



Media Writing and Communication 3353 - 101
Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Fall 2026 August 24 – December 4
PY 203

Contact Information

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Prerequisites

Students who have taken the first four semesters of Spanish, as well as students with a near-native competency of Spanish, can take this course. This is an advanced course that counts towards either your Major or Minor in Spanish. Students with a near-native competency in Spanish, and who do not wish to have a degree in Spanish, are also encouraged to take the course as an elective.

Course Description

This is a high impact course designed to develop students written and oral competencies. This course is designed to develop the student's language skills through writing, translating, and speaking. It is a student-centered class based on the constant production and exercise of the communication skills of the participants. Because it is a student-centered class, individualized attention is offered that, despite challenging the student, does so from the level of skills and knowledge of each individual. The learning process takes place through practice and the correction of mistakes, and the goal is to develop students' self-confidence in their Spanish written expression.

This is a production class where students will be engaged from day one; hence student participation is fundamental and mandatory. One key component of this class will be students' participation in the translation of articles from The Wichitan, as well as the writing of original articles to be published in the Newspaper. It is throughout practices like these that students will be able to improve their language competency. There will be also activities targeting oral expression and general comprehension. The class will be conducted entirely in Spanish, but this should not intimidate students, since the interaction with peers,

and the professor as well, will only be conducive to learning and improving one's knowledge and competency.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

For this class you will not need a textbook, **but you will need an English/Spanish dictionary**. You will need also a notebook specific for this class. Use this notebook for your translations, your new vocabulary, and any in class notes. The use of a computer in the class while doing translations is strictly prohibited; however, students will be encouraged to use the computer when writing the original first version, already corrected, into a final version.

The use of cellphones instead of the use of a paper dictionary is allowed; however, if your professor detects you are using the cellphone for any other activities, your privilege will be removed and you will have to bring a paper dictionary to class.

Make sure you are familiar with d2l since you will have to submit your work on this platform. Also, handouts, materials, and grades will be posted there.

Instructor Class Policies

1. Students will do translations of articles and they will write original articles as well. Both should be submitted in dual format: on paper, in class, and electronically. Electronic submission will always be on d2l.
2. Attendance: You have the right to miss three classes, due to illness or any other problem, use this right wisely because you will be dropped from the class without further notification at the occurrence of the fourth absence. When the professor drops you from the class you will receive a grade of "F."
3. If your absences are due to illness that requires you to stay away longer than three classes, you will need to present documented proof of such illness in order for the professor to excuse the absence. It is up to the discretion of the professor to excuse the absence, particularly if you have already used your three 'free-pass' classes. If you have to miss classes for health or other important reasons, such as university activities, please contact your professor by email **immediately** for her to instruct you on what to do.
4. There are no make-ups for missed assignments.

Grading

Course Grade: The following components make up the course grade. The number of graded assignments will vary according to the discretion of the instructor.

Table 1: Grade distribution.

Assignments	% of Course Grade
In class participation writing and speaking	20%
Translation	10%
Original Articles	15%
Essay Exam 1	10%
Translation Exam 1	10%
Podcast, News Presentation and Monologue	20%
Final Essay Exam	15%
Total	100%

Table 2: Total percentages for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	90 - 100
B	80 - 89
C	70 - 79
D	60 - 69
F	Less than 60

In class Participation - Writing Process

There will be different opportunities to write in class. We will always write on paper without the use of a computer, please bring a dictionary with you. As we write we will ask the professor and our peers for meaning of words and better ways to express an idea: everyone is a collaborator. We will write a Review and a Feature in class, Enough input will be given as to how to write such pieces, and half of the writing and reviewing processes will take place in class. Visit <https://thewichitan.com> to see the Spanish section and the English content as well. Notice that you are expected to write original content, any sign of plagiarism will receive a grade of zero for that work.

Translation

Our first writing will be a translation of a news article. The translation will be done in class and not for homework, please, bring your dictionary. Students will not be allowed to use the computer in class, and there will be a peer reviewing process after the translations are finished. The final draft should be submitted via D2I, this is when the use of a computer is allowed, but be aware that if you use Google translator your professor will detect and you will receive a zero for the work and the grade won't be dropped.

