Course title: Advanced Composition and Stylistics  
Course code: SPAN 4102 CSCS  
Programs offering course: Advanced Liberal Arts, Business and Society, Communications, New Media and Journalism Spanish, Liberal Arts  
Language of instruction: Spanish  
U.S. semester credits: 3  
Contact hours: 45  
Term: Fall 2020

Course Description

During this course, we will work on the creation of written texts from a practical approach. In this work, we will not abandon oral text creation, although the main objective of the class will be writing. Our priority is to treat writing as a tool of linguistic acquisition, as a tool for learning the language in an integral sense, containing not only techniques to develop writing skills, but a global knowledge of the language (at all levels, morphosyntactic, lexical and pragmatic) and the world that represents it. We will also try to enhance the expressive and playful functions of language as well as the student's access to literary expression.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

Students are required to analyze and master four different types of texts, namely, descriptive narrative, expository and argumentative. Thus, they will be provided with the necessary linguistic tools so that they can master this textual typology fluently in an academic context. Similarly, students are expected to express and produce ideas, thoughts, facts, data, arguments, etc. fluently, coherently and free of errors, which will be conducive to obtain a polished, accurate, precise and near native speaker expression in a variety of writing contexts.

Course Prerequisites

None
Methods of Instruction

The course has a fundamentally practical nature. From the first day of the course, students will alternate the practice of individual writing with group writing activities in groups, given the communicative approach we intend and the need to enhance interaction. In this way, we will encourage the student to be an essential participant in his own evolution, while being aware of his progress.

Students will attend class four hours per week. During this time, the theoretical explanations will occur with the practical activities and their subsequent correction. The methodology and procedures to follow are closely related to the content and structuring of the course.

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.

Linguistic Resource Center

Given the characteristics of the course and our own correction system, assistance to the Language Resource Center is not allowed as it would interfere with the dynamics and purpose of the course.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Midterm 25%
2. Final Exam 30%
4. Class Participation 20%
4. Personal Work: Compositions 25%
    TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements

Midterm
Final Exam
The two exams will have the same structure. Students will write two texts concerning content will be connected to the subject matter in class.

Class Participation

Interest, active participation in line with the theme and task dealt with in class, completion of assignments, preparation of assigned material for each day of class.

Personal Work: Compositions

Completion of the weekly written work in the format of each activity, as well as punctuality in the delivery of said works.

Attendance

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 5 points (on a 100-point scale) for each class missed thereafter. Students with 6 or more absences will fail the course.

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.

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 1.1 Varieties of Spanish Is there a better one? What should we learn?

Origins of Spanish (formation, sources, evolution, etc.)

Is the Spanish language sexist?

Language and society. Language policy in Spanish

Canvas practice activities registered in the course under the title: Different Spanishes in the world

Text to analyze: What do Spaniards think of their language? (Survey and text-writing work)

Class 1.2 False friends

Complex prepositions

Use of the possessive

A wide variety of exercises and practice will be available in the Canvas evaluation section of the course

Reading: PRADO, Diccionario de falsos amigos

Week 2

Class 2.1 Phases of the reading process

Organization of the text: subject and ideas

Techniques for understanding texts

Types of writings and texts

Techniques for writing expresión

Canvas, practice activities. Text: creation of short texts according to each textual typology
Class 2.2 Discourse connectors /markers

Reading: MONTOLÍO, E. Conectores de la Lengua Española

Canvas, practice activities.

Week 3
Class 3.1 Organization and textual creation

Construction of texts. Pre-writing guidelines

Choice and focus of the theme

Information search: generation and association of ideas

Integration of sentences into paragraphs

The extension of the text. Revising, coherence and cohesion.

Elements for the relationship and cohesion of the text

Creation of a text following the fantastic binomial by

Gianni Rodari

Reading: CASSANY, DANIEL, Afilar el lapicero,

Class 3.2 The pronoun in Spanish

Uses of personal pronouns

Uses of Relative Pronouns

Uses of complement pronouns
Reading: GONZÁLEZ HERMOSO, ET AL., Curso práctico de español lengua extranjera

Week 4
Class 4.1  We spent our lives narrating

What is narrating? How to narrate better?

