

**University of North Texas**  
**Department of Spanish**  
**Spanish 3004.002 - Advanced Composition Spring 2018**  
**MEETS: MWF – 10:00 – 10:50 in LANG 201**

Instructor: Connie C. Martinez                      Phone: (940) 369-7645 or (940)565-2404  
Office: LANG - 401 G                                      Email: connie.martinez@unt.edu  
Office hours: MWF – 11:00 – 11:50 a.m.              Tertulia: M – 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. LANG 410

**Course Description:**

Both native and non-native learners of Spanish will improve their writing abilities in the language by writing diverse types of compositions. Students will be introduced to narrative, descriptive, expository texts, among others. Furthermore, students will study the necessary strategies to write an academically acceptable research paper.

**Prerequisite:** Students must have completed, or received credit for, SPAN 2050, but having completed an advanced grammar course will help you to do better in this course.

**Course Objectives:**

Attention will be focused on writing in Spanish, and as such, at the end of the course students will be able to:

- Identify the intention and fundamental reason behind the narratives written in Spanish
- Use correct and appropriate grammar, vocabulary, and spelling in the written narratives
- Use diverse connectors in order to establish coherent transitions in the written narratives
- Write various types of narratives, from descriptions to academic essays, as preparation for the upper-level courses of Spanish.

**Required Text and Supplementary Materials:**

- Bleichman, Guillermo & Cañon, Paula. *Taller de escritores. Grammar and Composition for Advanced Spanish*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Vista Higher Learning, 2012. ISBN: 978-1-68004-006-7 **AND** the Super-Site.
- A good Spanish/English, English/Spanish dictionary. Students can also refer to *Real Academia Española* (<http://www.rae.es>).

### Grade Distribution:

The final grade will be determined in the following way:

Homework	10%	A = 90-100%
Quizzes	10%	B = 80-89%
Participation	10%	C = 70-79%
Online Activities	10%	D = 60-69%
4 Essays	40%	F = below 60%
Final Exam (Essay)	20%	

### Homework Assignments:

In this course there will be two types of homework: a) assignments from the textbook to be covered in class and b) assignments to be submitted online.

#### a) Assignments to be covered in class:

These will be assigned beforehand and then reviewed in each class. Your grade in this area will be included in the Attendance and Active Participation part of the grade. Remember that given the practical nature of our course, **it is imperative that you do these assignments** and that you come to class suitably prepared for each class session.

#### b) Online Assignments:

The student will purchase the textbook's supersite to access the online activities. To create an account, you will access <https://www.vhlcentral.com/>. All assignments have a different due date and in order to receive full credit, you must complete and submit them before midnight on Fridays. You must submit all assignments on time as if they are late you will not receive credit, but you can complete them for practice to prepare you for the quizzes and for writing essays.

- All assignments have two principal objectives: 1) to revise specific elements of the topic being studied, and 2) to review and revise grammar content pertinent to each kind of written texts.
- All work you produce must be your own and they all will be graded. They must be complete, free of errors, your **own work**, and done according to guidelines.
- You will not receive credit if you use an online translator or if you ask a friend to write your assignments.
- If you turn in something you previously received a grade for, you will not receive credit AND your name will be sent to the Dean of Students with the charges of academic misconduct and dishonesty.
- Not having a reliable computer or internet service is not an excuse to not turn in activities on time.

### Quizzes:

There will be quizzes at the end of each chapter. You can expect a sample of each point covered in the chapter.

## **Attendance and Active Participation:**

Given that this is a practical course rather than a lecture course, **students should come to class prepared**. It is important to read assigned texts and do the corresponding homework for each class. That way we will be able to develop an interesting course, which will fulfill the proposed learning objectives.

Students are allowed 2 unexcused absences, but more than 2 unexcused absences will result in your final grade being lowered automatically **two points for each unexcused absence**. According to University policy, an excused absence applies to illness with a doctor's legal documentation, a death in the immediate family with an obituary notice or a school-sponsored event with proper documentation. Bring your documentation on the first day you return to class. Your absence will not be excused if you don't present documentation on time.

Only by attending classes can we monitor our progress, hence **attendance is mandatory**. Should there be any previously understood reason for absence (religious), or should something occur unexpectedly (illness) please let instructor know at your earliest convenience. You should bring official documentation for any case of absence caused by illness. With regard to religious festivities, let the instructor know at the beginning of the semester in order to ensure that any assignments may be adequately given and/or submitted.

## **Essays:**

There will be five (5) written essays, including the final exam, this semester. Essays must be turned in via TurnItIn. Students will receive a **zero** if 1) more than 8% plagiarism is reported on Turnitin, 2) the essay is not turned in via Turnitin, 3) the topic is not addressed, 4) a translator is used, and 5) if submitted assignment was previously used in another class/school (your name will be sent to the Dean of Students). No exceptions. After you are finish writing the conclusion of the essay, write your last name and name and include the word count. Do not use a footer/header. Type essays double spaced using a professional looking font size 12. Final drafts must be 475-525 words each and must address the specified topics on the weekly course content of the syllabus.

- |                                    |                                  |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Essay 1: La descripción          | - Description (p. 24)            |
| • Essay 2: La narrativa            | - Anecdotal (#4 in pp. 45 or 49) |
| • Essay 3: El ensayo de opinión    | - A topic from page 139          |
| • Essay 4: El ensayo de refutación | - A topic from page 171          |

## **Final Exam:**

- Essay 5: El ensayo académico. Students will choose a literary text from the Hispanic world and will write a research paper using the MLA Style.

