

**SPANISH 110: Intermediate Spanish Conversation**  
**The Pennsylvania State University—University Park**

**Spring 2010**

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**Supervisor:** Yasmín Villuendas (syv1@psu.edu)

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Instructor: Borja Gutiérrez

Sections: 8, 11, and 13.

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*The Pennsylvania State University encourages qualified persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation in this course or have questions about physical access, please tell your instructor as soon as possible.*

➤ **Prerequisite:** SPAN 003 or approval of Intermediate Language Coordinator

➤ **Required Materials:**

- *Conversaciones creadoras: Mastering Spanish Conversation* Text and audio CDs. (available at the PSU Bookstore on campus. If you get a used book, make sure you also get the CDs)
- Course Packet (available at “The sign Factory” 228 S. Allen Street.)
- A good quality paperback dictionary
- An active PSU email account and access to the Internet.

**Note:** Please bring the **textbook**, the **workbook** (Course packet) and a **paperback dictionary** to class each day.

**TO THE STUDENT:** The new required companion course for all prospective Spanish majors and minors will be **SPAN 100: Intermediate Grammar and Composition**. Upon successful completion of SPAN 100, you will be able to take any course that has SPAN 200 as a prerequisite (you will NOT take SPAN 200).

*Nota bene:* Given the nature of the courses and our goals in the Intermediate Program, we are assuming not only that you have a sincere interest in learning Spanish, but also that you will be dedicated to mastering and memorizing the vocabulary, terms, and concepts as we progress (this includes anything that you have not studied for whatever reason in previous courses). Again, the pace and level of complexity of the courses in the Intermediate Program will perhaps require that you spend more time studying that you might have needed to spend in previous courses. This will be especially true as the semester advances and the material becomes more complex, and as we examine more sophisticated uses of the language. **Please remember: This is a vocabulary-driven course and in order to be successful and keep up you will be required to memorize new words and expressions on a daily basis!**

Spanish 110 is a coordinated course and all sections will cover the same material and you all will be tested and evaluated using the same guidelines and other tools to gauge your progress and proficiency.

Should you have any questions, concerns or disagreements about any aspect of the course, please approach your instructor first and try to resolve the problem together. If it cannot be resolved, contact the supervisor, Yasmín Villuendas at [syv1@psu.edu](mailto:syv1@psu.edu)

➤ **GRADING SCALE:** Grades shall be assigned to students on the basis of the instructor's judgment of the student's

Scholastic achievement using the Undergraduate Grading System (PSU policy 47-00)

Quality of Performance Grade (From the PSU website :

[http://www.registrar.psu.edu/grades/grading\\_system.cfm](http://www.registrar.psu.edu/grades/grading_system.cfm))

**Excellent : A (95-100%) A- (90-94.9%) Exceptional Achievement**

**Good : B+ (87-89.9%) B (84-86.9%) B- (80-83.9%) C+ (76-79.9%) Extensive Achievement**

**Satisfactory : C (70-75.9%) D (60-69.9%) Acceptable Achievement**

**Failure : F (below 60%) Inadequate achievement (to secure credit, course must be repeated.)**

➤ **EVALUATION :**

- EXÁMENES ESCRITOS (2)..... 25%
- EXÁMENES ORALES (2).....25%
- ESCENAS (Fluidez)(2)..... 15%
- CONVERSACIÓN CREADORA (Pronunciación)(2)..... 15%
- PROYECTO ORAL (1) (Pronunciación y fluidez)..... 10%
- TAREA.. ..... 05%
- COMPOSICIÓN (1) ..... 05%

➤ **DESCRIPTION OF CATEGORIES:**

▪ **EXÁMENES ESCRITOS:** You will take two (2) in-class written exams. More detailed information about the format and content will be made available well in advance of each exam, but the activities will reflect the types of exercises done in the text and course package (workbook) as well as in/ out of class. The dates of the exams are on the syllabus. No make-ups will be allowed without valid documentation.

*Do not expect a review/study guide before an exam. You are responsible to learn all the material in the chapters studied in class.*

▪ **EXÁMENES ORALES:** There will be two oral exams in this course, a midterm exam and a final one. They will be 5-10 minute long one-on-one oral exams. Your instructor will give you a list of topics to prepare and the exam will consist of a conversation and a situation between the instructor and the student. Note that the topics you will be asked to prepare will be based on the main thematic units of the chapters covered throughout the course. The grading criteria used to evaluate can be found in the workbook.

▪ **ESCENAS:** You will be asked to do two short formal presentations. These will not require outside preparation. You will work with other members of your group; however, these assignments will be individually graded. The dates can be found on the syllabus. More information will be given as the dates approach. *Video recordings are sometimes part of the oral presentations category. Class attendance during oral presentations is mandatory.*

▪ **PARTICIPACIÓN:** **As this is a conversation course, it is crucial that you attend class each and every day, that you prepare thoroughly prior to coming to class, and that you participate actively.** You must use Spanish to learn Spanish, so again, **daily attendance and active participation are expected**. *Please understand that if you are not in class, you are responsible to contact a fellow student, not your instructor, to find out the information missed.*

**Please keep in mind that attendance during the presentations is mandatory. A substantial penalty ( -2% of your final grade) will apply if you miss a class on any of the presentation days without a valid excuse and documentation.**

▪ **CONVERSACIÓN CREADORA (2):** To complete these assignments you will listen to, practice, and then record yourself reading the *Conversación creadora* in each chapter that we study. **You have to listen to the audio cd's that contain the *Conversación creadora* dialogue, repeat, record and listen to your own voice in order to get good results.** The purpose of this is to help you to be able to better hear, understand, and produce Spanish sounds. You will then read the dialogue or dialogues to your instructor, who will evaluate your pronunciation and intonation. The dates are shown on the syllabus. The grading criteria used for these assignments can be found in the workbook.

▪ **TAREA:** The homework grade will consist of a variety of activities including—but not limited to—reading and answering follow-up questions, doing short writing assignments, completing vocabulary-based / grammar-based activities in ANGEL and on paper, translating or creating dialogues, etc. These assignments will be announced in advance and will be due on the day your instructor asks for them. ***All the assignments must be typed in Font Times New Roman size 11, doubled spaced and printed on a sheet of paper that you have to give to your instructor in the scheduled day during class time. Hand written homework will not be accepted.*** Please notice that there will be folders in ANGEL, with assignments to be completed at the beginning of each chapter. As always, no late work will be accepted without documentation.

▪ **COMPOSICIÓN:** You will be asked to write a reaction paper after we watch an in class movie this semester. This paper must be typed and submitted the class period after we discuss the film. The date is listed on the syllabus. If for some reason you must miss a class on a day we show the movie, you must rent the film on your own and watch the part you missed.

▪ **PROYECTO ORAL:** You will be asked to do a short formal presentation, which will require outside preparation. You can find the dates on the syllabus. More information will be given as the dates approach. *Video recordings are sometimes part of the oral presentations category. Class attendance during oral presentations is mandatory.*