

DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND CULTURAL STUDIES

<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

**2018-2019 SPAN 407 B1: ADVANCED GRAMMAR AND COMPOSITION
WINTER TERM**

Instructor: Dr. Yvonne Lam
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Time: TR 11:00-12:20
Place: HC 2-22
Office Hours: TR 9:30-10:30 or by appointment

Course Prerequisite:

*3 in SPAN at the 300-level excluding 300 and 306, or consent of the Department. It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate prerequisites for the course.

Course Description and Objectives:

This course is designed to further your knowledge of Spanish grammar and to practice different writing styles. The course is divided into two components: grammar and composition. The grammatical component focuses on describing how Spanish is used rather than on learning rules. The composition component emphasizes the creation of texts that are not only grammatically acceptable but also lexically rich and coherently organized.

At the end of the course, successful students will be able to:

- compare the linguistic choices available to Spanish speakers and illustrate their uses
- explain why things are said the way they are said in Spanish
- create a well-written text in different styles of writing

Texts:

No texts required. Worksheets will be posted on eClass prior to each class. **You are responsible for bringing a copy (printed or digital) of the relevant worksheets to class, as class discussion will be centred on the activities and exercises on these sheets.** It is not necessary to complete worksheets before class, unless the instructor asks you to do so. Additional materials will be distributed by the instructor as needed.

Recommended resources:

Butt, John & Benjamin, Carmen (2013). *A New Reference Grammar of Modern Spanish*. 5th edition. New York: Routledge. (4th edition is also sufficient)

Diccionario de la lengua española (23rd edition, 2014), *Diccionario de americanismos* (2010), and *Diccionario panhispánico de dudas* (1st edition) from the Real Academia Española can be consulted for free online at <http://www.rae.es/>

Wordreference <http://www.wordreference.com> has two free Spanish-English dictionaries: the *Collins Spanish Dictionary* (8th edition) and Wordreference's own bilingual dictionary. It also provides free consultation of the *Diccionario de la Lengua Española* (Espasa Calpe, 2005) and the *Diccionario de Sinónimos y Antónimos* (Espasa Calpe, 2005). There is even a Spanish verb conjugator!

Grade Distribution (see Explanatory Notes):

Component	Value	Due dates
Grammar assignments	45% (3 assignments x 15% each)	Feb 5, Mar 5, Mar 26
In-class grammar test	15%	Apr 9
Composition rough drafts	4% (4 drafts x 1% each)	Jan 24, Feb 7, Feb 28, Mar 14
Peer-editing	8% (4 sessions x 2% each)	Jan 24, Feb 7, Feb 28, Mar 14
Writing portfolio	3%	Mar 28
Final composition	25%	Mar 28

Explanatory Notes on Assignments and Tests:

Grammar

The grammar assignments and the in-class test will involve the analysis of the use of the Spanish structures that we examine in class. Your responses must be written in Spanish.

Compositions

Each composition will be approximately **500 words** in length, typed, double-spaced (including drafts, please). Please indicate **the number of words** at the end of each composition. Remember that longer isn't necessarily better!

The composition topics will be left open; you may write on any topic you wish, as long as you observe the required stylistic criteria. Given the short length of each composition, it is recommended that you write on topics that you are familiar with. It is not necessary to conduct research for the compositions. However, if you do, you must cite your sources; otherwise, you will be committing plagiarism. Also note that while you may write on a topic that you have dealt with in another course, you may not submit the same assignment, or a substantial portion of the assignment, for credit; such an act constitutes cheating (Code of Student Behaviour, section 30.3.2(2)d). If in doubt, please ask the instructor, or consult [the Academic Integrity website](#).

Rough drafts: For each of the four compositions, a rough draft is due on the date indicated. You will receive 1% simply for having prepared a **complete** rough draft (unfinished drafts will receive a grade of 0). The draft must be ready **at the beginning of the class** for peer-editing or no credit will be given.

Peer-editing: During each of the peer-editing sessions scheduled, you are required to comment on **two** of your classmates' compositions using the comment sheet provided. You will receive 1% for each comment sheet completed, **to a maximum of 8%**. **It is your responsibility to keep and submit the comment sheets with your portfolio so that your peer editors receive credit for this component**, as it is impossible to keep track of who peer-edited what during the class.

Writing portfolio: The writing portfolio will consist of the following components:

- rough draft of each of the four compositions
- peer editors' comments on the draft of each composition
- **a revised draft of each composition** based on the peer editors' comments and your own self-editing, **plus** a short description of what you changed in terms of content, organization and overall language use (don't list every single thing you changed, but rather just give general comments on what you improved). The purpose of these comments is to help you recognize what has improved in your writing and what you need to work on in the future. You will choose one of the four revised drafts as your final composition, and you will receive 1% for having completed each of the remaining three revised drafts.

Final composition: From your writing portfolio, select **one** of the four compositions for grading. This composition will be worth 25% of your final grade. Attach a note explaining why you feel this is your best piece, and what strengths and/or weaknesses in particular you would like me to look at. See the evaluation criteria for compositions posted on eClass.

