

SPAN 4070: Introduction to Spanish Translation
School of Modern Languages
Georgia Institute of Technology

Instructor: Dr. Marianne Mason

This course is not for students who have strong doubts about their grammar, writing, or comprehension abilities. This course is also not communicative intensive, although students will have to present their work in class in the language that they have performed their translation (Spanish and English).

This course is designed for third or fourth year college Spanish students who have strong writing, grammar, and comprehension skills (in both Spanish and English). The course is an introduction to the practice of English-to-Spanish translation and Spanish-to-English translation. The course includes translation exercises of selected materials that will be provided by the teacher.

Course Objectives:

Span 4070 is an introductory course in Spanish/English Translation, covering a variety of registers, such as general, business, and technical translation. The course will cover linguistic aspects, such as grammar use, lexical choice, stylistics, and reading comprehension. Extensive practice in translation will be provided in the classroom.

Goals: a) to enhance students' linguistic competence in Spanish; b) to familiarize students with translation and its uses in professional life, specifically in the context of globalization; c) to improve student confidence in Spanish through contextualized translation practice; d) to enhance the students' employment opportunities by developing their technical skills in Spanish.

Textbook:

This course does not have an assigned textbook, although ALL students are expected to have a good (not pocket sized) Spanish/English, English/Spanish dictionary. Some suggestions include: Harper Collins, Oxford, Simon and Schuster's, and Velazquez. Make sure that the dictionaries have a good number of entries. You can purchase these dictionaries at the bookstore or at Barnes and Noble, etc. The cost should be less than that of a typical textbook (except for Simon and Schuster's).

Portfolio: 40% of grade (20% written translation, 20% in-class presentation)
 Exams: 60% of grade (all exams are done in the classroom).

The portfolio consists of the translations you perform in-class with the aid of your classmates (translations will be a group effort) and the presentations you do in class discussing your written translations. The portfolio will be kept by the teacher (at the end of the oral presentation) and all students must work on the written translation and be present during the day of the presentation to get full credit. The evaluation of the portfolio is as follows:

2 misses – your final portfolio grade goes to 90% automatically (that is, this is the highest grade you could obtain if you didn't miss any other classroom translations).

3 misses – your final portfolio grade goes to 80%.

4 misses – your final portfolio grade goes to 70%.

5 or more misses – your final portfolio grade is 0% (irrespective of if you have completed the other classroom assignments).

If you complete the written translations in class but are not present for the presentations you will only receive ½ of the credit for that translation.

There are NO make-up exams in this class. In case of illness or an emergency the student must present evidence of such an illness (it must be severe) or emergency in order to have the weight of one exam count towards another exam (the next one after the missed exam). This can only be done once. There are NO make-ups for classroom work and exams/classroom work will not be given/accepted early or late under ANY circumstances.

Grading System:

100-90 A

89-80 B

79-70 C

69-60 D

59-50 F

Course Outline:

Part I: General Translation I

The translation of general material found on internet sites, such as on-line newspapers, as well as general material, such as personals, comic strips, some advertisements, brochures, etc.

Exam #1 September 16

Part II: General Translation II

The translation of literary texts, such as excerpts from novels and book anthologies (poetry).

Exam #2 October 7

Part III: Business/Specialized translation:

The translation of business texts, such as those found in media web sites and financial news.

Exam #3 November 4

Part IV: Technical/Scientific Translation

The translation of scientific texts and manuals, such as computer manuals and science/health news. Also, the translation of legal and medical documents.

Exam #4 December 4