Narrative Elements and Approaches

Plot development, the action unfolds

Narrative Characteristics and Techniques

Narrative style: linguistic and lit resources

Reading: ÁLVAREZ MIRIAM, Tipos de escrito I: Narración y descripción

Class 4.2  Time markers. The past in Spanish

Reading: GÓMEZ TORREGO, L., Manual de Español Correcto

Week 5
Class 5.1  Descriptive Writing

What and how do we describe?

Characteristics of descriptive writing

Descriptive techniques

What can we describe?

Descriptive style: linguistic resources and literarios

Reading: ÁLVAREZ MIRIAM, Tipos de escrito I: Narración y descripción

Class 5.2  Activity outside the classroom: binding workshop
Spanish adjectives

Uses of the subjunctive in the description

Reading: GÓMEZ TORREGO, L., Manual de Español Correcto

Week 6
Class 6.1 Practice Creating Different Types of Text

Class 6.2 Mid-term Exam

Week 7
Class 7.1 Types of expository writing

Resources in expository writing

Characteristics and types of persuasive texts

Persuasive strategies

Resources for persuasion

Intersections between exposition and persuasion

Reading: ÁLVAREZ, MIRIAM, Tipos de escrito II: Exposición y argumentación

Class 7.2 The subjunctive of perception, valuation. The impersonal

Reading: GONZÁLEZ HERMOSO, ET AL., Curso práctico de español lengua extranjera

Week 8
Class 8.1 The dialogue in the narration

Characteristics of the dialogue
The dialogue in the theater

Dialogue style: linguistic and literary resources

Reading: ÁLVAREZ MIRIAM, Tipos de escrito I: Narración y descripción

Class 8.2 Verbs of diction. Direct versus indirect style. Verb Time Conversion

Reading: GONZÁLEZ HERMOSO, ET AL., Curso práctico de español lengua extranjera

Week 9
Class 9.1 General issues

The publisher and his models

Structure and writing

Critical review and formats

Press reviews

Structure and writing

Reading: HERNÁNDEZ, GUILLERMO Y RELLÁN, CLARA, Aprendo a escribir (1,2,3)

Class 9.2 Subjunctive of opinión. Other structures to give an opinion

Reading: GONZÁLEZ HERMOSO, ET AL., Curso práctico de español lengua extranjera

Week 10
Class 10.1 General issues

Types: abstract, essay, academic work

Structural and formal aspects
Writing and Editing

The analytical section

Reading: ÁLVAREZ, MIRAM, Tipos de escrito II: Exposición y argumentación

Class 10.2  Direct vs. indirect speech

Verb time conversion II

Reading: GÓMEZ TORREGO, L., Manual de Español Correcto

Week 11
Class Writing and New Technology

11.1

Websites

Blogs

Email

Chat

Text messages

Reading:

Class 11.2  Abbreviations, literary words, Latinisms, colloquialisms

Word creation in Spanish

Reading: Diccionario para la enseñanza de la lengua española.
Español para extranjeros
Week 12

Class 12.1 Practice Creating Different Types of Text

Class 12.2 Final Exam

Course Materials
Readings

Readings

- GÓMEZ TORREGO, L., Nuevo manual de español correcto, Madrid, Arco/Libros, 2003 (2 vols.)
- HERNÁNDEZ, GUILLERMO Y RELLÁN, CLARA, Aprendo a escribir (1,2,3). Madrid, SGEL, 1999.
Dictionaries

Along the bilingual dictionary, the use of the monolingual dictionary (Spanish-Spanish) is highly recommended.

http://www.wordreference.com/ (Enlaces a un sitio externo.)

http://dle.rae.es (Enlaces a un sitio externo.)

Online Resources

The following links may be useful:

www.rae.es (Enlaces a un sitio externo.) (diccionario de la Real Academia Española)

http://iate.europa.eu (Enlaces a un sitio externo.) (diccionario europeo, recoge todas las lenguas de la UE. Muy exacto en la definición de términos y diferentes usos de los mismos)

www.cvc.cervantes.es (Enlaces a un sitio externo.) (página con diferentes prácticas on-line, textos, foros…sobre el español)

www.zonaele.es (Enlaces a un sitio externo.) (página de gran ayuda en cuestiones gramaticales, conjugaciones, irregularidades. Todas las cuestiones están recogidas por orden alfabético)

Reading the written press, or in its absence the online press, is also highly recommended:

www.elpais.com

www.elmundo.es

www.abc.es

www.diariodesevilla.es

www.lavanguardia.es