Exámenes

There will be two written exams: one will be a translation, and the other one will be an essay, you will be able to use your dictionary for both, but during these exams you will not be allowed to use your cellphone as a translation tool.

Presentación oral

There will be three oral presentations for which the students have to prepare: A news segment, where students, without reading, will have to present the news as if there were a news anchor, this presentation will be individual. A Podcast, this presentation will be in pairs and it will have to be recorded; for this, the students will select the topic of their preference to talk about. The last one will be a semi-improvised monologue where the students will talk about a topic pretending to be influencers who try to sway public opinion. For all the activities there will be time to prepare and to rehearse.

Final Essay Exam

The students will have a final essay exam for which they will be given a topic to develop on the day of the exam. Students will be able to use a dictionary for the exam. The use of cellphones or computers will not be allowed.

Make Up Work/Tests

If you are absent from an exam, you must present documented proof of illness or university activity to your instructor before an early or make up exam will be scheduled. **Be aware that scheduling a make-up examination is up to the discretion of your professor:** the rule of thumb is, there are no make-up writings/exams. There are no make-up opportunities for translations nor articles, you have the due dates in advance, if you are having problems of any kind, talk to the professor immediately, do not wait until the due date has passed.

Important Dates

Classes begin: Monday, August 24.

Last Day for "W", 4:00pm: November 23 (Drops after this date will receive grades of "F.")

Deadline for August graduates to file for graduation: September 21.

Final examinations begin: December 5.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Assignment Calendar

Please be aware that this calendar of activities may be subject to change according to the discretion of the professor.

In Class Dates	In Class Activities	Homework
Week 1 Aug. 25 - 27	Translation	NA
Week 2 Sep. 1 - 3	Translation	Translation 1 st Draft
Week 3 Sep. 8 - 10	Crítica / Review	Translation Final
Week 4 Sep. 15 - 17	Crítica / Review	Crítica 1 st . draft
Week 5 Sep. 22 - 24	Noticia oral - Preparación	Critica Final / Preparación noticia
Week 6 Sep. 29/Oct.1	Noticia Oral - Presentación	Preparación noticia
Week 7 Oct. 6 - 8	Exam I – Translation Practice an Interview	NA
Week 8 Oct. 13 - 15	Practica Oral hacia el Podcast Escuchar un podcast Hacer grupos / Seleccionar tema Trabajar con el podcast	Trabajar con el podcast
Week 9 Oct. 20 - 22	Trabajar con el podcast	Trabajar con el podcast
Week 10 Oct. 27 - 29	Trabajar con el podcast	Grabar el podcast
Week 11 Nov. 3 - 5	Grabar el podcast / Presentar el Podcast	NA
Week 12 Nov. 10 - 12	Exam II Essay / Feature - Reportaje	NA
Week 13 Nov. 17 - 19	Reportaje	NA
Week 14 Nov. 24	Reportaje	Reportaje 1 st . Draft / Reportaje Final
Week 15 Dec. 1 - 3	Monologues / Influencer	NA
Final Exam (Essay)	Monday, December 7 at 3:30pm	PY 203

Desire-to-Learn (D2L) and Zoom

Please, be aware that D2L is going to be an important component of this class. Make sure your computer is up to date with software in order to run this program and be able to submit assignments. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Student Wellness Center, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

Emergency Aid Resources for Basic Needs

Unexpected life circumstances can affect anyone. If you are experiencing challenges meeting basic needs—such as housing, utilities, food, transportation, healthcare, technology, textbooks or other life necessities, resources may be available to help. Visit the [Student Emergency Support and Resources webpage](#) to learn more, and explore emergency support opportunities through MSU and how to access them. For additional information, please contact the Office of Student Affairs: Clark Student Center #108, (940) 397-7500, student.affairs@mstuexas.edu.

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees

are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “Run. Hide. Fight.” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: [“Run. Hide. Fight.”](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

Counseling

If you think you may be experiencing depression, anxiety, substance abuse or any other situation for which you think counseling may help, please visit the [Counseling Resource Page](#) where you can find great online apps and assistance that can connect you to a real counselor: <https://msutexas.edu/student-life/counseling/online-resources.php>