

**UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE**  
**SPN F327C: Advanced Grammar & Writing in Context**  
**Summer 2020**

**Instructor:** Delia Méndez Montesinos

**E-mail:** [admontesinos@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:admontesinos@austin.utexas.edu)

**Unique number:** 82735

**Meeting time:** MTWThF 10:00-11:30 online

**Office:** BEN 3.128

**Office Hours:** TWThF 7:45-8:30 online

**\*\*This synchronous online course will be taught in Spanish, using Zoom. Students are responsible for having reliable Internet service and a computer with a webcam. \*\***

**I. PREREQUISITE:** SPN 611D, 612, or the equivalent

**II. REQUIRED / RECOMMENDED (\*) TEXTS:** Course packet on Canvas.

**III. COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

The objective of the Spanish language program addresses the basic tenet of a liberal arts education: the development of a critical thinking approach towards the analysis of language in society. This objective is framed in an overall worldwide trend towards political and economic internationalization and an increasingly diverse and multicultural work environment.

The Spanish language program focuses on the development of multilingual literacies through the analysis and use of Spanish as a second language. The program focuses on the development of three major types of competencies (all equally ranked in terms of importance):

- (1) **linguistic competence** (Spanish phonetics and phonology, morphosyntax, lexicon, discourse, etc.)
- (2) **communication / interactional competence** (sociocultural uses of the language, pragmatics, cultural background and perspectives)
- (3) **metalinguistic competence** (language as a conceptual, symbolic system)

Within the language program, SPN 327C is a bridge course between lower-division language courses and upper-division courses in culture, literature, and linguistics. It is designed to:

- help you inductively master grammar points of concern to speakers of English,
- perfect your grammar skills through a variety of tasks designed to clarify grammatical points, including reading, writing, listening, and speaking activities,
- strengthen the clarity and organization of your writing, and
- promote critical and integrative thinking skills.

**IV. EXPECTATIONS:**

This is an advanced language course and, as such, students are expected to:

- have mastered basic grammatical concepts (agreement; verb conjugations: present, past, future; pronouns),
- understand indicative, imperative, and subjunctive moods, and
- read and write at high-intermediate level

If you are weak in any of these skills, it is your responsibility to (a) study them independently, using textbooks from 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>- year courses, (b) consult your instructor at the beginning of the semester to discuss your concerns, and (c) work with a tutor in order to reach the expected basic level that is necessary for you to understand and master advanced notions.

## **V. METHODOLOGY:**

This course, unlike lecture-style courses, is highly student centered. Following a guided inductive approach, you will analyze selected samples of both native and non-native discourse to gain a deeper understanding of various linguistic features and communicative functions. The majority of in-class and at-home activities will go beyond rote memorization and will require you to think critically about written texts, as well as grammatical forms/constructions found in authentic discourse in order to identify patterns and draw your own conclusions. This approach is fundamental to our program, so please keep this in mind and be prepared to play an active role in the learning process.

## **VI. COURSE FLAGS**

SPN 327C carries the Global Cultures Flag. Global Cultures courses are designed to increase your familiarity with cultural groups outside the United States. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one non-U.S. cultural group, past or present.

SPN 327C also carries a Writing Flag. You will have frequent writing assignments in this course, including both low-stakes and high-stakes assignments. You will have the opportunity to submit drafts and rewrites, and you will receive feedback both from your instructor and your classmates. The writing assignments constitute at least one third of your final grade in the course.

## **VII. ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Although this is an online class, regular class attendance is required. Late work is not accepted nor are there make-ups for missed work. However, a student who is absent from a class for the observance of a religious holy day or a university-sponsored activity may complete the work missed within a reasonable time after the absence if proper notice of the planned absence has been given at least two weeks in advance. Students who will be absent owing to a university-sponsored activity must present a letter from the department or office sponsoring the event, giving the student's name, the dates of the expected absence(s), and the reason for the absence(s). After **three class hours**, your grade will be dropped 1% on a scale of 100 for each additional absence.

## **VIII. ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS:**

I will be available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that you may require as a student with a disability. Before I can make course accommodations, you must provide documentation from the Office of the Dean of Students-Services for Students with Disabilities.

(This follows the Rehabilitation Act of 1973-Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act/ADA.)

