

## SPAN 3004. ADVANCED SPANISH COMPOSITION

### Instructor Contact

Instructor: Professor Jorge Avilés-Diz

Office Location: Language 403-K

Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:00-12:50 and/or by appointment (in person or zoom)

Email: [jorge.aviles-diz@unt.edu](mailto:jorge.aviles-diz@unt.edu)

### 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. The course will be taught entirely in Spanish.

### Course Structure

This course takes place 100% online. Your interaction with me and with your fellow students will take place in Canvas. You can contact me by email or come to my office hours if you need to talk to me about the course or anything else that you affect your performance in this class. There are 14 weeks of content that you will move through. All modules will be open since the first day of classes, but assignments will close about three weeks after the deadline.

### Course Objectives

Attention will be focused on writing in Spanish, and as such, upon successful completion of this course, learners will be able to (*numbered in order of presentation*):

- Recognize the main structure of descriptive, narrative, expository and academic essays in Spanish.
- Identify the intention and fundamental reason behind the narratives written in Spanish
- Use correct and appropriate grammar, vocabulary, and spelling in the written narratives
- Utilize diverse connectors to establish coherent transitions in the written narratives
- Create various types of narratives, from descriptions to academic essays, as preparation for the upper-level courses of Spanish.

### Course Prerequisites

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.

## Required Materials

Cañon, Paula. *Taller de escritores. Grammar and Composition for Advanced Spanish. Third Edition.* Vista Higher Learning, 2021. ISBN: 978-1-54330-900-3. Library of Congress Control Number: 2019932305. **TEXT ONLY. (You do NOT need to buy the Supersite Access Code because Homework will be submitted directly via Canvas).**

## Communication

While I want to make myself as available as possible to each of you, I do have to place some limitations on when I can be contacted. I would prefer that most general questions go through the Q & A forum in the Discussion Board area. If you have a general question about the course or assignments, please post it there. Either I will answer it, or, one of your classmates will. This way we can all benefit from questions asked, and they can be answered in a venue that the whole class can see. You may also want to find someone in class to be a "buddy" with. This will give you at least one other person who you can email with questions.

If you have a private question, please contact me via email and I will respond within 24 hours on weekdays (usually sooner). Please do not expect a response over the weekend.

Normally, I will return feedback on all written assignments within 1 week of the due date. However, if I see that I will be unable to return your feedback that quickly I will post an Announcement to let everyone know when it can be expected. You can expect to see me participate in the discussion board after all student original posts have been posted.

## Course Activities & Assessments

### Assessments

- Homework Activities (20% of total)
- Portfolio (20% of total)
- Essays (4) (10% each x 4= 40% of total)
- Final Academic Paper (20% of total)

### Grading

- A: 90-100% (Outstanding, excellent work. The student performs well above the minimum criteria.)
- B: 80-89% (Good, impressive work. The student performs above the minimum criteria.)
- C: 70-79% (Solid, college-level work. The student meets the criteria of the assignment.)
- D: 60-69% (Below average work. The student fails to meet the minimum criteria.)
- F: 59 and below (Sub-par work. The student fails to complete the assignment.)

## Grade-related Policies

### Late Work

I will not accept late work in this course. All work turned in after the deadline will receive a grade of zero unless the student sends a written request for a short extension before the deadline. Extensions longer than 48 hours will not be granted. Every module (with all the assignments within) will be closed within two or three weeks of the due date.

## Turnaround Time

I aim to return graded work to you within one week of the due date. When this is not possible, I will send an announcement to the class.

## Grade Disputes

You are required to wait 24 hours before contacting me to dispute a grade. Within that time, I expect that you will review the assignment details and reflect on the quality of the work you turned in. If you would still like to meet, email me to set up a meeting (I cannot discuss grades over email). You should come to our scheduled meeting with specific examples that demonstrate that you earned a higher grade than you received. If you miss your scheduled meeting, you forfeit your right to a grade dispute. If you do not contact me to schedule a meeting within seven days of receiving your grade, you also forfeit your right to a grade dispute. Review the [UNT Grade Appeals policy](#) for more information.

