

INTENSIVE SPANISH 2301 HYBRID
“Intermediate Spanish One for Non-Native Speakers”
Jan 26—Mar 2
Spring 2015

Days: Mondays
Time: 5:00-7:50
Room: Miners Hall 300
Office: LA 121

Instructor: Gabriel Avila
gabavila@utep.edu/747-6362
Hours: M 11:00-12:00/4:00-4:50
TR 12:00-2:00
W 11:00-3:00
Or by appointment

I. Requirements:

1. *Conexiones* Fifth Edition (Eduardo Zayas- Bazán, Susan Bacon, Dulce M.García) with the Student Access Code Card
2. Optional text: A Spanish/English dictionary
3. A headset and a reliable computer with internet access

II. Prerequisites for Intensive Spanish 2301: Intensive Spanish 2301 is an **accelerated intermediate** Spanish course designed for students who have already taken Spanish 1302 or took the UTEP Placement Exam and placed into 2301. If you did not do either of these two things, please notify your instructor.

III. Methodology: This course is taught in Spanish although some English will be used for grammar explanations and clarification. Please try to use Spanish only when speaking in this course. And please, don not be embarrassed to make mistakes when using the language. That is part of the fun of learning a language.

IV. What you will do in this class:

a) Communicate in Spanish in every day life situations:

You will use some of the basic grammar structures and most common verb tenses and modes. This will be done through exercises and conversation in class and outside, writing assignments, examinations, team projects, and web-based self-assessment. You will put the grammar to use in contextualized, communicative situations of the sort you'll encounter outside the classroom. In order to be able to use the grammar and vocabulary in class, please review the assigned pages of the textbook before you come to class. If you arrive prepared, you'll find it easier to communicate in the target language. If you

don't understand a particular grammar point, ask your instructor. In Spanish, of course! :)

- b) **Use idioms and expressions that native speakers use.** You will listen to native speakers in different media and will create your own dialogues using the expressions/vocabulary you just learned.
- c) **Try to understand spoken Spanish.** You will listen to songs in Spanish, videos, and other resources available on the web.
- d) **Express yourself accurately in writing.** You will achieve this through in-class activities, web based exercises, and supplemental activities.
- e) **Participate actively and fearlessly in Spanish conversations.** You will be required to speak up every time the class meets and may be required to practice your language skills outside the classroom.

VI. Determination of course grade:

Homework _____ **20%**

This includes all assignments from the textbook and the *My Spanish Lab*, along with any other work that your instructor may assign. Homework is not accepted late and is **mandatory**. If you are absent on any given day, please contact your instructor or a classmate to find out what was assigned on that day. The following are the only conditions under which a late homework assignment will be accepted: you were absent because of a medical emergency requiring hospitalization; you were on jury duty; you were attending the funeral of an immediate member of your family; you were away on official UTEP business. **Documentary proof of any of the above must be provided before or immediately after the fact.** The course calendar gives you a general idea of what parts of the textbook and the *My Spanish Lab* will be covered on any particular day; you must therefore read the course calendar very carefully. All the homework assignments that you turn in will receive full credit provided that they are **completed** and **submitted on time**. The last day to submit your MSL assignments is Friday by noon.

To register for My Spanish Lab, please go to www.myspanishlab.com

Enter the access code (included in your textbook)

And then enter this course ID: **CRSKLE2-6044827**

Online Exams _____ **30 %**

The exams will be available on Blackboard Monday night after class and they are due Wednesday at 11:59 P.M. Please note that there are no “make-ups” or a final exam. Your grade will be “O” (on that exam) if you fail to submit your exam on the date it is due. Make sure you work individually on your exams or you might be sent to the Deans Office for Academic Dishonesty.

Exam 1 _____ 15 %

Exam 2 _____ 15 %

Projects _____ **30%**

The projects are **mandatory**. You will find the project descriptions and rubrics on Blackboard. **Please note that you will be dropped from the class if you fail to show up on the day the project is due. If the course drop deadline has already passed, you will receive an “F”.**

Project 1 (Conducting a Survey) _____ 15 %

Project 2 (Instructional Presentation) _____ 15%

Online Discussions/Writing Activities _____ **10%**

These discussions/writing activities will be available on Blackboard every Monday and they are due Wednesday at 11:59 P.M.

Weekly Quizzes _____ **10%**

You will have a readiness quiz at the beginning of each class to see if you are familiar with the grammatical structures to be covered on that day. The video tutorials you need in order to prepare for these quizzes will be available on MSL every Monday.

VII. Grading scale: The following scale applies to all graded components of this course:

A = 90.00-100.00 B = 80.00-89.99 C = 70.00-79.99 D =
65.00-69.99 F = 0.00-64.99.

VIII. Attendance Policy:

Please be aware that attendance is ESSENTIAL in an intensive course.

You are expected to attend class on time once a week. Your grade will not be affected if you miss one class. If you miss class a second time, you will be immediately dropped from the course with a W. **If the course drop deadline has already passed, you will be dropped with an “F”.**

If you cannot keep up with the attendance policy, maybe Intensive Spanish 2301 is not the course for you.

Late arrivals and early departures also carry penalties for purposes of dropping or lowering the course grade: two late arrivals equal one absence, two early departures equal one absence, and one late arrival plus one early departure equal one absence. Exceptions to the above-stated policies are only made under these circumstances: (1) a medical emergency requiring hospitalization, (2) jury duty or (3) official UTEP business such as athletics, debating team, or band. Documentary proof of official UTEP business or jury duty must be provided ten calendar days before the fact; documentary proof of hospitalization must be provided on the day you return to class.

