Course title: Advanced Spanish Writing and Stylistics
Course code: SPAN 4006 BASP
Programs offering course: Advanced Liberal Arts
Language of instruction: Spanish
U.S. semester credits: 3.00
Contact hours: 45.00
Term: Fall 2020

Course Description

This course will analyze the main characteristics of discourse writing in Spanish from the point of view of its preparation and especially of its execution. The processes of writing to be discussed include planning, textualization and revision. The genres that the student will deal with are biographic and autobiographic texts, descriptive and expository texts, opinion essays and argumentative texts. The grammatical, lexical and discursive features associated to each of them will be presented and explained. The course will cover the concepts of appropriateness, coherence, cohesion, correction, variation and style in order to achieve a better understanding of the Spanish language and a greater ability to produce and interpret Spanish language texts.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- Describe, explain and apply the advanced grammar of contemporary Spanish.
- Analyze the distinctive discursive strategies and stylistic features of contemporary Spanish texts.
- Produce oral academic presentations showing the ability to provide a well-supported argument, including detailed evidence in support of or against a point of view.
- Produce proficient Spanish texts in a variety of text types (narrative, descriptive, expository and argumentative).

Course Prerequisites

6 semesters of college-level Spanish (or equivalent).

Methods of Instruction

Classes will have an eminently practical character. Reading of texts, scheduled discussions and exercise work of different types will be combined in class. Active work and the preparation and timely delivery of written texts and assignments on grammar, accuracy and lexical richness will be required.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Midterm Exam 20%
2. Final Exam 30%
3. Essays 30%
4. Oral Presentation 10%
5. Class Participation 10%
TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements

Midterm Exam
Final Exam

Both exams will consist of two parts: 1) regulatory aspects of Spanish (e.g. accentuation, punctuation, questions on grammar, questions related to lexical precision...); 2) production of a written text.

Essays
Students will prepare weekly compositions. The essays will respond to the different text typologies presented in the classroom and must respect the specific linguistic strategies associated with each one of them.

**Oral Presentation**

Students will make an oral presentation on an open topic (10-15 minutes). The professor will provide a guide for its proper preparation.

**Class Participation**

Students are expected to participate in class by asking questions that show their active engagement in class and by being able to comment on the readings due for each session. The level of engagement with the class materials, as evidenced in written work and class participation, will be one of the factors of the final grade. Students are responsible for the material covered in regular classes, on-site classes, discussions, peer presentations and readings.

**CIEE Barcelona Attendance Policy**

Students are expected to attend all scheduled class sessions on time and be prepared for the day’s class activities. CIEE does not distinguish between justified or unjustified absences, whether due to sickness, personal emergency, inevitable transportation delay and/or other impediments. You are considered responsible of managing your own absences. Please keep in mind that exams, paper submission dates, presentations and any other course work deadlines cannot be changed.

No academic penalty will be applied if students miss up to 3 class sessions. If students miss up to 6 class sessions, students’ final course grade will drop 5 points out of 100 on the CIEE grade scale for each additional absence beyond 3 (for example a 95 will become a 90 if they reach the 4th absence, and an 85 if they reach the 5th absence). **Students will automatically fail the course if they miss more than 20% of total class hours (i.e. if they exceed 6 absences).**

For students who miss up to 20% of the total course hours due to extenuating circumstances, the Academic Director may allow for exceptions to the local attendance policy based on documentation such as proof of bereavement, religious observances, hospitalization etc.

Students arriving more than 10 minutes late to the class will be considered absent for a day.

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No academic penalty will be applied if students miss up to 3 class sessions. If students miss up to 6 class sessions, students’ final course grade will drop 5 points out of 100 on the CIEE grade scale for each additional absence beyond 3 (for example a 95 will become a 90 if they reach the 4th absence, and an 85 if they reach the 5th absence). **Students will automatically fail the course if they miss more than 20% of total class hours (i.e. if they exceed 6 absences).**

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

**Weekly Schedule**

**Week 1**

Class: 1.1 Block 1: Discursive strategies of planned written texts in Spanish

Writing processes.

Plan and document: context of the text (for whom it is written and for what purpose), research,
organization of ideas and presentation. Keywords and preliminary outline.

Class: 1.2

Textualize the text. Structure and linguistic activities used in the production of written texts. Introduction and conclusion. The paragraph and its importance in planned written texts. Review, reformulate and correct the text. Self-revision and the correction of others.


Week 2
Class: 2.1

Prototypical text genres. Essential characteristics (Sessions III-XVIII).

How to write biographical and autobiographical texts. Narrative texts in the past tense. Specific linguistic strategies. Past tense verbs. The contrast between the preterit and the imperfect. Use of the plusperfect.

Class: 2.2

Tense markers. Time clauses.

Week 3
Class: 3.1

How to write descriptive texts. Descriptions in planned written texts in Spanish.

Specific linguistic strategies.

Contrasts when using *ser* and *estar* to describe in Spanish.

Class: 3.2

Adjectives. Types of adjectives; gradation. Adjective position with respect to the noun.

Week 4
Class: 4.1

Clauses that are equivalent to adjectives. Indicative vs. subjunctive in relative clauses.

Class: 4.2

Order of the discourse. The distribution of information in the text.

Week 5
Class: 5.1

How to write expository texts. Specific linguistic strategies (Sessions X-XII). Canonical structure of an expository text: introduction, development and conclusion. Thematic progression.

Class: 5.2

Objectivity as the main characteristic of an expository text. Mechanisms of objectification in written Spanish.

Week 6
Class: 6.1

Lexical precision and clarity. The use of technicalities.

Reading: Dworkin (2012: 212-229).

Class: 6.2
Week 7
Class: 7.1

Midterm Exam.

Class: 7.2


Week 8
Class: 8.1

Usage and the importance of the pronoun se. Nominalization; use of non-personal verb forms. Reading: Gómez Torrego (2006a: 9-10; 27-34).

Class: 8.2

How to write argumentative texts. Arguments in planned written texts in Spanish. Specific linguistic strategies. Brevity, clarity and conciseness, essential characteristics of the thesis. Types of argumentative texts according to the order of their structure.

Week 9
Class: 9.1

Formulation of arguments and counterarguments. Subordinate clauses to express opinion. Indicative vs. subjunctive.

Class: 9.2


Week 10
Class: 10.1 Block II. Regulatory aspects of planned written texts in Spanish

Rules of accentuation: general rules and diacritical accentuation (1)

Class: 10.2

Rules of accentuation: general rules and diacritical accentuation (2)


Week 11
Class: 11.1

Spanish punctuation and syntax. General uses of punctuation marks (1)

Class: 11.2

Spanish punctuation and syntax. General uses of punctuation marks (2)

Reading: Gómez Torrego (2006b: 75-100)
**Week 12**

Class: 12.1


Class: 12.2

Use of determinants: contexts of obligatory use; use of different determinants and semantic consequences; possible and impossible combinations of determinants in Spanish.

**Week 13**

Class: 13.1

Pronouns: contexts of necessary, possible and non-recommended uses. Types of pronouns and specificities of use in advanced Spanish writing.

Class: 13.2

Regulatory standards related to the adjective. Position of the adjective in the noun phrase. Possible arrangements and semantic consequences.

**Week 14**

Class: 14.1

Form and standard usage of verbs. Usage and the importance of prepositions. Popular prepositional phrases and prepositional phrases not recommended for use.

**Oral presentations**

Class: 14.2


**Oral presentations**

**Week 15**

Class: 15.1

Conclusions

**Oral presentations**

Class: 15.2

Final exam

**Course Materials**

**Readings**