## Extra Credit

There are no extra credit opportunities in this course.

## Course Technology and Skills

### Minimum Technology Requirements

- Computer
- Reliable internet access
- Speakers
- Microphone
- Webcam
- [Canvas Technical Requirements](#)

### Computer Skills & Digital Literacy

Course-specific technical skills learners must have to succeed in the course:

- Using Canvas
- Using email
- Downloading and installing software

## Technical Assistance

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

**UIT Help Desk:** [UIT Student Help Desk site](#)

**Email:** [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu)

**Phone:** 940-565-2324

**In Person:** Sage Hall, Room 130

**Walk-In Availability:** 8am-9pm

### **Telephone Availability:**

- Sunday: noon-midnight
- Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight
- Friday: 8am-8pm
- Saturday: 9am-5pm

### **Laptop Checkout:** 8am-7pm

For additional support, visit [Canvas Technical Help](#)

### **Rules of Engagement**

Rules of engagement refer to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors. Here are some general guidelines:

- While the freedom to express yourself is a fundamental human right, any communication that utilizes cruel and derogatory language on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal, or state law will not be tolerated.
- Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in any communication online or face-to-face, even when their opinion differs from your own.
- Ask for and use the correct name and pronouns for your instructor and classmates.
- Speak from personal experiences. Use “I” statements to share thoughts and feelings. Try not to speak on behalf of groups or other individual’s experiences.
- Use your critical thinking skills to challenge other people’s ideas, instead of attacking individuals.
- Avoid using all caps while communicating digitally. This may be interpreted as “YELLING!”
- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm in emails or discussion posts as tone can be difficult to interpret digitally.
- Avoid using “text-talk” unless explicitly permitted by your instructor.
- Proofread and fact-check your sources.
- Keep in mind that online posts can be permanent, so think first before you type.

See these [Engagement Guidelines](#) for more information.

### **Additional UNT Policies and Student Support**

#### **Student Academic Integrity:**

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 a warning and may be reported to the Dean of Students.

### Grade Appeals:

Any student who believes a grade has been inequitably awarded should first contact the instructor who awarded the grade to attempt to resolve the differences. If the instructor and the student are unable to come to an agreement, the student has 30 days from the first day of the term following the semester in which the grade was earned to file an appeal with the chair of the instructor’s department. See full [UNT policy for grade appeals](#).

If the student believes that the grade was assigned due to discrimination or sexual harassment, the student must report this belief to the Office of Equal Opportunity.

### ADA Policy

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one’s specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of 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 accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the [ODA website](#).

### Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (Policy 16.004)

The University of North Texas (UNT) prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

### Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

### Acceptable Student Behavior

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students’ opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional

forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Visit UNT's [Code of Student Conduct](#) to learn more.

#### Access to Information - Eagle Connect

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: [my.unt.edu](http://my.unt.edu). All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail [Eagle Connect](#).

#### Student Evaluation Administration Dates

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 survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey, they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the [SPOT website](#) or email [SPOT@unt.edu](mailto:SPOT@unt.edu).

### Academic Support and Students Services

#### Mental Health

UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

- [Student Health and Wellness Center](#)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](#)
- [UNT Care Team](#)
- [UNT Psychiatric Services](#)
- [Individual Therapy](#)

#### Additional Student Support Services

- [Registrar](#)
- [Financial Aid](#)
- [Student Legal Services](#)
- [Career Center](#)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](#)
- [UNT Food Pantry](#)

#### Academic Support Services

- [Academic Resource Center](#)
- [Academic Success Center](#)

- [UNT Libraries](#)
- [Writing Lab](#)

### **Course Calendar**

Note: Course Calendar may be subject to minor change if necessary due to unforeseen circumstances. For Detailed Weekly activities see Module: Introduction in Canvas.

Week 1-2. Chapter 1: La descripción

Week 3-4. Chapter 2: La narración

Week 5-6. Chapter 3: El ensayo narrativo

Week 7-8. Chapter 4: La exposición

Week 9-11. Chapter 5: La argumentación

Week 12-14. Chapter 6: El ensayo académico