HU 3292: Level II-B: Spanish Language and Culture
Spring 2009

Instructor: Prof. Natalia Crespo
E-mail Address: pmcrespo@mtu.edu
Office: Walker 337. Tel.: 487-3246.
Office Hours: Mondays from 2 pm to 3 pm, Wednesdays from 1 pm to 2 pm.
Classes meet: M-W-F from 12:05 to 1:05 pm.
Monday and Wednesday Classes: Fisher 127.
Friday Classes: CCLI (Computer Center for Language Instruction). Walker Building.

Required Materials:
- A large Spanish/English dictionary.

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.

By the end of the semester, the student will be able to:
- Demonstrate reading comprehension at the intermediate high level of proficiency for texts written originally in Spanish.
- Write at the intermediate level in argumentation essays.
- Demonstrate listening comprehension at the intermediate level.
- Demonstrate speaking proficiency at the intermediate level.
- Organize ideas to communicate in a logical and convincing fashion.

During CCLI classes, you will be required to complete listening, reading and writing activities in small groups or by yourself. We will work with diverse authentic cultural materials, such as on-line newspapers, articles, Youtube videos, and different Spanish Web pages through the Internet.

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Requirements

• **Attendance and Participation: 15 %**

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.

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.

• **Informe Oral: 10 %**

Among its many resources, the CCLL has a Web Cam settled in one of its computers. You will be required to record one informe oral during the semester. The informe will be an oral performance 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 informe there. In this computer, you will also find my examples of each informe. You may record the same informe 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 informe, 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: **RO1.In1.Crespo.**

Please, do not send me your informe by e-mail, just record them in the computer assigned for that purpose or in a CD. You can also record your informe from any computer with a Web Cam. I will watch each informe from there and then give you a written feedback and a grade. Please see the Grading Criteria for Informes Orales. You can also bring a CD with your informe recorded.

• **Actividades de Laboratorio: 20 %**

You will have to complete ten actividades de laboratorio during the semester. Friday classes will be dedicated to these activities. Usually, if you use class time wisely, you will be able to finish the activity during our weekly meetings in CCLL. Sometimes, you will need to continue at home. In general, you will be required to write a content-based, critical response about cultural materials from the Web. All actividades have to be well-organized, thoughtful feedback of the topic assigned and

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will display an effective use of grammar, syntax, and vocabulary. **Lab Activities are graded A (pass) or F (fail).**

**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 actividades de laboratorio, 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.**

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.

- **First Exam: 20 %:**
  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.

- **Oral Presentation: 15 %:**
  During week 13, you will have to prepare and perform an oral presentation in a group of three or four students about a topic previously assigned by the instructor. Further guidelines will be provided during week 11.

- **Second Exam: 20 %:**
  This exam will cover the linguistic and cultural materials seen in *De paseo* during class activities and homework assignments. More information on the second 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.

**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. Michigan Tech complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at Michigan Tech, please call the Dean of Students Office, at 487-2212. For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department head or the Affirmative Action Office, at 487-3310.

**Grading Scale:**

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Grading Criteria for Informe Oral

Name: ____________________ Date: __________
Informe #: ____ 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: _______________________________________

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

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