

SPANISH 010

CONVERSATION-COMPOSITION

Spring, 2012
MWF 9:10 – 10:10am
Tues. 9:40 – 10:40am

Professor:	Dr. Lori Spicher	Office:	Dante 317
Office Hours:	MWF 11:30 – 12:30 or by appointment	Telephone:	925-631-4469

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course incorporates the use of *immersion strategies*, where students are “immersed” in the target language to actively develop increased listening and reading comprehension in and improved proficiency in the areas of speaking and writing. Using selected short texts, songs, films, websites, cultural events, and television programming from different parts of the Spanish-speaking world, students will engage in guided, task-oriented assignments to build vocabulary and cultural awareness. At the same time, they will collaboratively workshop conversation and composition skills in class. Homework includes a weekly “immersion journal”, designed to further develop aural comprehension and ease of written expression in the target language. Key elements of pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary will be reviewed and practiced throughout the course. **Prerequisite: Spanish 4** (or the equivalent) A familiarity with the forms of Spanish grammar and an intermediate level of proficiency is expected of students taking this course.

TEXTS:

1	<i>Graded Spanish Reader, 2a etapa</i> by Ulloa & Ulloa
2	A good Spanish-English dictionary

GRADES:

SCALE:

Compositions (3)	30%	93-100	A
Quizzes	30%	90-92	A-
Presentations (2)	20%	87-89	B+
Immersion journal	10%	83-86	B
		80-82	B-
		1.	C+
		1.	C
		1.	C-
		1.	D+
		1.	D
		1.	D
		1.	F

ATTENDANCE: Students are allowed three absences without penalty (whatever the reason). Each absence beyond the third will result in a two-point deduction from the final grade on a 100-point scale.

ACADEMIC HONOR CODE: This course operates under the premises of the academic honor code, including the expectation that all students uphold high standards of integrity. Students are expected to “do their own work at all times without giving or receiving inappropriate aid” and “avoid behaviors that unfairly impede the other members of the community.” For a complete description of Saint Mary’s College Academic Honor Code, please refer to the *Student Handbook*.

STUDENT DISABILITY SERVICES:

Reasonable and appropriate accommodations for students with qualifying disabilities are extended through the office of Student Disability Services. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the Coordinator at (925) 631-4164 to set up a confidential appointment to discuss available services. For additional information: <http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/academics/academic-advising-and-achievement/student-disability-services.html>

COMPOSITIONS

There will be three guided in-class compositions. Students will prepare ahead of time, in class and as individual research, arriving to class on composition days with outlines, notes, and dictionaries to compose thoughtfully and efficiently during the class hour. Compositions will be evaluated on organization, clarity, creativity, grammatical accuracy, and appropriateness and richness of vocabulary.

PRESENTATIONS

- **SONG PRESENTATION**

Students will introduce classmates to a contemporary song in Spanish, including a brief biography of the artist, the lyrics of the song chosen, and a cultural/contextual analysis of the lyrics.

- **VISION BOARD PRESENTATION**

During the final week of classes, students will present to their classmates a vision board, explaining images that represent the student's projected future.

IMMERSION JOURNAL

As homework, students are expected to “immerse” in language spoken by native Spanish speakers at least once a week. This immersion will include various genres of Spanish language television programs, films, music, plays, lectures, other cultural events, or conversation with native speakers over coffee. Students will record a one-paragraph summary of their immersion activities in a weekly journal. Journal entries will be shared with the class on Mondays; completed journals will be turned in at the end of the semester.

GOALS AND OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, dedicated students will have developed, practiced, and honed their language skills in Spanish sufficiently to:

- be more confident and competent in listening comprehension with increased exposure to different regional dialects of Spanish.
- be more confident and competent in oral production using all tenses (past, present, and future), moods (indicative and subjunctive), and aspects (perfective and imperfective).
- be more confident and competent in reading comprehension of short stories, journal articles, poetry, and other texts in Spanish.
- be more confident and competent in written expression in tasks such as description, past narration, guidance and instruction, and persuasion.
- have an increased lexical repertoire, including dialectal variations that reflect regional flavor.
- have an increased awareness of Hispanic traditions, cultures, and current events around the world.
- have a broadened appreciation for the richness of the history and variations of the Spanish language.
- embrace the continued study of the Spanish language with confidence and enthusiasm!

READING/MEDIA LIST

- *El recado* by Elena Poniatowska (MÉXICO)
- *No hay mal que por bien no venga* by Ricardo Palma (PERÚ)
- *Poetry* by Alfonsina Storni (ARGENTINA), Juana de Ibarbourou, (URUGUAY) Gloria Fuertes (SPAIN), and Claribel Alegría (NICARAGUA)

- ***El animal más raro de la Tierra*** by Álvaro Menén Desleal (EL SALVADOR)
- ***Comunidad de los parques*** by Julio Cortázar (ARGENTINA)
- ***La joy del inca***, adapted from Cuentos del alto Perú (PERU)
- ***Las montañas, los barcos y los ríos del cielo*** by Germán Pinilla (CUBA)
- ***Dos palabras*** by Isabel Allende (CHILE)
- ***La casa de azúcar*** by Silvina Ocampo (ARGENTINA)
- ***Un señor muy viejo con unas alas enormes*** by Gabriel García Márquez (COLOMBIA)
- **Periodicals** (various)

FILMS

Como agua para chocolate, Director: Alfonso Arau (***MEXICO***)

Mujeres al borde de un ataque de nervios, Director: Pedro Almodóvar (SPAIN)

TELEVISION PROGRAMMING

(Various)

MUSIC

(Various)

