

Missouri Southern State University
School of Arts & Sciences
SPAN 320: Conversations and Readings
Course CIP #16.0905
3 credit hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION

- **2016-2017 catalog:**

Emphasis is on the improvement of conversational skills using cultural readings and short stories as the catalysts for intermediate level discourse.

- **Prerequisites**

The prerequisite for this course is SPAN 204 or equivalent level of proficiency.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- Acquire the necessary elements of language proficiency and cultural competency by exposing them to a foreign language in a diversity of cultural contexts.
- Identify the relationship between cultural practices, such as patterns of social interaction, and perspectives, such as attitudes and values, of the Spanish culture and to identify how values of the culture are expressed in its cultural practices.
- Identify some of historical and cultural concerns of both domestic and foreign cultures as these relate to their socioeconomic and political institutions.
- Develop cultural awareness through comparisons of foreign cultures and the student's own.
- Analyze and evaluate information presented in class and in other sources and to present their own ideas using formal writing.

COURSE AND INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Course: [Spanish] Conversations and Readings
Course Type: Traditional
Credit hours: 3 credit hours
Time: M, W, F @ 10 – 10:50 am.
Location: WH #357
Homepage: galve.us/span-320.html
Instructor Name: Dr. Rubén Galve Rivera
Title: Assistant Professor of Spanish
Office location: Webster Hall #356
Office hours: Mon 11 – 12 pm; 2:30 – 5pm
Tue 2:30 – 4 pm
Wed 11 – 12 pm; 2:30 – 4 pm
12 – 1 pm; 2:30 – 4 pm
Office phone: 417-625-9332
Email address: galverivera-r@mssu.edu
Preferred contact: text (817-773-5820)

ASSURANCE OF LEARNING

This course provides a continued development of the four basic language skills through reading and conversation, with an emphasis on more complex communicative patterns. The course focuses on conversation emphasizing pronunciation, fluency, and vocabulary. It also provides the knowledge, vocabulary, and linguistic structures necessary for students to use Spanish immediately for communication. The course will include the necessary oral practice of dialogue, vocabulary and basic grammar to communicate in Spanish at an advanced-low level.¹

Students will need to read texts from a variety of topics and sources, watch clips and movies, learn new vocabulary and use these skills whenever possible. It is important to study/review daily since learning a new language is a cumulative process and requires a solid foundation of previous material in order to incorporate new information. In fact, when learning a new language, the right word to use is not learning, but acquisition. This course will be conducted in Spanish.

Debates will be constant during in-class time. The majority of topics will require students to think in abstract ways and express their personal opinions. When possible, the professor will not provide straight answers to specific questions; instead, he will guide students through them and/or provide hints. As well, some instructions for classroom activities might be general and/or appear to be vague; the sole purpose of this is to increase students' creativity.

COURSE MATERIALS

- **Required text (Rental/Purchase)**

Coursepack. Handouts and Texts will be provided by the professor, either electronically or printed. No purchase required.

- **Recommended texts**

A **good** Spanish/English dictionary.

- **Faculty Website and other online resources**

Blackboard –www.blackboard.mssu.com

Faculty website –www.galve.us/span-320.html

On-line dictionary –www.wordreference.com

- **Materials and technology requirements**

Internet connection

Dictionary

COURSE OUTLINE

- **Final Project**

The final project must be submitted by email. Instructions, along with a rubric. Will be provided later on in the semester. The due date/time for the final project is that established by the university for this class in the “final examination” pamphlet. [Tuesday, May 8th, 8 am.]

¹ See ACTFL proficiency chart.

EVALUATION / GRADING POLICY

Letter grades will be assigned using the standard 90, 80, 70, 60 percentage scale:

▪ Attendance	12 %
▪ Class Performance & Participation	20 %
▪ Homework	20 %
▪ Blog Posts	20 %
▪ Midterm Project	8 %
▪ Oral Presentation	5 %
▪ Final Exam	15 %

Grades and Announcements for class will be posted on Blackboard.

Other supporting materials will be posted on the professor's personal website (www.galve.us).

Final grades will be posted by the University on LioNet.

Assumptions and preferences of instructor regarding framework for course.

It is the student's responsibility to keep up with the course calendar, as well as with the overall grade.

• **DEPARTMENT/ INSTRUCTOR POLICIES**

○ **Use of personal electronics**

No cell phones or other electronic devices are allowed in class. They must be turned off, or silenced. Failure to do so will result in participation penalties. As well, no materials pertaining to other courses/topics should be used in class.