A piece of advice: It is in your best interest to work on the compositions throughout the semester. The more time you spend on writing during the semester, the more flexibility you will have at the end when you have to select your best composition.

Course-based Ethics Approval in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

- Yes No, not needed, no such projects approved

Community Service Learning Component:

- Required Optional None

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available:

- Exam registry – Students' Union <http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam>
 See explanations below
 Document distributed in class or posted on eClass
 Other
 N/A

Additional Mandatory Instructional Fees (approved by Board of Governors):

- Yes No

Grading:

Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation Procedures and Grading](#))

[System](#)). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student's level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”

Descriptor	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	%
Excellent. A+, A or A- is earned by work which is superior in content and form and demonstrates an exceptional grasp of the subject matter. The grade of A+ designates work that far exceeds course expectations. Grades in the A range are normally achieved by a small number of students.	A+	4.0	97-100
	A	4.0	93-96
	A-	3.7	90-92
Good. B+, B or B- is earned by work that demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the course material and a good command of relevant skills. Grades in the B range are normally achieved by the largest number of students.	B+	3.3	87-89
	B	3.0	83-86
	B-	2.7	80-82
Satisfactory. C+, C or C- is earned by work that demonstrates an adequate grasp of the course material and relevant skills. Grades in the C range designate work that has met the basic requirements of the course.	C+	2.3	77-79
	C	2.0	73-76
	C-	1.7	70-72
Poor/Minimal Pass. D+ or D is earned by work that demonstrates minimal familiarity with the course material. Grades in the D range generally indicate insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.	D+	1.3	65-69
	D	1.0	60-64
Failure.	F	0.0	0-59

Required Notes:

Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar.

Student Responsibilities:

Academic Integrity

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to

familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at www.governance.ualberta.ca) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#). If you have any questions, ask the instructor.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

Students should be aware that the use of on-line translation to complete assignments constitutes a form of cheating as the student's own understanding and work is therefore not reflected. Also, students should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, excessive editorial and creative help in assignments is considered a form of cheating that violates the Code of Student Behaviour. While consulting with one's classmates is not discouraged (keeping in mind that your classmates are not always right!), **students are expected to complete all assignments individually** in order to avoid any potential for cheating.

Learning and Working Environment

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students, faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the [Office of the Student Ombuds](#). Information about the [University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures](#) is described in [UAPPOL](#).

Territorial Statement

“The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.” (*from the beginning of the Calendar*).

University of Alberta Sexual Violence Policy

The Sexual Violence Policy was approved by GFC in June 2017. It plays a vital role in ensuring a safe and respectful learning and working environment. As defined in the policy, **sexual violence** is any sexual act or act of a sexual nature, or act targeting sexuality, whether physical or psychological, committed without consent. **Sexual violence** is a complex and serious problem in society and on university campuses. Sexual violence can affect individuals of all gender

identities, gender expressions, and sexual orientations, as well as those from all ages, abilities, racial, cultural and economic backgrounds. Through this policy, the University of Alberta recognizes its responsibility to reduce sexual violence in the University community. The university aims to do so by fostering a culture of **consent** and support through education, training and policy. The University recognizes the possible effects of trauma on those who have experienced sexual violence and supports the efforts of individuals to seek support and recover. To read the policy in more detail, please visit:

<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Policies/Sexual-Violence-Policy.pdf>

Recording of Lectures

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections [Attendance](#) and [Examinations](#) of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed in or completed as a result.

Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the Code of Student Behaviour.

In this course, daily attendance is essential. The primary mode of learning is class discussion, as there is no textbook and complete answer keys for the worksheets will not be posted on eClass. Regardless of the reason for absence, you are responsible for any material you missed.

Policy for Late Assignments

All assignments are due at the beginning of the scheduled class time. Students who consult **in advance** with the instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be given an alternate due date. In cases of medical or other emergency, the student is responsible for notifying the instructor by email within two days. The instructor has the final decision on whether to allow an alternate due date, deduct 5% per day of lateness, or refuse to accept the assignment in the case of unexcusable reasons. No assignments will be accepted once they have been returned to the class and/or the answer key posted on eClass. There will be no “extra” assignments for “extra” marks.

The in-class test must be written on the specified date unless arrangements have been made in advance with the instructor. In cases of medical or other emergency, the student must notify the

instructor by email within two days. The instructor has the final decision on whether to allow the test to be written on an alternate date.

Disclaimer

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

Student Resources:

The best all-purpose website for student services is: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

Accessibility Resources (1 – 80 SUB)

The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) webpage.

The Academic Success Centre (1-80 SUB)

[The Academic Success Centre](#) offers a variety of workshops on effective study and exam strategies. There are in-person and online sessions available for a modest fee.

The Centre for Writers (1-42 Assiniboia Hall)

The [Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

Health and Wellness Support

There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the [Health and Wellness Support](#) webpage.

Office of the Student Ombuds

The [Office of the Student Ombuds](#) offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.

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