CIEE Seville, Spain

Course title: Intensive Advanced Spanish Grammar
Course code: SPAN 4502 CSCS
Programs offering course: Advanced Liberal Arts
Language of instruction: Spanish
U.S. semester credits: 3
Contact hours: 45
Term: Spring 2020

Course Description

This course is designed to review, reinforce and expand the grammatical, communicative, pragmatic and socio-cultural material addressed in previous courses, the principal objective being to prepare the student for direct enrollment in the Spanish university system by improving his or her Spanish in a varied array of academic and socio-cultural contexts. This intensive session grammar class will assist the student in obtaining the preparation and competencies necessary to better face the challenge of diverse coursework within the Spanish university system. A primary objective will be to improve and expand on grammatical and discursive subject matter, as well as facilitate analysis skills, reading comprehension and creation of specific texts within the academic disciplines of the humanities, and foment the student’s expressive capacity and critical thinking. This course will develop the student’s ability to research and analyze in order to provide efficient access to a variety of Spanish sources, as well as develop learning and communication strategies that will allow the student to become a more competent language user and a more independent learner. Grammar will be addressed in function of the different situations in which the student will find him/herself, both in the Spanish university system as well as in daily life. The reading and writing of texts of a diverse nature (description narration, exposition, argumentation, etc.) will be the principal method of applying and studying the grammatical content covered in class. Additionally, these grammatical aspects addressed in class will be complemented by various socio-linguistic activities to be carried out outside of class. Finally, this class is designed to provide the student with a solid grammatical and communicative base, permitting him or her to interact effectively in a wide range of situations.

Learning Objectives
By completing this course, students will:

The student should achieve an adequate level of oral and written comprehension and expression that will allow him/her to follow university subjects that he/she will study during the regular session. The course also aims for the students to get to know aspects of Spanish society, which will also help the student in his/her experience at the University. Following the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, the student must have reached a user profile with an “appropriately functioning mastery” at the end of the course, or in other words, possess a level that allows the student to deal with complex situations of work and study:

- Understand a wide range of extensive texts with a certain level of exigency, as well as recognize implicit meaning.
- Express himself/herself fluently and spontaneously without much obvious effort to find the appropriate words.
- Make flexible and effective use of the language for social, academic and professional purposes.
- Produce clear, well-structured, and detailed texts on complex topics, showing a correct use of the devices of organization, coordination and cohesion of the text.

The language competence of students prior to the completion of the course will be obtained by the OLTP (On-Line Language Placement Test), so that students are distributed in a uniform way according to their test results.

Course Prerequisites

This course is especially designed for students whose level test (OLTP) shows some linguistic deficiencies to be improved and reinforced trough this course. 3.0 GPA in Spanish language. 6 semesters of college-level Spanish (or equivalent). Students need to have a GPA of at least 2.9. Students need to have a GPA of at least 2.5. Students’ language level, as evidenced by their result on the Online Language Placement Test, will determine their participation in this or other Intensive Session course.

Methods of Instruction

This is a dynamic class. The presentation or review of a certain grammatical topic will be immediately followed by their practical application and connection with other
grammatical aspects such as those of a functional or socio-cultural nature. Accordingly, the student will have to make a demonstrated and continuous effort to keep up with the course contents. The student will be provided with strategies to boost the grammatical, lexical and functional contents presented in class, which will lead him/her to a greater linguistic and, as a consequence, communicative competency. The different socio-linguistic activities completed outside of class will serve as links to the contextualized use of the grammatical contents.

The study of grammar, as well as the expansion of vocabulary and the practice of different linguistic skills, will always be carried out within the context of real materials and through the presentation, analysis and practice of different types of documents: newspaper articles, essays, literary texts and diverse audio-visual materials (films, documentaries, news programs, publicity, music, etc.). The grammatical themes will be chosen in function of the development of the expositive, argumentative, narrative, and descriptive speech: present a topic, situation or idea, narrate, compare, make conclusions, formulate hypotheses, defend an idea, etc. Theoretical explanations concerning aspects of the grammar topic in question will be provided on a daily basis in class and will be practiced through exercises of varying formats.

