**SPAN 3151 – “Conversation Practicum”**

**3 credits**

**Part of the “Serve-Learn-Sustain in Spain” Study Abroad Program**

**Taught during the first three weeks of this semester-long program**

**Dr. Kelly Comfort**

**Course Objectives:**

This course is designed to increase fluency and accuracy in spoken Spanish. This course will combine 36 hours of in-class discussion with 6 hours of out-of-class conversation exchange practice. In class, students will hone their Spanish conversation skills through dialogues, debates, recorded and transcribed conversations, and class discussion based on the twelve course topics. Out of class, students will interact with Spaniards in three experiential learning modules: (1) assigned interview activities with the student’s host family; (2) ongoing language exchanges with Spanish university students studying English; and (3) weekly conversation practice with a group of senior citizens. Class materials and readings will present these issues from the Spanish context and promote discussion and debates on these issues from both Spanish and U.S. perspectives.

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| Class Periods | Class Topics: |
| 1 | Gender Roles and Gender Equity |
| 2 | Body Image and Media |
| 3 | Class Structure: Division and Conflict |
| 4 | Racial and Ethnic Diversity |
| 5 | Immigration Policy |
| 6 | Government Structure and Political Parties |
| 7 | Education Policies and Approaches |
| 8 | Healthcare Policies and Approaches |
| 9 | Environmental Protection and Policy |
| 10 | LGBTQ Issues and Policies |
| 11 | Technology and Society |
| 12 | Religious Tolerance and Diversity |

**Grade Breakdown:**

Participation: 10%

(Students will receive daily scores (12 total) for in-class participation based on the quality and quantity of contributions. This is an essential grading component in a “conversation” course. Grades will be posted on t-square within 28 horus of each class meeting.)

“In the News” Presentation 10%

Conversation and Cultural Reflection Journal (for out-of-class conversation exchanges) 10%

Recorded Conversations (3 total in 4th, 8th, and 12th classes) 60%

Current Event Debate 10%

**Learning Outcomes:**

This course aims to achieve the following learning outcomes:

* Students will increase oral fluency.
* Students will increase grammatical accuracy in spoken Spanish.
* Students will hone their conversation skills and gain increased eloquence in speaking.
* Students will increase Spanish vocabulary.
* Students will improve pronunciation and intonation.
* Students will gain confidence in oral communication.
* Students will be able to express their opinion on a variety of topics with increased ease.
* Students will demonstrate sophisticated knowledge of Spanish perspectives on class topics and be able to articulate clearly and accurately differences between Spanish and U.S. perspectives, policies, and approaches.

**Academic Integrity:**

In some of the classroom activities in this course, you will be asked to work with other classmates; in addition, you are encouraged to study with others in order to help yourself and others in the class understand the information presented by the professor. However, any written/oral work that forms the basis of your final grade in the class MUST be your (or your group’s) own original work. This includes all exams and assignments.

Any and all indications of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students office. Should you have any questions regarding what constitutes "academic dishonesty" in this class, please see your instructor at once. See also: <http://www.honor.gatech.edu/>

**Disability Services:**

Students with disabilities will receive necessary accommodations. For details, please refer to the GT Disabilities Services’ “Policies and Procedures” page located at this link: <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/content/15/policies-procedures>