You can also be dropped for lack of effort or disruptive behavior (not registering for *My Spanish Lab* and failure to complete the Blackboard assignments on time, not bringing your book/materials to class, using your lap top/tablet for purposes others than accessing the e-book, text messaging, etc).

IX. Students with any type of disabilities:

The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) is committed to providing for the needs of enrolled or admitted students who have disabilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). Therefore, it is the policy of UTEP that the campus makes services available for any student who, through a recent assessment, can document a disability.

X. Course Policies:

1. Only work submitted by the deadlines will receive credit. No late work of any kind will be accepted. You must complete all the assignments for each module on time. The best way to prepare yourself for the next level of Spanish study is to complete all assignments in a timely manner. Using unauthorized help or methods in completing the activities is not a good idea. Not only is it unethical, but you will be putting yourself at a great disadvantage in upper-level courses if you have not mastered the material in SPAN 2301.
2. No extra-credit assignments will be made.
3. No make-up exams will be given without a prompt, valid excuse. If approved, the make-up exam must be scheduled immediately.
4. Due to the nature of the course, communication between you and your instructor is crucial. You must check your e-mail and the Blackboard announcements regularly.
5. If you have special circumstances, bring them to the attention of your instructor immediately.

All communication from me will go to your Blackboard address. I strongly recommend that you use your Blackboard account for all e-mails regarding your course. Hotmail users should be aware that Hotmail will block messages sent from within Blackboard because Blackboard uses "blind carbon copy" to protect privacy. If you forward your mail to a commercial e-mail service provider (yahoo.com or msn.com, for example), messages from me or other students may be delayed because these service providers sometimes place temporary blocks on messages originating from universities.

It is extremely important for you to save copies of any messages you send to your instructor via e-mail. If your instructor doesn't receive your message, you must have a copy of the e-mail (with any attached file), indicating the date sent, to prove that you sent the message. It is your responsibility to maintain copies of your sent e-mails, as there is no way to guarantee that any e-mail message will be delivered. Please check your e-mail software to see how it manages sent and saved messages. Some software automatically deletes messages one month after they have been sent; others only save messages if they are filed in folders; others save messages received but not those sent. You may need to send yourself a copy of your e-mailed assignment at the same time you send it to your instructor, or you may need to print a copy of the e-mail message and any attachments to keep in your paper files. No matter how your system works, make sure you know how to save copies of all messages that you send to your instructor and that you save the copies for several months beyond the end of the course.

XI. Technical knowledge:

It is expected that you have basic Internet skills if you are in this course. Those skills include the ability to login to the course web site and send and receive email with attachments. Also, you must be familiar with MS Word to complete the course and know how to save all assignments in RTF (rich text format). If you need to review any of the Internet basics, please go to the Microsoft site and brush up.

XII. Student Commitment:

You should allocate adequate time each week for reading the textbook and completing all online assignments. You are responsible for keeping up to date with all lessons and assignments. Hybrid courses take as much time (and sometimes more) to complete successfully as traditional courses, so please plan accordingly. Our traditional courses meet on-campus 3 hours per week with an additional 5 to 6 hours of outside work per week. Therefore, you need to be able to commit at least 13 to 15 hours per week to this course in order to be successful.

Attendance will be taken for every class meeting. The method by which attendance is taken will be determined by the faculty member and clearly outlined in the class syllabus.

Regular and prompt class attendance is expected of every student. A student's absence means that the student is not able to participate in the class.

XIII. Preparation for Computer Emergencies:

Computer Crash: Not having a working computer or a crashed computer during the semester will NOT be considered as an acceptable reason for not completing course activities at a scheduled time. NOTE: Identify a second computer that you can use when/if your personal computer crashes.

Server problems: When the Blackboard server needs downtime for maintenance, the Blackboard administrator will post an announcement in your course informing the time and the date. If the server experiences unforeseen problems your course instructor will send an email.

Complete Loss of Contact: If you lose contact with me completely (i.e. you cannot contact me via Blackboard or email), please contact me at my telephone and explain the reason you cannot contact me and leave me a way to contact you.

Lost/Corrupt/Disappeared files: You must keep/save a copy of every project/assignment on an external disk or personal computer. In the event of any kind of failure (e.g., Blackboard server crash or virus infection, students own computer crashes, loss of files in cyberspace, etc.) or any contradictions/problems, I may/will request you to resubmit the files. In other words, if you submit a document to me, and I either do not receive it (lost in cyberspace) or it is corrupted when I open it, it is incumbent upon you to resend it to me, corrected, with little or no "downtime" in regard to the timeline for submission.

XIV. Time Management:

The tentative schedule contains all assignments and deadlines in details so you can plan ahead. Expect to spend three hours on preparation and learning assignments for every semester credit hour. Since this class is a 3 credit hour class, expect to spend about 9 hours out of class on assignments for a total of about 12 hours per week to obtain a good grade in class. Please,

combine the course schedules of all your classes, create your own study schedule and stick to it.

XV. Course Policies: Cheating, Plagiarism, Scholastic Dishonesty, and Student Discipline:

Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

From the Handbook of student procedures:

a. Cheating:

- “Copying from the test paper of another student, engaging in written, oral, or any other means of communication with another student during a test, or giving aid to or seeking aid from another student during a test;
- possession and/or use during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes, books, or specifically designed “crib notes”;
- using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program; using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters but which will be used again either in whole or in part without permission of the instructor; or accessing a test bank without instructor permission;
- collaborating with or seeking aid from another student for an assignment without authority;
- substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one's self, to take a test; and
- falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit”

b. Plagiarism:

“means the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of it in one's own academic work offered for credit, or using work in a paper or assignment for which the student had received credit in another course without direct permission of all involved instructors”

c. Collusion:

“means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on scholastic dishonesty”.