The study of grammar will not be realized in a scattered isolated manner, but rather in conjunction with its functionality and in thematic blocks: writing and spelling (accents and punctuation marks); nominal and pre-nominal groups, verbal groups, particles (discursive connectors, prepositions, and conjunctions) and speaking. We will practice these grammatical aspects in a general manner through the creation of different types of texts, and occasionally through workbook exercises, which the student should be completing. These exercises, which will serve to reinforce the material studied in class, will be corrected by the student, using the answer key. The professor will guide the students through the workbook, according to the grammar topics explained in class.

An essential part of the course is addressing mistakes and errors common to the foreign student. These errors will be addressed in the final part of each class by reviewing previously assigned work.
Finally, there will be three out-of-class activities of socio-cultural and/or functional content which will serve to reinforce the grammatical and functional aspects addressed in class. Each of them will last 1, 5 hours. The objective of these activities is to strengthen the grammatical and functional content seen in class.

Out of Class Activities

Activity #1

Obvio-Curioso

Students will take pictures of items in the city that they consider to be familiar, unfamiliar and incomprehensible to them. Then they will prepare a brief report on those items, which they will present in class. Students should keep in mind the following grammar content: present tense (regular and irregular), imperfect vs preterite, ser and estar, comparisons, object pronouns, reflexive and reciprocal verbs, gustar-verbs.

Activity 2

About Bullfighting

Students will need to gather the necessary information about bullfighting and the perception that locals have on this polemic tradition. Gathered information will be presented in class in the form of a debate. Students should keep in mind the following grammar content: present subjunctive in completive, relative and adverbial clauses, future and conditional.

Activity # 3

Sociological Survey

In groups, students will create a questionnaire to survey locals and obtain information on the perceptions that Andalusians have of themselves and of the U.S. (in terms of culture, politics and/or economy). With this information, students will have to write a narrative report that contains personal reflections on a sociological level. The report will be presented in class to contrast the findings and make a comparative analysis on the perception that Americans have of themselves.
Grammar to be used: all the grammar covered in class.

Textbook: Given the characteristics of this course and the diversity of materials used (literature, press, audio-visual material, grammar, etc.), the professor will facilitate a dossier of readings and grammatical and communicative activities related to the topics seen in class. This dossier is available on Canvas, the course-enabled virtual site. Other materials may be provided in different formats: photocopies, references to web pages, DVDs, etc.

We consider that by not focusing on a single book, it allows us to adapt the material to the real needs of the group, attending to the students’ exact language level as well as preferences of working methods. In the bibliography, several books that will be used in class are recommended.

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to act in accordance with their university and CIEE´s standards of conduct concerning plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Use of online translators for work in Spanish will result in an automatic failure.

Important: As already notified in the delivery of the OLTP results, according to the final result and criterion of the professor during the intensive session, the students may need to register in the SPAN 4101 advanced grammar and composition class. The course professor and program director will notify the student of this recommendation after the final exam. It is important to take into account this possibility when putting together the University schedule for the regular session.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. 3 Essays 20%
2. Mid-term Exam 25%
3. Final Exam 30%
4. Oral Exam 10%
5. Participation, presentations, readings 15%

TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements
3 Essays

The student will perform three activities outside the classroom. The students will write 3 compositions based on these three activities, which will be evaluated as part of the final grade for the course. These compositions must have a length of 350 words, written in Microsoft WORD, using the TIMES NEW ROMAN 12 pt. font, double spaced. The first composition must be turned in the first Wednesday of the course, the second composition on the second Wednesday of the course, and the third composition the last day of class during the final exam.

The topics of the compositions will be determined by each professor:

- Mid-term Exam
- Final Exam
- Oral Exam

Exams in this class will be designed similarly to the practice exercises carried out in class.

Participation, presentations, readings

Students are not allowed to miss class for unjustified reasons. For each unexcused absence, the participation portion of the grade will be lowered. Hence, it will be very difficult to receive a 100 in the class. Please keep this in mind. If a student misses class once without a valid excuse (a note from a physician in the event of an illness), then the professor will automatically lower the final grade by 10 points (on a 100-point scale) for each class missed thereafter. Students with 3 or more absences will fail the course.

Attendance

Students should arrive to class on-time. Arriving more than 15 minutes late for a class will count as an unexcused absence. Please note that an excused absence is one that is accompanied by a doctor’s note: signed stamped and dated. Travelling and/or travel delays are not considered valid reasons for missing class.
* Notes from a physician will only be valid and admitted by the Program Manager if the doctor confirms that the visit could not have been arranged at another time, or that the student was too ill to attend class that day.

Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, and local holidays. Final schedules will be included in the final syllabus provided to students on site.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1

Class 1.0


Imperfect. Preterite. Imperfect vs. preterite.

Cultural content: Spanish culture, differences, stereotypes and impressions


Class 2.0

Grammar: Ser y estar, comparisons, direct and indirect pronouns, reflexive and reciprocal, possessive, demonstratives and relatives, gustar-type verbs

Readings: Blanco-White: El Alcázar/ New articles

Cultural Content: debate on architecture and urban planning

Reading: Conrad J., Smith: Spanish Grammar. MacGraw-Hill. (pages-12-22)
Class 3.0

Grammar: Commands (formal and informal), present subjunctive in completive clauses

Activity: Obvio-Curioso (see Activity 1)

Turn in Essay 1 on the Alcázar


Class 4.0

Grammar: present subjunctive in relative clauses

Cultural content: El Guernica by Picasso/Introduction to flamenco

Readings: New Articles


Class 5.0 Review

Exam 1

Week 2

Class 6.0

Grammar: Present subjunctive in adverbial clauses. Future. Conditionals

Readings: News articles

Turn in Essay 2 on flamenco

Cultural Content: Oral presentations about paintings

Class 7.0

Grammar: Present perfect of the indicative and subjunctive.

Readings: Panini: Discussion with García Lorca.

Cultural Content: Bullfighting /Debate: arguments for and against bullfighting (see Activity 2) / Oral presentations about paintings


Class 8.0

Grammar: Past perfect indicative and subjunctive.

Turn in Essay 3 on a cultural aspect related to Seville based on individual research by the students

Cultural Content: Oral presentations about paintings


Class 9.0

Grammar: Special use of certain verbs

Cultural Content: Group presentation of a sociological report (see Activity 3).

Course Materials

Readings

Textbook: Given the characteristics of this course and the diversity of materials used (literature, press, audio-visual material, grammar, etc.), the professor will facilitate a dossier of readings and grammatical and communicative activities related to the topics seen in class. This dossier is available on Canvas, the course-enabled virtual site. Other materials may be provided in different formats: photocopies, references to web pages, DVDs, etc.

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In addition to a bilingual dictionary a monolingual dictionary (Spanish-Spanish) is also highly recommended.

Puntoycoma Magazine. Magazine available on loan from professor.

Online Resources

The following links may be helpful:

- www.rae.es (dictionary of the Royal Spanish Academy)
- http://www.wordreference.com/
- http://iate.europa.eu (European dictionary, includes all EU languages. Very accurate in defining different terms and uses thereof)
- www.cvc.cervantes.es (page with different practices on-line, text, ... on the Spanish forums)
- www.zonaele.es (page of great help with grammar, conjugations, irregular. All issues are collected in alphabetical order)
- www.elpais.com
- www.elmundo.es
- www.abc.es
- www.diariodesevilla.es
- www.lavanguardia.es