○ **Attendance and participation expectations**

Participation is a heavy component of the final grade, for obvious reasons. Attendance is mandatory, and a requirement of this class, since students will be graded on a bi-weekly basis. After 6 absences (=2 weeks of class), the student will receive an automatic "F". Entering the classroom after 10:25 am will count as an absence. In accordance to MSSU rules, any student who misses two consecutive weeks of classes will be reported to the Office of Financial Aid. Please speak with me immediately if you have any continuing obligations (sports, medical condition, etc.) that will cause you to be absent throughout the semester.

Students' participation will be graded weekly from both a qualitative and quantitative standpoint. The professor will help with questions and remarks, and explain anything the students ask. However, students are expected to carry the weight of the class and engage in debate with each other, as well as to only use Spanish in the classroom; continuous use of English will lower the participation grade significantly.

○ **Homework**

Homework will be assigned during class. Questions should be answered in complete sentences and in your own words (copy-paste will lower your grade considerably).

Homework is due in class on the date specified by the professor in class. Should you miss class, it is your responsibility to contact the professor or a classmate, and ask about

possible homework that might have been assigned in class. Late work will either not be accepted, or receive half credit, depending on the situation.

○ **Online Assignments (Blog Posts)**

Students will be required to post on a blog, on a given topic, most weeks throughout the semester. They'll also be required to post 2 responses to their classmates' post(s).

Students will be graded based, primarily, on the quality (level of thought) of their posts and responses and, secondarily, on their grammar & sentence structure.

The link for the blog is: <http://galve.us/blog-2018>

○ **Midterm Project**

Guidelines will be provided later in the semester.

○ **Expectations for readings prior to class**

Students will read the assigned texts/watched the assigned videos, and study and review the assigned vocabulary prior to each class. Aspects such as education, art, pop culture, tendencies, current topics, etc., are viewed in their Spanish context through readings from the text. Such readings give students the opportunity to read Spanish at a more advanced level.

○ **Assignments: Dictionary Vs. Online translator/tutor**

Do not, under any circumstance, use any translation tools (e.g. tutors), as it considered a form of academic dishonesty. The use of a dictionary is highly recommended. If using an online dictionary, the following website is suggested: www.wordreference.com

○ **Expectations for Class Participation in the event of inclement weather/cancellation**

If the professor cannot attend to class, he will send an announcement via email as soon as possible to notify students. Students are responsible for monitoring campus notifications and media for news about campus closing or cancellations.

○ **Late Work/Extra Credit Policy**

You may not make up assignments after the due time and date. No late work will be accepted. Should there be an extraordinary circumstance concerning a student's assignment/assessment, the professor might do an exception –case by case basis.

○ **Extra Credit**

There will be two fixed opportunities for extra credit: Spanish Table and Skype sessions of 50 min. with a local Spaniard.

▪ Spanish Table: Will be held in the cafeteria of the library (basement) on the following days and times:

○ Tuesday's: 9 – 9:50 am

○ Wednesday's: 11 – 11:50 am

▪ Skype: Details will be provided at a later time.

Each time a student attends the Spanish Table or does a Skype session, (s)he will receive 0.35 pts. that will be added to the final grade at the end of the semester.

- **UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

- **Academic Integrity Statement**

Missouri Southern State University is committed to academic integrity and expects all members of the university community to accept shared responsibility for maintaining academic integrity. Academic work is evaluated on the assumption that the work presented is the student's own, unless designated otherwise. Submitting work that is not one's own is unacceptable and is considered a serious violation of University policy. Cheating is a serious offense that invalidates the purpose of a university education. Any student who takes credit for the work of another person, offers or accepts assistance beyond that allowed by an instructor, or uses unauthorized sources for a test or assignment is cheating. Students must be conscious of their responsibilities as scholars, to learn to discern what is included in plagiarism as well as in other breaches of the Student Handbook, and must know and practice the specifications for citations in scholarly work. When dealing with cases of academic dishonesty, the course instructor may choose to use the campus judicial system; this includes filing an incident report with the Dean of Students, who may act on the report by issuing a written warning or by recommending disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion. Penalties for academic dishonesty may include a failing grade on the assignment, a failing grade in the course, or any other course-related sanction the instructor determines to be appropriate.

- **Disability Accommodation Statement**

If you are an individual with a disability and require an accommodation for this class, please notify the instructor or the Coordinator of Student Disability Services, at the Student Success Center (659-3725).

- **Non-Discrimination Statement**

In accord with federal law and applicable Missouri statutes, the University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, ancestry, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other legally-protected class, in employment or in any program or activity offered or sponsored by the University, including, but not limited to, athletics, instruction, grading, the awarding of student financial aid, recruitment, admissions, and housing.