Span 3004. Fall 2025

### Instructor information:

Name: Dr. Jorge Avilés-Diz

Office Location: Language 403-K

Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 12:00pm 12:50pm and/or by appointment (in person or via 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, expositive 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.
* Utilize correct and appropriate grammar, vocabulary, and spelling in the written narratives.
* Utilize diverse connectors to establish coherent transitions in the written narratives.
* Compose 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 Compostion for Advanced Spanish*. 3rd *Vista Higher Learning*, 2021. ISBN: 978-1-54330-900-3 (You do NOT need the Supersite Access Code as Homework will be submitted directly via Canvas).
* A good Spanish/English, English/Spanish dictionary.
* A reliable electronic devise with a webcam
* Be familiar with online classes and/or take the tutorials.

### Grade Distribution:

The final grade will be determined in the following way:

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| Grading | | |
| **Grade distribution** | **Percentage** | **Grade scale** |
| Homework Activities | 20% | A = 90-100% |
| Portfolio/Quizzes | 20% | B = 80-89% |
| Essays (4) | 40% | C = 70-79% |
| Final Exam | 20% | D = 60-69% |
|  |  | F= below 60% |

NOTE: You will not receive credit if you turn in assignments late, use an online translator or if you ask a friend to write your assignments.

### Assigned Readings in the textbook:

You will benefit from reading the pages assigned before you do the activities.

### Homework activities:

All assigned activities are from the from the textbook and they 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 must be complete and free of errors. 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 writing activities. If for any reason you must turn in a late assignment, make sure you contact the instructor before it is due, then complete the assignment. Not having a reliable computer or internet service is not an excuse to not turn in activities on time.

If you turn in something you previously received a grade for or if the plagiarism percentage is higher than 8%, you will not receive credit AND your name will be sent to the Dean of Students with the charges of academic misconduct and dishonesty.

### Portfolios:

These are informal writings that will be uploaded via “Discussions”. Each of the assigned portfolios addresses specific course content information. After you turn in a portfolio, you must comment to two postings. Read more details in the document “Portfolios”. These activities will count as quizzes.

### Essays:

In this course you must write five (5) written essays, including the final exam.

TurnItIn is used to check originality (plagiarism) of essays. 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 from the assigned themes, 4) a translator is used, and 5) if assignment was previously submitted, or received a grade, in another class/school (your name will be sent to the Dean of Students). No exceptions.

For regular essays, write the word count and your last name and name after you are finished writing the conclusion.

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.

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| --- | --- |
| **Essays** | |
| Essay 1: Descriptive | A topic from page 24 |
| Essay 2: Narrative | A topic from activity 4 in page 49 |
| Essay 3: Opinion | A topic from page 137 |
| Essay 4: Argumentative | A topic from page 173 |
| Essay 5: Research Paper | Any Spanish-speaking author |

### Final Exam:

Your final exam will be 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 will choose a literary text from the Hispanic world and will write a research paper using the MLA Style. Students may study same authors but cannot work in the same text. Authors must be a Spanish-speaking person and the works must be originally written in Spanish.

### Your research paper must include a minimum of 5 pages:

Page 1-4: Research Paper

Page 5: Cited works/ Bibliography

Remember your Research Paper will be checked in the Turnitin data bank.

Read more details in the document on essays' details.

### Faculty Expectations:

* I expect you to respect due dates. This is an online course; consequently, you will be working at your own pace but guided by your instructor.
* I expect you to read assigned pages early in the week and contact me if you have questions. Resend the message if I have not answered within 12 hours (except on weekends).
* I expect you to reply to my messages within 12 hours.
* I expect you to have a “Plan B” for emergencies. Technology will always fail when you need it the most. Plan for life’s emergencies and do not wait until the very last day/hour to start working on the assignments. Friday is the very last day to turn in activities. It means you can submit them earlier than Friday.
* I expect you to access the course on a daily basis and work on the assigned activities every day: work a little every day.
* I expect you to have a reliable and working computer and internet provider. The Languages Building lab is a good place to work on your assignments.
* I expect you to contact me via email if you are having issues with the class (read posted documents first)
* Do not answer the feedback I leave on the activities (I do not get these notifications and after I grade activities, I do not return to them to see if someone is trying to contact me)
* I expect you to contact the Student HelpDesk if you have technology issues

### HelpDesk Information:

Telephone Availability:940-565-2324   Sunday: noon–midnight  
   Monday-Thursday: 8 a.m.–midnight  
   Friday: 8 a.m.–8 p.m.  
   Saturday: 9 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Email:[***helpdesk@unt.edu***](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu)  
Website: <http://it.unt.edu/helpdesk>  Bookmark this homepage today!  
Create a Service Ticket:[report a problem or request a service](http://ithelp.unt.edu/)  
Office Hours and Walk-in Support: [Sage Hall](http://maps.unt.edu/places/1010/view), Room 330D   |   Mon-Fri: 8 a.m.–8 p.m.  
Location:  [Sage Hall](http://maps.unt.edu/places/1010/view), Room 330D

### Course Policies:

Submission of coursework: Follow the dates outlined in the weekly schedule of activities. NOTE: Work will not be accepted late.

### Academic Honesty and Plagiarism:

*“The UNT Department of Spanish adheres to the*[*University’s policy on Student Academic Integrity*Links to an external site.](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003)*. 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.”*

### 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 or email 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 visit the [Office of Disability Accommodation website](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access). You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323 *or in person in SAGE Hall 167*

### 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.”*

### 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.

### Retention of Student Records

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student’s records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University’s policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

### Survivor Advocacy

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct. Federal laws and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex as well as sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at [SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu](mailto:SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu) or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-5652648.

### 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](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center)
* [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
* [UNT Care Team](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care)
* [UNT Psychiatric Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry)
* [Individual Counseling](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling)

### 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](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-040).

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.](https://idea.unt.edu/equal-opportunity-titleix)

It is the responsibility of students to follow all rules, guidelines and instructions clearly outlined in class syllabi as well as follow all directives given by instructors of Spanish classes on Canvas/Blackboard 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.

### COURSE CALENDAR:

See detailed weekly course of activities in a separate file posted in Canvas.

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| Weeks and Chapters | |
| **Weeks 1 and 2** | **Cap. 1: La descripción** |
| **Weeks 3 and 4** | Cap. 2: La narración |
| **Weeks 5 and 6** | Cap. 3: El ensayo narrativo |
| **Weeks 7 to 9** | Cap. 4: La exposición |
| **Week 10 to 11** | Cap. 5: La argumentación |
| **Weeks 12 to 15** | Cap. 6: El ensayo académico |