## IX. SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY:

Please note that all graded work done inside or outside of class must be your own work. Writing that appears to be the work of someone else (e.g. a friend more proficient in Spanish, a Web or print source) or that appears to have been written in English and then translated by an online translation program will not be accepted and may entail severe penalties beyond just a zero on the assignment. Students who violate University rules on academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the university. For more information, visit <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/>.

## X. PROBLEMS / QUESTIONS:

Your instructor will be glad to assist you with any problems, questions, or suggestions you have relating to the class.

Course Instructor	Teaching Assistant
<b>Name:</b> Delia Méndez Montesinos	<b>Name:</b> Camila Torres Castro
<b>Office:</b> BEN 3.128	<b>Office:</b> BEN 5 <sup>th</sup> Floor
<b>Office hours:</b> MTWThF 7:45-8:30am	<b>Office hours:</b> MTWTh 12-1 pm
<b>Office phone:</b> NA	<b>Office phone:</b> NA
<b>Email:</b> admontesinos@austin.utexas.edu	<b>Email:</b> camilatoc@utexas.edu

## XII. GRADE BREAKDOWN & GRADING SCALE:

<b>Pruebas en línea</b>	20%	<b>Composición 2</b>	20%
<b>Actividades de escritura</b>	20%	<b>Composición 3</b>	25%
<b>Composición 1</b>	15%		

### There is no curve or extra credit.

The following scale will be used to determine your final grade in the course:

93-100 = A	83-86.99 = B	73-76.99 = C	63-66.99 = D
90-92.99 = A-	80-82.99 = B-	70-72.99 = C-	60-62.99 = D-
87-89.99 = B+	77-79.99 = C+	67-69.99 = D+	0-59.99 = F

## XI. COURSE ASSESSMENTS:

**Compositions:** There will be three graded compositions in this course, which will be assessed based on content, organization, and vocabulary, as well as your ability to accurately include grammar analyzed in the course. For Compositions 1 and 2, you will turn in one or several *Fichas de lectura* (10% of the grade), an *Esquema* (well-constructed outline worth 6% of the grade), Borrador 1 (first draft for peer review), Borrador 2 (worth 60% of the grade) and a carefully edited final draft (worth 24% of the grade). Detailed instructions will be given in class and/or posted on Canvas. For composition 1 you will write a descriptive text; for composition 2, a narrative text, and for composition 3, an expository text.

**Composition 3:** This culture-based project will include independent research, as well as an interview with a native speaker or an alternative activity. Percentages will be similar as for

Compositions 1 and 2, but there will only be one *Borrador* and the essay will include in-text citations. Detailed instructions will be given in class and/or posted on Canvas. All preliminary work will be done in groups; however, the essay will be written individually.

**Actividades de escritura.** You will complete several writing activities, some which may be written using Proctorio, a remote proctoring service. These activities, which include reflections on readings, your grammar skills and progress, and short paragraphs, will help prepare you for longer writing assignments

**Quizzes:** There will be a variety of quizzes that will relate to material covered in the previous class session(s) and/or material. Quizzes will help you assess your strengths and weaknesses and prepare for major assignments and exams.

**Participation:** Although this is a grammar & composition class, you will be encouraged to practice developing your oral Spanish skills by using the language both in the main session and the breakout rooms in Zoom.

*El calendario puede ser modificado. En Canvas, ver fechas concretas para entregar trabajos y tomar pruebas.*

SPN 327C: CALENDARIO DEL CURSO		
Fechas	Temas	Para entregar
4 de junio	Introducción al curso Paginas preliminares	Prueba en línea
5 de junio al 17 de junio	<b>CAPÍTULO 1:</b> El arte a través del tiempo y de las culturas	Pruebas en línea Actividades de escritura Ficha de lectura Esquema del ensayo descriptivo Borradores 1 y 2
18 de 26 de junio	<b>CAPÍTULO 2:</b> Los viajes, de propósito a consecuencia	Versión final (la descripción) Pruebas en línea Actividades de escritura Fichas de lectura Esquema del texto narrativo Borradores 1 y 2
29 de junio al 9 de julio	<b>CAPÍTULO 3:</b> Sobre la identidad y la justicia social	Versión final (el texto narrativo) Pruebas en línea Actividades de escritura Fichas de lectura Esquema texto expositivo Borrador 1
10 de julio	Entregar el texto expositivo antes de la 10 de la noche.	