (Walker 114).

Semana 8:
Lunes 22 de octubre: Mid-Term Exam.
Miercoles 24 de octubre: Capítulo IV del libro De paseo.
Tarea: Páginas a asignar del libro.
Viernes 26 de octubre: Nos reunimos en el CCLI (Walker 114).

Semana 9:
Lunes 29 de octubre: Capítulo IV del libro De paseo.
Tarea: Páginas a asignar del libro.
Miercoles 31 de octubre: Capítulo IV del libro De paseo.
Tarea: Páginas a asignar del libro.
Viernes 02 de noviembre: Nos reunimos en el CCLI (Walker 114).

Semana 10:
Lunes 05 de noviembre: Capítulo IV del libro De paseo.
Tarea: Páginas a asignar del libro.
Entrega del Diario Escrito # 3.
Miercoles 31 de octubre: Capítulo IV del libro De paseo.
Tarea: Páginas a asignar del libro.
Viernes 02 de noviembre: Nos reunimos en el CCLI (Walker 114).

Semana 11:
Lunes 12 de noviembre: Capítulo V del libro De paseo.
Tarea: Páginas a asignar del libro.
Última fecha para grabar el Informe Oral # 3.

Crespo. HU 3291: II-A. 8
Miercoles 14 de octubre: Capitulo V del libro De paseo.
Tarea: Paginas a asignar del libro.
Viernes 16 de noviembre: Nos reunimos en el CCLI (Walker 114).

Desde el viernes 16 hasta el domingo 25 de noviembre: Semana de Accion de Gracias

Semana 12:
Lunes 26 de noviembre: Capitulo V del libro De paseo.
Tarea: Paginas a asignar del libro.
Entrega del Diario Escrito # 4.
Miercoles 31 de octubre: Capitulo V del libro De paseo.
Tarea: Paginas a asignar del libro.
Viernes 02 de noviembre: Nos reunimos en el CCLI (Walker 114).

Semana 13:
Lunes 05 de noviembre: Capitulo V del libro De paseo.
Tarea: Paginas a asignar del libro.
Ultima fecha para grabar el Informe Oral # 4.
Miercoles 07 de noviembre: Capitulo V del libro De paseo.
Tarea: Paginas a asignar del libro.
Viernes 02 de noviembre: Nos reunimos en el CCLI (Walker 114).

Semana 14:
Lunes 05 de noviembre: Repaso General del curso.
Miercoles 07 de noviembre: Examen Final
Viernes 09 de noviembre: ¡Nos reunimos en el MUB para los Skits!

Semana 15: Entrega de notas finales y cierre del curso. ¡Felices Fiestas!

Crespo. HU 3291: II-A. 9