

# SPRING 2025 - Advanced Composition (21988)

## January 21 – May 8 (9 am - 10:20 am)

### Monday & Wednesday

### Liberal Arts. Room 206

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Lib Arts 214. (915) 747-7022  
Office hours: M, W (10:30 am -12 pm)  
Meetings also available by appointment

## About the Course:

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**Advanced Composition** Reviews aspects of grammar essential to effective writing, introduction to elements of style and rhetoric, vocabulary building, intensive practice with written assignments and graded compositions.

**Prerequisites:** SPAN 2302 (w/D or better), SPAN 2304 (w/D or better), (SPAN 2602 w/D or better), (SPAN 2603 w/D or better) or department placement exam. This course will be taught in Spanish. The Department of Chicano Studies, Languages, and Linguistics reserves the right to rectify errors in placement caused by a student's failure to observe these guidelines, including the option to drop a student enrolled in an inappropriate course.

**Credit Hours:** 3 Credit Hours

## Student Learning Outcomes:

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Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Read, comprehend, and analyze authentic texts in Spanish.
- 2) Write short reports and essays that display effective organization and coherence, command of grammatical structures, and minimal orthographic errors.
- 3) Employ diverse vocabulary and a variety of grammatical structures contrasting between formal and informal social contexts in oral and written communication.

## Computer Readiness:

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To avoid frustration with technological issues, please make sure you do the following before beginning this course:

- Update all your browsers (Firefox, Safari, and Chrome).

- Make sure that you have access to your UTEP email address and Blackboard so that you receive all my emails and announcements.

## Communication with the Instructor:

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Communication between you and your instructor is crucial. You must check your **UTEP e-mail** and Blackboard assignments regularly. All communication from your instructor will go to your UTEP e-mail messages. I strongly recommend that you use your email as the main source of communication.

You should also save copies of any messages you send to your instructor via e-mail (or cc yourself). If your instructor does not 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.

## Grading Scale and Distribution:

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The following scale will be used to calculate your final grade:

A	90.0 – 100%	D	65.0 - 69.9%
B	80.0 - 89.9%	F	64.9% or less
C	70.0 - 79.9%		

<b>Compositions (4)</b> .....	40 %
<b>Exams (4)</b> .....	40%
<b>Homework</b> .....	20%
<b>Total</b> .....	100%

## About Late Work:

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Due dates for every assignment are provided on the course calendar and during class. Unless otherwise stated, assignments are due on those days. Be sure to record the dates on your own calendar and make it a top priority to adhere to them as no late work is accepted.

Note: If you experience extenuating circumstances (e.g., you are hospitalized) that prohibit you from submitting your work on time, please let me know as soon as possible. I will evaluate these instances on a case-by-case basis.

## Class Attendance and Participation:

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To expand your proficiency in a language, you must be present in class to engage in active practice. Good attendance is a course requirement. Therefore, if you are absent an excessive number of times during the drop

period—from the first day after the end of late registration through the last day for faculty to drop students—your instructor will drop you from the course. Here are the rules:

1. You will be dropped from a class after you've been absent two classes in a row or after you have accumulated a total of **five absences**.
2. Late arrivals and early departures also carry penalties. Two late arrivals equal one absence, two early departures equal one absence, and one late arrival plus one early departure equal one absence. If you arrive late to class, it is your responsibility to tell your instructor at the end of the class period that you arrived late but that you were indeed present, for if you do not, it is possible he or she will mark you absent.
3. Exceptions to the above-stated policies are only made under these circumstances:
  1. A medical emergency requiring hospitalization.
  2. Jury duty or 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. Babysitting, work schedule changes, personal problems, unexpected events, or workload are not exceptions for this attendance policy.

## About the Drop Policy:

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Students who are inactive are dropped from the course. If an entire week goes by with no activity on your part either through email communication or through Blackboard activities, I will drop you from the course. **Therefore, it is imperative that you let me know if you are going to be absent from class.**

**¡OJO!** I will send you an e-mail letting you know that you are in danger of being dropped from the course. If you do not respond in some way, **I will drop you from the course by the end of the first week.** To expand your proficiency in a language, you must be consistent in the course to engage in active practice. Good consistency is a course requirement. Therefore, if you are not consistent, your instructor will drop you from the course. Here are the rules: **If you fail to complete the exercises, assessments, assignments, or discussions for a period longer than two days per week you will be immediately dropped from the class.**

Exceptions to the above-stated policies are made under these circumstances:

1. A medical emergency requiring hospitalization.
2. Jury duty or 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. Babysitting, work schedule changes, personal problems, unexpected events, or workload are not exceptions for this attendance policy.

## Students with Disabilities:

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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. If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or visit the office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106.

For additional information, please visit the CASS website at [www.sa.utep.edu/cass](http://www.sa.utep.edu/cass).

## About Academic Honesty:

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Engaging in any behavior that involves taking credit for work that is not your own will be penalized. There is zero tolerance for cheating and/or allowing others to copy your work on assessments and/or homework. Penalties for academic dishonesty range from an “F” on an assignment to dismissal from the course and/or the college.

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.

### **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.”

### **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.”

### **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.”

## Compositions (40% of grade):

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You are expected to write **four compositions** during the semester. All compositions must be typed and must be turned in by the scheduled date on the course calendar. Please follow the format that appears in Blackboard under the title “**Formato de Composición**”.

Compositions must be at least two full pages long, double-spaced with 12-point font and 1” margins. All compositions must follow these guidelines. Late compositions will receive partial credit if the instructor has authorized the submission.

Your instructor will make annotations and corrections, please attend to these, and make necessary revisions. To avoid typos and misspellings, please configure the language in Microsoft Word to Spanish (and turn on the spellcheck function).

To evaluate your written compositions writing rubrics will be used. Rubrics will be provided by your instructor and will evaluate in detail the following five components:

<b>Task completion</b>	<b>Comprehensibility</b>	<b>Level discourse</b>	<b>Vocabulary and grammar</b>	<b>Orthography</b>
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## Exams (40 % of grade):

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You are expected to take **four exams** during the semester. All exams will be taken in Blackboard and are scheduled by date on the course calendar and will be reviewed in class before they are to be taken.

## Homework (20 % of grade):

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You are responsible for finishing the weekly assigned homework. Please check the calendar to make sure you have completed your activities to receive full credit for your final grade.

**\* Keep in mind that as your instructor, I am here to help. If you have questions or feel like you might need extra help with any material or skills, talk to me first about the best thing to do. \***