HU 2292: Spanish Language and Culture
Spring 2012

Instructor: Alejandro Quin
E-mail: aquirnmed@mtu.edu
Office hours: Fridays 11:00 AM -1:00 PM, and by appointment (Walker 334).
Course location: Walker 109.
Course meeting times: MWF 10:05-10:55 AM

Course Description and objectives

Welcome to HU 2292!! This course is the second part of First-Year Spanish. The four skills (listening, reading, speaking and writing) will be developed during the semester through practice and the application of specific learning strategies. In this course we will also explore some of the many facets of Hispanic culture in order to facilitate authentic learning and communication. By the end of the semester, students will be able to 1) speak in short spontaneous conversations involving everyday topics; 2) understand gist of one-way communication like radio and television; 3) read for practical information; 4) write short compositions on familiar topics with good control of basic sentence structure.

I am deeply committed to facilitating your learning process, but you are responsible for your own success in HU 2292. You are expected to come prepare and attend class every day, to turn in assignments on time, and to study at least 2 hours for every hour in class. If you are absent from class for any reason, you are responsible for keeping up with the calendars, reading your textbook, and completing your homework. If you have specific questions and/or concerns, do not hesitate to come to my office or make an appointment.

Required Course Materials

  - **access to web-based Online Learning Center through http://www.mhhe.com/portafolio**
- *Portafolio de actividades (Workbook/Laboratory Manual)* that follows the organization of the textbook with additional review, self-quizzes, and vocabulary, grammatical, cultural, and writing exercises. In order to access the *Portafolio de actividades*, Volume 2, that accompanies the textbook you will need to create a CENTRO account at http://www.mhcentro.com. **Instructions will be provided to you on the first day of class.**
  - One blue/green book for journal entries.
  - Any good Spanish/English dictionary.

Note: the instructor will provide additional materials in class. Students are encouraged to take advantage of the resources of the Humanities Digital Media Zone (Walker 120) such as books, films, videos, CD-ROMS, and Spanish-language TV channels.
Attendance Policy and Participation

Regular attendance and punctuality are crucial to your success in this class and will be reflected in your class participation grade. Your instructor will check attendance and punctuality daily. More than two unexcused absences will seriously affect your final participation grade. *What is an officially excused absence? One that is authorized in writing by a doctor, another instructor, a program director, a supervisor or the Dean of Students.

In addition to attending class regularly, your final participation grade will be assessed daily based on the following aspects:

1. Use of Spanish in class. It is essential that you make the effort to express yourself at all times in Spanish, this includes during group work and chatting with classmates at any time while in the classroom. You may use English only when given permission by the instructor. The instructor will only give you permission to do so after you have tried and not succeeded to express yourself in Spanish.

2. Willingness to volunteer in whole class activities and to participate and cooperate in pair and group work.

3. Level of preparedness. It is mandatory that you come to class on time and prepared, with assigned pages read in advance and assignments completed.

**Note: students attending at least FIVE regular bi-monthly Peñas (Spanish conversation and culture hours), will receive 5% extra credit towards their participation grade.

ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES such as laptops, cell phones, blackberries, IPods, etc., MUST BE TURNED OFF in the classroom unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

Homework and Assignments

The work you complete in this category will serve as an important learning tool to practice grammatical functions and new vocabulary as well as to evaluate your reading and listening comprehension. Included in this category are:

1. Specific written/listening assignments from your textbook and pop quizzes given by your instructor.

2. Workbook assignments from the Online Learning Center (OLC). Your textbook comes with a “book key” that enables you to access the OLC that coordinates with our text. The Manual provides structured written practice of the materials introduced in the corresponding chapters and audio exercises such as pronunciation practice and a variety of listening comprehension tasks. These assignments are to be submitted online. You will receive two different grades for the OLC assignments: one for completion and one for accuracy. You should do these assignments gradually, completing the ones appropriate
to the material covered in class. The day we finish a textbook chapter in class is usually when all the exercises for that chapter need to be submitted online.

**Exams**

There will be an exam every two chapters that we complete during class, for a total of three exams. Exams will normally require the full class period to complete. Because each exam is already cumulative, there is no mid-term or final exam.

**Journals**

You will keep a journal (“diario”) throughout the semester. The purpose of this journal is to help you reflect on the material presented in class and integrate and express your thoughts in Spanish. You are to write one entry every other week. Your instructor will assign you the topic for each journal entry. These entries are to be completed in the blue/green book. Journals will be given one grade for completion and one for accuracy. Please, see the journal-writing instructions document provided by your professor.

**Oral exam**

This exam will be done in pairs, and take place in your regularly scheduled classroom. The exam will last approximately 8-10 minutes, and consist of two parts: a conversation with your instructor and a role-play with your partner. The conversation may include different tasks such as asking and answering questions, describing and/or responding to a situation, etc. Your instructor will give you more detailed information as the date of the oral exam approaches.

**Grading Policy**

Late homework and assignments, without a valid excuse, will not be accepted. There are no make-ups for oral or written exams. There is no extra-credit.

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grading scale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Grading scale:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework and assignments</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>A  93-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>AB 88-92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journals</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>B  83-87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>BC 78-82</td>
</tr>
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**Academic integrity**

Students suspected of cheating, plagiarism, or aiding others in dishonest academic behavior can receive sanctions ranging from warning to special failing grade to expulsion
from the university depending on the severity of the offence. Cases of plagiarism will be brought to the Dean of Student’s Office. You are responsible for reading and understanding the Michigan Tech’s academic integrity policy at [http://www.mtu.edu/dean/conduct/policy/academic-integrity/](http://www.mtu.edu/dean/conduct/policy/academic-integrity/)

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

***This syllabus is subject to change at any time for pedagogical and/or unexpected circumstances. You will be notified of such changes if they take place.