

FLORIDA MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY
Department of Humanities
SPA 301 Spanish Intermediate I
Fall- 2008

Instructor: _____

E-mail: _____

Classes: _____

Room: _____

Textbook: Blanco, José A. & María Colbert. *Enfoques: Curso intermedio de lengua española*. 2nd ed. 2008. www.vistahigherlearning.com

Course Description and Teaching Method:

SPA 203 is the third course of the Spanish language program. The course has a communicative proficiency-oriented approach. Students will develop the ability to understand and convey information and/or feelings in different situations with higher proficiency than in the basic levels. Students will be exposed to more videos such as sitcoms, films and documentaries. The method develops the four language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. There will be oral interaction from the beginning and consequently is designed to provide students with useful language skills in Spanish. The method is student-centered, with the instructor as the facilitator. Videos, CDs, and visuals will be used in class to avoid translation. The class will be conducted in Spanish to create an appropriate foreign language set up. Literature and cultural texts will be used for readings and discussions to develop critical thinking skills.

IMPORTANT:

- You need to turn off your telephones during our classes.**
- Attendance is mandatory. You need to check your email or call (305) 626-3600 to know if classes have been cancelled because of a hurricane watch or warning.**

Evaluation: The final grade will be based on the following:

Attendance and “Active Oral Participation”:	20%
Homework	20%
Midterm Written Exam in class:	20%:
Final Oral Exam in class:	20%
Final Written Exam in class:	20%

Course Grades:

93- 100=A
90- 92=A-
87- 89=B+
83- 86=B
80- 82=B-

77-79=C+
73-76=C
70-72=C-
67-69=D+
63-66=D

60-62=D-
00-59=F

Attendance, participation, and homework:

Regular attendance is mandatory. In order for students to progress in their ability to understand and speak the language, they must be exposed to hearing and speaking it on a regular basis. “No more than three absences will be permitted”. **Three late arrivals** (that is, 10 minutes after the start of class) equals **ONE ABSENCE**. **Every absence above the permitted will result in the lowering of the “final grade” because you need to be in class to participate.** The student must have a valid reason for missing class and not have it count as an absence (e.g. serious illness, family emergency, etc. by a written document to prove it). Merely notifying the instructor by phone or email that you will be absent just shows respect to your instructor, but that still counts as an absence).

Students are expected to come to class prepared and ready to participate actively. A participation grade is assigned daily. Students are expected to be in class and also to participate; to attempt to speak Spanish regardless of any mistakes they may make. Errors are to be expected and are viewed as a natural part of language learning.

Policy on Native Spanish Speakers or Bilingual Students in Miami:

SPA 202 is not designed for students who already speak and understand Spanish. This course is not for students who have completed over two years of secondary studies in their country of origin. Florida Memorial University has developed a series of courses designed for native Spanish speakers or bilingual students because their parents speak only Spanish at home. (They should take SPA 300 level courses after being interviewed).

Incomplete Grades:

A grade of “I” is only given when there is a valid, documented reason that prevents the student from finishing the class. This means that the student attended classes regularly and just missed the last part of the course. If such reason arises, please advise your instructor immediately.

Academic dishonesty:

The university does not tolerate plagiarism, cheating, or forgery. Final exams, homework, or any graded exercises ought to be individual work; otherwise, it is cheating.

Oral Evaluation: Students in groups have to create a short story and act it out in the classroom. A special guide will be given previous the oral evaluation to serve you as a model. Besides, students will always have oral activities during the course.

Exams: There are no extra credits for oral, midterm, and final exams. No exceptions!

SEQUENCE BREAKDOWN

(Subject to be changed if needed).

Reminder: It is “your responsibility” to check with your classmates if there is homework and you have been absent.

Introduction to the course.

Lección 1: Las relaciones personales

1.1 The present tense

1.2 Verbs: Ser – Estar

1.3 Progressive forms

Literatura: Poema 20 de Neruda

Cultura: Carlos Mencía: políticamente incorrecto

Lección 2: Las diversiones

2.1 Object pronouns

2.2 Gustar and similar verbs

2.3 Reflexive verbs

Literatura: Idilio de Mario Benedetti

Cultura: El toreo ¿Cultura o tortura?

Lección 3: La vida diaria

3.1 The preterite

Mid-term exam

Lección 3:

3.2 The imperfect

3.3 The preterit vs. the imperfect

Literatura: Pedro Salvadores de Jorge Luis Borges

Cultura: El arte de la vida diaria

Lección 4: La salud y el bienestar

4.1 The subjunctive in noun clauses

4.2 Commands

4.3 Por and Para

Literatura: Mujeres de ojos grandes de Ángeles Mastretta

Cultura: La ciencia: La nueva arma en una guerra antigua

Lección 5: Los viajes

5.1 Comparatives and superlatives

5.2 The subjunctive in adjective clauses

5.3 Negative and positive expressions

Literatura: La luz es como el agua de Gabriel García Márquez

Cultura: La ruta maya

Final Oral Exam

Final Written Exam

Dates and activities are subject to be changed so that you need to check for updates in your WebCt email and in your class instructions.

I, (Name of the student) _____ accept the terms and conditions given in this document.

Signature: _____

Date: _____