Course title: Advanced Conversational Spanish: Registers and Colloquial Uses
Course code: SPAN 3011 ALLA
Programs offering course: Liberal Arts, Alicante Modified Drake University
Language of instruction: Spanish
U.S. semester credits: 3
Contact hours: 45
Term: Spring 2020

Course Description

The attractiveness and importance of the study of colloquial register arises from considering the language not only as an abstract and structured system of signs and rules, but as a means of communication between two or more individuals and as an expression of their ideas, feelings and desires. Colloquial language is limited by social and spatial coordinates within the language system as external factors, and the context and circumstances in which the communicative acts are held. On this course we will analyze how these factors are reflected in the different levels of linguistic description.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- Describe and understand the organization, structure and characteristics of colloquial register.
- Know the language varieties and differences in oral and written modalities.
- Explain the different linguistic registers of speech.
- Recognize and explain the characteristics of slang.
- Identify the phonetic and phonological phenomena involved in the conversation.
- Recognize morph syntactic aspects concurring in the colloquial register.
- Explain the vocabulary that is commonly used in the colloquial register.
- Know the types of relationships used in colloquial expression.
- Identify and explain the colloquial formulas and procedures or cohesion ratio used in the colloquial register.
Course Prerequisites

None

Methods of Instruction

This course will demand the active participation of students all the time. The nature of
the course implies a constant dialogue between the instructor and the class, where he
will explain the necessary theoretical concepts to understand the different items on the
agenda. However, it is expected from the student to be able to apply these concepts
on everyday life in Spain. Therefore, the class is conceived as a dynamic process
where the concepts will be checked in all sessions through their actual manifestations,
so students will have a prominent role where they will provide their own production
and analysis of real samples. The instructor will use Canvas to post all materials and
assignments for students, who are responsible for checking this learning platform
regularly.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Midterm Exam 20%
2. Final Exam 25%
3. Final Paper 20%
4. Oral Presentation 15%
5. Linguistic Exchanges 15%
6. Class Participation 5%
   TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements

Midterm Exam

This exam will be based on the contents covered in class during the first half of the
semester. It will consist of three sections: theoretical concepts and colloquial
expressions; reading comprehension; and written expression (200 words).

Final Exam

This exam will be based on the contents covered in class during the second half of
the semester. It will consist of three sections: theoretical concepts and colloquial
expressions, listening comprehension, and oral expression (5 minutes dialogue with a classmate).

Final Paper

It will consist of an analysis of phraseological units and formulas used in colloquial Spanish within a selection of real corpus (newspaper, television, stand-up comedy, etc.). A guide for implementation will be provided in class. It is necessary that students provide the topic of their choice to the instructor on the assigned date.

Format requirements:

Length: 1500 words

Double spaced.

Font: Arial

Size: 12

Margins: Left: 3 cm / Right: 3 cm. Upper: 2.5 cm / Lower: 2.5 cm

Pictures: Pictures as examples, graphs, diagrams, etc. may be included in the document or in the appendix at the end.

MLA citation format.

This paper must be turned in through Canvas.

Oral Presentation

The student will select a colloquial word and a colloquial expression and will present them to the rest of the class. They need to announce the professor their selection a week before the presentation. Information should include, at least, the following items:

- Etymology
- Context of use
- Meaning
- English equivalence
- Real examples where this word/expression appears (song, book, movie, etc.) with its reference.

It will be exactly 8 minutes long. Each student has to present the topic without reading any written text. He/she can have some notes as a help. The evaluation of this presentation will be based on these criteria:

1. Clarity of the exposition
2. Adequacy of information and content
3. Resources used
4. Originality

Linguistic Exchanges

There will be three linguistic exchanges between CIEE and University of Alicante students. The students of this class must attend at least two of them. They will complete an assignment during each of those exchanges that will be provided by the instructor in class.

Class Participation

CIEE ACADEMIC POLICIES

Papers and assignments submission

According to CIEE Alicante academic norms all assignments, paper, readings, etc. must be turned in on the due date. Late submissions of coursework/assignments during the course of the term of study are not accepted.

If an exception is granted by the Academic Director, the new deadline for the assignment will be set for the next earliest possible date for the student for reasonably submit the assignment.

Course Attendance

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program. Students must notify (via e-mail with a copy to the Resident Director or Program Coordinator) their
instructor beforehand if they will miss class for any reason. Students are responsible for any materials covered in class during their absence. Students who miss class for medical reasons must inform the professor and the RD or PC and provide appropriate documentation.

For CIEE courses, excessively tardy (over 15 minutes late) students will be marked absent (student will be reminded of the policy). Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursion or events, etc. Students who miss class for personal travel will be marked as absent and unexcused.

An absence in a CIEE course will be only considered excused if:

1) A doctor’s note is provided. The UA medical center does not generally provide class absence notes. In the case a doctor’s absence note is extremely necessary, students will need to go to the Vithas International Hospital to be examined.

2) A CIEE staff member verifies that the student was too ill to attend class

3) Evidence is provided of a family emergency

Persistent absenteeism (students exceeding 10% of the total course hours missed, or violations of the attendance policy in more than one class) will lead to a written warning from the RD, notification to the home school, and/or dismissal from the program in addition to reductions in class grade(s).

1) Since each CIEE Alicante course is 45 hours, 10% of the total course hours are 4.5 hours.

2) Students who miss more than 4.5 hours of class without justification will see their final grade reduced by -5%. For instance, students achieving a grade of 89.00 out of 100 points and missing more than 4.5 hours of class will see their grade reduced from 89.00 (B+) to 84.00 (B).

