HU 2293: Transitional Spanish  
Spring 2010

Instructor: Prof. Natalia Crespo
E-mail Address: nmcrespo@mtu.edu
Office: Walker 335. Tel.: 487-3246.
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 to 11, or by appointment.
Class meets: M-W-F from 12:05 to 12:55.
Monday and Wednesday Classes: Walker 109
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 upper beginning level of proficiency for texts written originally in Spanish.
• Write at the beginning level in Spanish.
• Demonstrate listening comprehension at the upper beginning level.
• Demonstrate speaking proficiency at the upper beginning level.
• Organize ideas to communicate in a logical and convincing fashion.

On Fridays, the class will meet in the CCLI. During CCLI classes, you will be required to complete reading, listening, 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: 25%**

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 to eight (depending on the pace of each group) chapters of the book *¿Qué tal?* during the semester. I plan us to work for approximately four classes 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.

- **Oral Presentation: 10%**

In groups of 3 or 4 people, students will prepare a twelve minutes presentation in Spanish about one of the topics covered during the semester. More information will be given in week 10.

- **Actividades de Laboratorio: 25%**

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 CCLI. 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 will display an effective use of grammar, syntax, and vocabulary. See **Grading Criteria for Actividades de Laboratorio**.

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 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: 20 %:**
  This exam will cover the linguistic and cultural materials seen in ¿Qué tal? 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.

- **Second Exam: 20 %:**
  This exam will cover the linguistic and cultural materials seen in ¿Qué tal? 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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University Policies
Academic regulations and procedures are governed by University policy. Academic dishonesty cases will be handled in accordance to the University's policies.

If you have a disability that could affect your performance in this class or that requires an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please see me as soon as possible so that we can make appropriate arrangements. The Affirmative Action Office has asked that you be made aware of the following:

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.

Academic Integrity:
http://www.studentaffairs.mtu.edu/dean/judicial/policies/academic_integrity.html

Affirmative Action:
http://www.admin.mtu.edu/aaop/

Disability Services:
http://www.admin.mtu.edu/urel/studenthandbook/student_services.html#disability

Equal Opportunity Statement: