



## **SPAN 314 ADVANCED COMPOSITION**

### **OBJECTIVES**

In this course students will become familiar with the written form in Spanish through use of a variety of writing techniques.

The course will cover the most useful and important techniques and resources; at the same time students will increase their vocabularies and review selected topics in grammar.

Although this is not a creative writing workshop, creativity will be developed through participation by the student in activities in the classroom, in groups and in interaction with the instructor.

### **STRUCTURE**

The first session of each week will be a workshop. In groups, students will discuss relevant aspects of the compositions of fellow members, using an overhead projector to illustrate them to the whole class. The purpose of the session is to encourage group communication, and to learn from each other.

In the second class session of each week we will focus on the theoretical base of the week's composition. We will study vocabulary useful for the type of composition we will be writing, and we will discuss grammar topics of special importance to clear, precise writing in Spanish. Compositions will be distributed to instructor and other class members. Homework will consist of the critical analysis of two compositions (the student's and a classmate's).

We will address issues of point of view, tone, and writing strategies which will allow us to improve our performance as writers. If possible we will also begin to discuss the next composition.

### **TEXTBOOK**

Valdés, G., Dvorak, T., y Hannum, P. (1984). Composición: Proceso y síntesis. New York: Random House, 1998.

Additional material from:

Fernández de la Torriente, G. (1975). Cómo escribir correctamente. Madrid, Ed. Playor, 1975.

### **BIBLIOGRAFÍA**

Diccionario Moderno Español-Inglés, English- Spanish. Ediciones Larousse.

Diccionario de sinónimos y antónimos. Sopena.

Diccionario de retórica, crítica y terminología literaria. Ariel.

Diccionario de dudas de la lengua española. Aguilar.

Diccionario de la lengua española de la R.A.E. (Real Academia Española). Madrid: Espasa-Calpe, 1992.

Moliner, M. Diccionario de usos del español. Madrid: Gredos, 1987.

Real Academia Española. Esbozo de una nueva gramática de la lengua española. Madrid: Espasa-Calpe, 1989.

## **EVALUATION**

Participation .....	25%
Compositions.....	35%
Final paper... ..	25%
Oral presentation .....	15%

## **TOPICS**

1. Description.
2. Narration and dialog.
3. Exposition
  - a) Analysis and classification.
  - b) Comparison and contrast; cause and effect
4. Argumentation and essay..
5. Journalism and investigative techniques: information, reporting, feature, article.
6. Internal communications: memorandum, circular, minutes, resumé.
7. Research paper: thesis, scientific article.
8. Report.
9. Summary, review, translation.
10. Business letter.

## **SCHEDULE**

### **First week:**

Presentation by instructor.  
Explanation of the course, classroom dynamic and structure of the text.  
Description with detail and examples (Composition 1).  
Writing Strategies: Identifying the reader.  
Thinking about the reader: Language and the selection of details.  
Grammar: Ser and estar; uses and contrasts.

### **Second week:**

**Hand in Composition 1.**  
Narration (Composition 2).

Grammar: preterite/imperfect.

Workshop on Composition 1.

Thinking about the reader: Guidelines and rhetorical signals (choosing a title).  
The purpose.

Writing strategies: Point of view and tone.

**Third week:**

Exposition: analysis and classification (Composition 3)

Hand in Composition 2: Narration

Thinking about the reader: characterizing the reader

Writing strategies: Quotations.

**Fourth week:**

Workshop on Composition 2.

Hand in Composition 3: Exposition: Analysis and classification.

Exposition: Comparison and contrast/cause and effect.

Thinking about the reader: Introductions and conclusions.

Writing strategies: How to arrive at the nucleus of the message.

**Fifth week:**

Workshop on Composition 3..

Hand in Composition 4: Exposition: Comparison and contrast/cause and effect

**Sixth week:**

Workshop on Composition 4.

Essay (Composition 5)

**Seventh week:**

Hand in Composition 5: Essay

Argumentation (Composition 6).

Thinking about the reader: How to establish a credible voice.

Writing strategies: Tone.

**Eighth week:**

Workshop on Composition 5.

Hand in Composition 6: Argumentation.

Definition (Composition 7)

Thinking about the reader: Rhetorical signals and guides.

Writing strategies: Personal language.

**Ninth week:**

Workshop on Composition 6.

Hand in Composition 7: Definition.

Journalism and its investigative technique: Information, reporting, feature, article. (Composition 8)).

**Tenth week:**

Workshop on Composition 7.  
Hand in Composition 8: Journalism.  
Summary, review, translation..  
Grammar: The subjunctive mood.

**Eleventh week:**

Workshop on Composition 8.  
Summary or review (Composition 9).

**Twelfth week:**

Hand in Composition 9: Summary or review.  
Report (Composition 10)  
Workshop on Composition 9.

**Thirteenth week:**

Hand in Composition 10: Report.  
Research paper.

**Fourteenth week:**

Presentation of the research paper.

**The schedule may be changed at the discretion of the instructor.**