Students with unexcused absences exceeding 20% of the total course hours will fail the course. Written warnings and home school notifications will happen well before the absenteeism causes the student to fail the course so that the student has an opportunity for corrective actions.
Likewise, if any CIEE group organized activity/informational session (e.g. Intercultural development sessions) is scheduled during class hours, attendance to this activity or session is also mandatory for all students enrolled in courses that meet during that block of time. Not attending these CIEE group organized activities/sessions during regular class hours will result in an absence.

**Plagiarism**

Cheating and plagiarism in any course assignment may result in failing the course or being expelled from the program. Students are expected to adhere to the US American norms.

Important principles:

1) Final examinations, quizzes and other tests must be done without assistance from other person, without looking at or otherwise consulting the work of another person, and without access to notes, books, or other pertinent information (unless the professor has explicitly announced that a particular test is to be taken on an “open book” basis).

2) The same written paper may not be submitted in more than one course.

3) Any use of the work of another person must be documented in any written papers, oral presentations, or other assignments carried out in connection with the course.

**Add/Drop**

The add/drop period last for 1 week after the start of the courses. After the end of the add/drop period, the student’s registration is considered final, and no course(s) may be changed or deleted from the student’s CIEE Academic Record.

**Withdrawal from a course**

Students are required to register in 5 courses during their studies at CIEE Alicante. Each CIEE course is worth 3 credits (45 contact hours) and each Universidad de Alicante course is worth 4 credits (60h - unless the course has more than 60h of instruction). If exceptional circumstances warrant, the student may request permission from the Center Director to withdraw from a course. However, a student
participating in a semester program is not allowed to drop below 12 US semester credits.

Attendance

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program. Students must notify (via e-mail with a copy to the Resident Director or Program Coordinator) their instructor beforehand if they will miss class for any reason. Students are responsible for any materials covered in class during their absence. Students who miss class for medical reasons must inform the professor and the RD or PC and provide appropriate documentation.

For CIEE courses, excessively tardy (over 15 minutes late) students will be marked absent (student will be reminded of the policy). Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursion or events, etc. Students who miss class for personal travel will be marked as absent and unexcused.

An absence in a CIEE course will be only considered excused if:

1) A doctor’s note is provided. The UA medical center does not generally provide class absence notes. In the case a doctor’s absence note is extremely necessary, students will need to go to the Vithas International Hospital to be examined.

2) A CIEE staff member verifies that the student was too ill to attend class

3) Evidence is provided of a family emergency

Persistent absenteeism (students exceeding 10% of the total course hours missed, or violations of the attendance policy in more than one class) will lead to a written warning from the RD, notification to the home school, and/or dismissal from the program in addition to reductions in class grade(s).

1) Since each CIEE Alicante course is 45 hours, 10% of the total course hours are 4.5 hours.
2) Students who miss more than 4.5 hours of class without justification will see their final grade reduced by -5%. For instance, students achieving a grade of 89.00 out of 100 points and missing more than 4.5 hours of class will see their grade reduced from 89.00 (B+) to 84.00 (B).

Students with unexcused absences exceeding 20% of the total course hours will fail the course.

Written warnings and home school notifications will happen well before the absenteeism causes the student to fail the course so that the student has an opportunity for corrective actions.

Likewise, if any CIEE group organized activity/informational session (e.g. Intercultural development sessions) is scheduled during class hours, attendance to this activity or session is also mandatory for all students enrolled in courses that meet during that block of time. Not attending these CIEE group organized activities/sessions during regular class hours will result in an absence.

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 Introduction

Class: 1.2 Unit 1: Concept of colloquial language

Readings: Prieto, 13-15

Week 2
Class: 2.1 Unit 2: Main Characteristics of Colloquial Language

Class: 2.2

Readings: Prieto, 19-21, Galán
Week 3
Class: 3.1 Unit 3: The Self-sphere

Class: 3.2 Oral Presentation
Readings: Prieto, 22-24, Horrillo

Week 4
Class: 4.1 Unit 4: The Receiver's Sphere. Appealing Function
Language exchange #1
Class: 4.2 Expressions of Character
Oral Presentation
Readings: Prieto, 25-27, Jiménez

Week 5
Class: 5.1 Unit 5: The Interrogation
Oral Presentation

Week 6
Class: 6.1
Readings: Prieto, 28-30, Llanos Martínez
Class: 6.2 Midterm Review / Oral Presentation

Week 7
Class: 7.1 Midterm Exam
Language exchange #2
Week 8
Class: 8.1 Unit 6: Affirmation and Acceptance

Oral Presentation

Readings: Prieto, 31-34, Bargueño

Topic choice for the final paper

Week 9
Class: 9.1 Unit 7: Negation

Readings: Prieto, 38-40

Oral Presentation

Week 10
Class: 10.1 Unit 8: Ellipsis and Linguistic Economy

Gestures

Class: 10.2 UA Campus Interviews

Readings: Prieto, 44-46, Morales García

Week 11
Class: 11.1 Unit 9: Repetitive Aspect

Spanish popular sayings

Language exchange #3

Class: 11.2

Film: Ocho apellidos Vascos

Readings: Prieto, 41-43
Final paper due

Week 12
Class: 12.1 Oral Presentation

Board games session

Readings: Prieto, 53-55, Pons Rodríguez

Week 13
Class: 13.1 Unit 10: Word Order

Class: 13.2 Oral Presentation

Readings: Prieto, 77-79, Sánchez Hidalgo

Week 14
Class: 14.1 Final Review

Week 15
Class: 15.1 Final Exam

Course Materials
Readings

Abad, M. De estraperlo a #postureo. Barcelona: Larousse, 2017


Jiménez, M. “¿Sabes cuáles de estas palabras de uso coloquial son reconocidas por la RAE?”. 19 julio 2017. ABC. https://www.abc.es/cultura/abci-sabes-cuales-estas-palabras-coloquial-reconocidas-201


