



SPANISH 102- INQ Elementary Spanish SPRING 2014

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Section I "The Ways of Inquiry at Oxford"

"Ways of Inquiry" courses are designed to introduce students to the specific ways knowledge is pursued in each discipline through the process of discovery, by engaging them in actively learning and practicing the discipline's approaches to inquiry. INQ courses start with questions, are student-centered and often collaborative, and place increasing responsibility on students for their own learning. Students not only experience each discipline's distinctiveness but also move beyond its boundaries to understand connections with other disciplines and fields, including, when possible, ethical issues, social responsibility, and civic engagement.

Section II "The Ways of Inquiry Used in This Course"

In this course, through your work in a foreign language, you will be exposed on how to think –to reason, analyze, weight evidence, problem-solve-; to be curious, to get information about your learning process and to communicate effectively in a new language. You are going to approach the challenges implicit to the learning of a new language as a learner, as opposed to a knower. You need to be 'curious' versus thinking you know the answers.

1. Cultivate intellectual sensibility and sensitivity to Hispanic culture by engaging actively in class discussion, participating in cultural activities in and out of class.
2. Critically understand and apply basic Spanish grammar by using the present, future and past tenses.

3. Develop creativity on role-playing. Write short essays. Speak and understand oral communication in Spanish.
4. Think critically about the new language by engaging in discussions of the structure and function of the language, by writing self-reflective journals about language acquisition process.

METHODS:

There are four class meetings each week. The thorough preparation of grammar units and daily assignments are to be done before and outside of class. The class hour is reserved primarily for hands-on practice, so regular class participation and attendance is vital to succeeding in the course. All four major skills, speaking, listening, reading and writing will be used on a daily basis.

Description: Elementary Spanish 102-Q is an advanced elementary course at College level, with special focus on asking yourselves about your own learning process.

You cannot expect to acquire native-like competence in a foreign language in one or two years. However you can expect to be able to communicate with native speakers of Spanish even though you make mistakes. The goal in this course is communicative competence, and independent discovery of this foreign language, not grammatical perfection – however it is necessary to have a good grammar foundation for a proper communication-. This class will use grammar activities, as well as reading and writing activities to enhance your grasp of vocabulary and to provide you with opportunities to express yourself in Spanish. More important, you will reflect upon your own learning process. Classroom time will be devoted almost solely to activities that will allow you to practice your skills of understanding and interacting in Spanish. Classroom time will NOT be spent doing grammar drills, translating, or listening to lengthy explanation of grammar. That is why it is extremely important you come prepared to class. The grammar must be studied independently using the tools you have in the Blackboard site.

At the end of this course, you will master the basic skills needed to read, write, speak and comprehend Spanish. The primary focus on this second semester of Spanish is to continue to develop your ability to understand native spoken and written Spanish and to increase your skills at expressing yourself in basic situations. It is therefore a beginning-level integrated skills language course, but strives to build on the skills introduced in 101 by encouraging you to speak only in Spanish to describe daily occurrences as well as express yourselves on a variety of topics in the present, past (imperfect and preterit), and future.

Course grade:

The final grade in Spanish 102 will be determined in accordance with the following breakdown:

Diarios/Journals	5%	
WB/StudySpanish	10%	
Participation	10%	
Midterm Exam	10%	
Final Exam	15%	
Oral Presentations	25%	(Individual and Group presentations)
Portfolio	25%	

Grade scale:

A =93-100	B+ =87-89.9	C+ =77-79	D+ =67-69	F =0-62
A- =90-92.9	B =83-86	C =73-76	D =63-66	
	B- =80-82	C- =70-72		

COURSE COMPONENTS:

Diarios (5%) Diario or Journal is a way for you to communicate your personal thoughts and reflections with me, and also a valuable tool for you to learn how to write. You are going to use a journal as a self-reflective tool to post your opinions and ideas. Self-reflection is a valuable tool to evaluate your achievements and progress though a course. It will be graded by competition of a minimum number of entries per week. I will ask randomly to see your Journal. Grades will depend both on the quantity and quality of your entries. The final grade will be assigned only at the end of the semester.

Workbook (10%). This consists on the grammar exercises on StudySpanish.com and other grammar handouts provided. Those exercises provides with the practice and drills you need in order to learn grammar patterns and structures. You must take the basic quiz and mi-test at the end of every grammar point. You will receive the letter assigned when you submitted, however you can retake the lessons as many times you want to get a higher grade. Best results will be obtained by doing several exercises each night, rather than doing several chapters the night before the test. **Late work will have lower grades.**

Participation (10%). You must be actively involved in **all** the activities that take place in class to receive a B- or higher in participation. Interact enthusiastically with your classmates and instructor exclusively **in Spanish**. Your participation grade will be based on your ability and willingness to show that you are prepared for class. Attendance and **punctuality** are essential. Passive attendance and regular tardiness will earn an F. Attending class is not enough to pass. You will begin with a 50 in participation, and your grades are raised or lowered based on subsequent actions and attitudes.

Midterm Exam (10%): There will be a Midterm Exam that will cover not only the grammar covered, but also the movies and lectures done until the date of the exam. This will count as 10% of your grade for the semester.

Final Exam (15%) : There will be a Final Exam, a comprehensive one including all the grammar and content of the course. This will count as 15% of your grade for the semester.

No make-up exams will be given so note the dates now and make travel arrangements accordingly.

Oral Presentation (done in pairs/trios) (25%). The purpose of the oral presentations is to develop your oral skills, including fluency, pronunciation, intonation, expression- and creativity. In order to be evaluating you will present several 10 minutes skits. You will meet with your group and prepare to act a situation you invented, using the vocabulary and grammar we have learned during the course.