## **Note on Essay 5:**

The grade of the research paper will be based on the mastering of styles and techniques, content, grammar, and fluency of expression covered in the course. Students may study

same authors but cannot work in the same text. Authors must be Hispanic and the work (poem, novel, etc.) originally written in Spanish.

Your research paper must include **5 pages**:

Page 1: Cover Page

Pages 2-5: Research Paper

Page 5: Bibliography

Remember you must submit your Research Paper using the Turnitin link inside Canvas.

Read more details in the “Sobre los ensayos” document.

### **Course Policies:**

**Submission of coursework:** Follow the dates outlined in the schedule. **NO late work will be accepted.**

### **Academic Honesty and Plagiarism:**

*“The UNT Department of Spanish adheres to the University’s policy on Student Academic Integrity. For all pertinent assignments and assessments, the work must be the student’s work only (unless otherwise indicated by the course instructor) and should reflect the student’s level of proficiency. Students are prohibited from asking another person (i.e. a friend, tutor, or relative) to help them develop or compose a response (oral or written) in preparation for, or while completing, an assignment or assessment that will be graded and applied to the student’s final grade in the course. This includes, but is not limited to, receiving outside assistance with drafting, revising, editing, or developing the content and structure of a response to an assignment or assessment question without consent from the course instructor. Also, the use of translation technology (any digital translation tool or app) is prohibited for all assignments and assessments and will be considered academic misconduct. Information “cut and pasted” or otherwise copied from other sources and used as answers in assignments and assessments will be considered plagiarism. If a student has any doubts whatsoever as to what constitutes any form of scholastic dishonesty, they should consult with the course instructor before submitting their work. Cheating, plagiarism, and other examples of academic misconduct defined by University Policy will result in a zero on the assignment or assessment in question, and may be reported to the Dean of Students.”* <https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.003.pdf>

### **SPOT (Student Perceptions of Teaching)**

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The short SPOT survey will be made available in November to provide you with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. You will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations" via IA System Notification (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Please look for the email in your UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete it. Once you complete and submit the survey, you will receive a confirmation email. Save the confirmation you receive, as your instructor will ask for it.

For additional information, please visit the spot website at [www.spot.unt.edu](http://www.spot.unt.edu) or email [spot@unt.edu](mailto:spot@unt.edu).

**Disability Accommodation Statement:**

*“The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student.”* For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at [940.565.4323](tel:940.565.4323) or in person at SAGE Hall 167

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## COURSE CALENDAR

Course calendar is subject to change.

<b>Week 1</b>	Introductions Syllabus Cap. 1: La descripción (2-15)
<b>Week 2</b>	Cap. 1: La descripción (16-31) Write in class the rough draft and Peer Review
<b>Week 3</b>	Quiz 1 Cap. 2: La narración (32-45) Essay 1
<b>Week 4</b>	Cap. 2: La narración (46-69)
<b>Week5</b>	Cap. 3: El ensayo narrativo (70-84) Write in class the rough draft and Peer Review
<b>Week6</b>	Cap. 3: El ensayo narrativo (85-101) Quiz 2 Essay 2
<b>Week7</b>	Cap. 4: El ensayo de opinión (102-115)
<b>Week8</b>	Cap. 4: El ensayo de opinión (116-139) Write in class the rough draft and Peer Review
<b>Week9</b>	Cap. 4: El ensayo de opinión (140-153) Essay 3 Quiz 3
<b>Week10</b>	Cap. 5: La carta de presentación y de refutación (154-168) Write in class the <i>carta de presentación</i> (Quiz 4)
<b>Week11</b>	Cap. 5: La carta de presentación y de refutación (169-171) Essay 4
<b>Week12</b>	Cap. 6: El ensayo académico (172-184 & 204)
<b>Week13</b>	Cap. 6: El ensayo académico (185-194 & 208)
<b>Week14</b>	Cap. 6: El ensayo académico (195-207) Begin to organize the final essay Write in class the rough draft of <i>el ensayo académico</i> of your novel or story.
<b>Week 15</b>	Read p. 208 & Review pp. 90-91 Use pp. 209-210 to do the peer review of final essay
<b>Week 16</b>	Turn in final essay

## **STUDENT ISSUES WITH AN INSTRUCTOR OF SPANISH**

If a student in an advanced level Spanish class has an issue with her/his instructor, she/he should follow these procedures:

1. Make an appointment to talk with the instructor in person to try and resolve the issue to the satisfaction of both parties.
2. If the issue is not resolved to the student's satisfaction, then she/he should make an appointment to talk to Dr. Pierina Beckman about the issue. [Pierina.Beckman@unt.edu](mailto:Pierina.Beckman@unt.edu)
3. If the issue is still not resolved to the student's satisfaction, then she/he should make an appointment to talk to the chair of the department, Dr. Samuel Manickam. [Samuel.Manickam@unt.edu](mailto:Samuel.Manickam@unt.edu)
4. If the student is still not satisfied with the resolution of the issue, then she/he has the option of talking to the UNT Dean of Students in your discipline.

It is the responsibility of students to follow all rules, guidelines and instructions clearly outlined in class syllabus as well as follow all directives given by instructors of Spanish classes on Canvas and in class. The student should maintain clear lines of communication with the instructor in person and email regarding any issues or queries related to the class. You can expect your instructor to answer your email messages within 4 hours; he/she expect the same from you.