

## SPA 323 Spanish Study Abroad (Intermediate Oral Communication)

**3 credits**

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the end of the semester, the students will have improved their ability to organize and express their thoughts in oral Spanish, will have increased their active vocabulary, and will have addressed relevant topics related to the Study Abroad experience.

Goals for the course:

1. Develop fluency on Spanish oral communication. Increase the vocabulary to be able to communicate in more complex contexts.
2. To explore the political and social ends of culture as manifested on different aspects of the study abroad experience.
3. To explore the ethno-history and value systems behind some of the Latin-American cultural beliefs and social behaviors.

### Required work:

- **Students will write a journal (see rubric)**
- **Oral exams will be based on journal content.**
- **A Final Presentation on a topic related to LA culture, history or traditions.**
- **Interviews to different local people.**

### Grade Break Down

<b>1. Final Presentation</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>2. Journal (6)</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>3. Interviews (3)</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>4. Oral Exams (6)</b>	<b>35%</b>
<b>6. Attendance to class</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Grades

A weighted average grade of 90% or more on all requirements = A, 80% through 89.99% = B, 70% through 79.99% = C, 60% through 69.99% = D, Less than 60% = F

**Final Presentation;** You must prepare and give a final presentation in Spanish in front of the class. The topic should be related to Latin-American culture, history or society. It can also reflect your study abroad experience learning. Final presentation should be fully in Spanish, no less than 20 minutes long. You can rehearse for that presentation. You are not allowed to read. You can use a power point presentation with short texts and pictures.

**Journal (6);** Write a journal on the specified topics (see journal instructions). There will be a total of 6 entries. Each entry has a minimum number of words. Journal entries are due to every Tuesday. Errors will be highlighted. It is your responsibility to correct them.

Your diary is not a "private space". It will be shared with other students and presented every week as your oral exam.

**Interviews (3).** You need to make 3 interviews to 3 different Spanish-speaking persons. (See instructions for interviews. Interviews will be presented to the class. **Check the due dates for those interviews.**

**Oral Exams (6):** Every week you and a classmate will present the content of your journal entry for the week as a conversation mode. It is important to rehearse prior to the exam. It will be graded based on the following:

a) All topics covered. Lead the conversation. Fluency. Accurate use of vocabulary and syntax. Duration of the conversation.

**Attendance:** Students are expected to attend every class session and to make up all work missed because of legitimate absences. After 1 unexcused or unexplained absence, your final grade will be automatically lowered by 5%, after 2 absences 10%, after 3 absences 15%, after 4 absences 20%, and so on.

- If you are absent, **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE** for contacting your classmates for any material/assignments you have missed. You should also check the course plan below and the assigned homework section on our class site in order to come to the next class prepared.
- If you know ahead of time that you will be absent, **TURN IN ANY ASSIGNMENTS PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF CLASS TIME.** Any work turned in after the due date will be considered late work whether or not you are absent. Please see the late work policy below.

#### Journal Instructions:

Week 1: Introduce yourself. How many people are there in your family? Describe your personality. What do you like to do? What do you do everyday in CR? What do you study in the States? What are your favorite colors, how do you dress, what do you have to do every day, comment on some historical event in your life.

Week 2: Talk about your family in CR and your family back home, describe two family members, say something about the place they live, where do they like to go, what can they do well, where do they like to go on vacations, what do they like to do in their spare time, etc.,

Week 3: Describe your home, tell us about your favorite season of the year, what you like to do and why you like that season, when is your birthday, compare yourself to someone in your life, give some geographical or historical information about your place of origin.

Week 4: Describe what you like to eat, tell us about who you know and what you know, write down a recipe for one of your favorite dishes (use the command form to tell us how to prepare it), describe your favorite trip, where did you go, what did you do, etc.

Week 5: Describe your health, what do you do to stay healthy, describe an accident or an illness you had when you were young, what do you and your favorite friend do with each other, what do you like most about your life, what are the things that you worry most about, what are you most grateful for in your life, what do you look forward to in the future, etc.

Week 6: Describe what you think you need, want and have, what do you want others to do for you, what are your favorite artistic and cultural events, what are your talents, what bothers, frightens and makes you happy.

What worries you about the environment, what have you done about it, what have you done lately that has made you happy, what relationships have you had that have made you happy or sad, what was the most difficult stage in your life, describe your ideal friend or mate.

#### Interview Instructions

The goal is to interview 3 different people during the semester. For this assignment you are not allowed to interview any of the Program Instructors or staff members. You should include the following people:

1 member of your host family.

1 person between: 16 and 22 years old.

1 person 50 years old or more.

All interviews can include some or all of the following information:

##### 1) Personal Information

Name, age, where is s/he from, etc. How is his/her personality? What are your favorite colors, food, activities, hobbies, and topics? What are your beliefs? Favorite sports, teams and music? Who is the most important person for him or her? Give some geographical or historical information about their place of origin

##### 2) Occupation (work, study, home, etc.)

Description of main occupation, what is a daily routine like, what s/he likes or dislikes about their job or occupation, what are his or her goals.

##### 3) Costa Rica

What is what s/he likes most about CR? What are the main problems for CR? What are the things or places s/he recommends to visit or doing in CR?

4) Other nationalities

What does s/he think about the following nationalities or origins?

People from Nicaragua, from Mexico, from US, from Panama, any others that may be relevant to him or her.

5) Indigenous people.

What he or she thinks or knows about indigenous people from Costa Rica

6) General

What is the best trip he or she has ever done? What he or she likes to do with friends? What he or she likes about life? What makes him or her worry the most? What are his or her talents, what bothers, frightens or makes him or her happy.

**Final Turn-In Instructions:** Your final blog posts will be due on \_\_\_\_\_.

Please do not copy content or media from the examples. Be original and creative.

You must post your link to your blog or website on our class website under "Journal" and your name. You can use any of the following links (or any other site you are familiar with) to create your online blog/website:

[www.tumblr.com](http://www.tumblr.com)

[www.blogger.com](http://www.blogger.com)

[www.webs.com](http://www.webs.com)

[www.tripod.lycos.com](http://www.tripod.lycos.com)

[www.weebly.com](http://www.weebly.com)