Portfolio (25%) This is one of the important features for this course. You will compile a portfolio of your work to be submitted at the end of the semester. All the details about the Portfolio will be carefully explained in class. In this portfolio you must evaluate each piece of work done and organize it according to the skill you believe is most evident and reflects better your accomplishment in this course.

Each piece of work chosen for the portfolio must include: actual evidence of the work itself, not just the grade or the description of the work.

-For a complete explanation of the requirements for the portfolio, refer to the *Portafolio* document on *Blackboard*.

Tools of learning

You are in charge of your learning. The following are just tools that will help you in that process:

Your instructor. One of your best resources. Develop a close working relationship and feel free to consult with me during office hours and via e-mail.

Your classmates. Share and discuss ideas with your classmates outside of class. You may also find it helpful to form study groups for the exams.

Tutoring. There are free tutors available for outside help. For information on tutoring ask the Instructor. You are responsible to talk to the Tutor and accommodate both your schedule with the tutor's schedule.

Dictionaries and encyclopedias. Bilingual dictionaries will be especially useful as you prepare your papers and daily assignments, Workbook and oral presentation. The following on-line dictionaries may be also useful references:

- Word Reference (bilingual): <http://www.wordreference.com/>

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance. Class participation is a vital part of your language learning experience. Given the emphasis placed on participation and interaction in foreign language courses, you are required to **attend all classes**. You are allowed a maximum of **three** unexcused absences, which you should reserve for short illnesses and emergencies.

Letting me know that you will be absent is a courtesy to me, but doesn't count to lower the conditions set forth in this syllabus.

Each unexcused absence beyond these limits will result in the lowering of one point from the final course grade.

Only those excused absences are permitted. Your absence on religious holidays will be excused if you inform the instructor in advance. Your absence may be excused if you suffer a serious medical emergency, provided you obtain written confirmation from a doctor. Your absence may also be excused in other extraordinary circumstances, provided you obtain a letter from the Dean.

Remember that you are responsible for all material covered on days that you are absent. If you miss a class, obtain your class notes from a classmate. Regular classes will be held on the days preceding and following October and Thanksgiving break without exception.

Class & Netiquette

When emailing your instructor, be sure to use proper netiquette. This means that you need to:

- Always use a form of address, don't just launch into your question (e.g. Make sure to say "Hola, Profesora" etc. I don't have any other specific requirement; "Profesora Talaya" or just "Profesora" is fine).
- Be respectful.
- Include as much pertinent information as possible. If you are asking for clarification on an assignment, be clear on what it is that you don't understand, rather than simply saying "What are we supposed to do?" etc.
- Make sure to sign off.
- Emails are preferred in Spanish.

All cell phones must be turned off – no texting in class.

- The use of the personal computers is not allow in class, unless you have explicit permission from me.
- Be respectful of others and their opinions.
- Please do not interrupt class interaction by exiting or entering during class time.
- Bring your notebook and textbook to class everyday.

An important source of information for this class will be the Blackboard site that you can access from the Oxford College Website. There you will find a copy of the class syllabus,

assignments, dates for exams and other documents. I will post several announcements on Blackboard that you will receive immediately in your email. You are responsible for checking your email regularly.

ACADEMIC HONESTY AND GROUP WORK. All students are bound in and outside of class by the Oxford College honor code. Working with other students in study groups is an extremely effective means of studying. Not everyone in the study group needs to be at the same proficiency level: teaching others is a very powerful way to learn material yourself. Make sure, however, that you do not simply copy another student's work and turn it in as your own. **Cheating** is not tolerated on either exams or assignments. Turning in essays that you did not write, for which you had considerable direct help from someone else, or **which a computer program has translated will be considered cheating.** Anyone copying from others, allowing others to copy their work, or using information fraudulently obtained may receive an "F" in this class.

DISABILITY ACCOMODATIONS. If you have a disability that might prevent you from fully demonstrating your academic abilities, you should meet with the Disabled Student Program staff as soon as possible to initiate disability verification and discuss appropriate accommodations. It is also your responsibility to make me aware of any special needs you may have relating to this class.

STUDENTS RESPONSIBILITIES

Be prepared with your completed homework. This is a college-level course. In order to succeed you will need college level skills in reading, writing, listening, speaking and note taking. This course is worth four (4) units. The assignments are appropriate to a 4 unit course. Plan on studying at least 2 hours per day a total of 8 to 10 hours per week.

All humans under normal conditions acquire one or more languages, but it is not possible to acquire Spanish in 75-150 hours of in-class instruction. You must take responsibility for your out-of-class learning. In addition to completing all assignments on time, I recommend that you read Spanish-language magazines or stories, watch TV or converse with the native speaker as much as possible, with a minimum of one to three times weekly. Take every opportunity to use your new skills in Spanish: read the bilingual product labels, write notes and lists to yourself in Spanish, spend time with other students of Spanish, attend the Spanish Table at Lil's and attend Hispanic cultural events when possible. Above all, make your extra activities fun and incorporate them into your daily life. I can open the door to Hispanic language and culture, but only you can enter.

This syllabus is subject to change.

*****Student work submitted as part of this course may be reviewed by Oxford College and Emory College faculty and staff for the purposes of improving instruction and enhancing Emory education.*****

Remember that as children learning your first language, you had lots of time before you attempted to speak. Don't be impatient with yourself when you find that you can understand far more than you can produce -that is natural-; your speaking and writing abilities will always lag slightly behind your ability to understand.

Always you are encouraged to consult with me at any time if you have any questions or concerns.

Disfruten el curso. ¡BUENA SUERTE!