



**MIDWESTERN  
STATE UNIVERSITY**

A Member of the Texas Tech University System

**Media Writing and Communication 3353 - 101  
Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Fall 2024 August 26 – December 7th.  
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.

**Writing Intensive Course**

This class is a Writing Intensive course with a secondary aspect in Oral Communication. Students who take this class, combined with another Writing Intensive Course, can opt-out of the Writing Proficiency Exam. The courses that will pair up well with this one can be SPAN 4433 or MCOM 1243. You can find a complete list of the Writing Intensive Courses at MSU Texas here:

<https://msutexas.edu/academics/wpr/writing-intensive-course.php>

**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.

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### **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, when writing original work students will be allowed to use their computer to research for words but not as a translation tool. The use of cellphone or computer will not be allowed during the exams; hence, it's better to have a dictionary from the beginning.

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**

- 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, by the due dates posted in your syllabus, and electronically at the latest by the night of the due date. Electronic submission will always be on d2l.
- 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."
- 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.
- 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.

Table 1: Grade distribution based on percentages

Assignments	Points
In class participation writing and speaking	20%
Translations	15%
Original articles	25%
Essay Exams (2)	10%
Translation Exam (1)	5%
Oral Presentations	10%
Final Exam	15%
Total Percentage	100%

Table 2: Total percentages for final grade.

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

### **In class Participation Writing Process**

There will be different opportunities to write in class, from small compositions and dialogues to formal translations and newspaper articles. Writing in class will make everyone a collaborator and a participant. Everybody is encouraged to support their classmates in class work with corrections, suggestions of different vocabulary, and proofreading and reviewing.

### **Translations**

During the semester students will translate three articles for The Wichitan, and part of that process will begin in class. Be aware you will not be allowed to use Google translator or any other translation app. Everyone in the class will contribute towards the translation process. We will most of each article in class and the rest at home. Students will not be allowed to use the computer in class. The students will receive the English or Spanish version of the article on paper; the first submission for corrections should be done on paper, and it will be reviewed in class by one of your classmates. The final draft should be submitted via D2I. The professor will do final corrections to the d2I version for students to return the final version via D2I as well. The grades of both, the final draft and the final version, will be averaged to obtain a final grade for each translation. **\*Be aware that if you use Google translator your professor will detected and you will receive a zero for the work and the grade won't be dropped.**

On your syllabus, **\*for the same translation** you will see three different due dates:

- a) Translation 1 – First draft on paper
- b) Translation 1 – First Final Draft due on d2l
- b) translation 1 – Final version due on d2l

The due dates for each translation are specified in the syllabus, each student will receive a different translation than the rest of the class each time. Besides the class grade you will receive for the translations, you will be able to add one more skill to your resume 'Spanish Translator for The Wichitan'. Only the best translations will be published.

### **News Articles**

Also, students will be required to write reviews, features, and news reports for the newspaper. 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.

There will be three articles to turn in to be graded by the professor, and for possible publication in The Wichitan. Half of the writing will be done in class and it will count towards your participation grade. You need to be engaged in the writing process by asking questions and helping to solve problems. The articles in paper format will be the ones the class will review in peer review fashion; the first electronic version will be considered the student's 'final draft' and the professor will make corrections to it for the student to turn in a revised final version. The grades of both, the draft and the final version, will be averaged to obtain a final grade for each writing. The best articles, each round, will be selected for publication in The Wichitan, and you will be credited as the author.

**Notice that you are expected to write original content, any sign of plagiarism will receive a grade of zero for that work.**

On your syllabus, for the same translation you will see three different due dates:

- a) Article 1 – First draft due on paper
- b) Article 1 – First Final Draft due on d2l
- b) Article 1 – Final version due on d2l

The due dates for each article are specified in the syllabus, each student will have to choose a different topic to write about. Besides the grade you will receive for the articles, you will be able to add one more skill to your resume 'Spanish writer for The Wichitan'. Only the best articles will be published.

### **Exámenes**

There will be a total of three written exams. The first one will be a translation exam of an article by The Wichitan, and the other two will be in class essays. Only the use of a dictionary will be allowed during the exam, no cellphones.

### **Presentación oral**

The oral presentation will be a recorded podcast. In class we will listen to an example of podcast and discuss the elements of a Podcast. The students will form groups of two or three people, then select a topic for the podcast, prepare the podcast as a group and finally record it and submit it on a specific date.

### **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 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**

Last day for term schedule changes: August 29 Check the [Academic Calendar](#).  
Deadline to file for graduation: December graduates September 23 / May graduates October 4<sup>th</sup>.. Check the date on the [Academic Calendar](#).  
Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" October 9<sup>th</sup>. Check the date on the [Academic Calendar](#).  
Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

### **Desire-to-Learn (D2L)**

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work, not the individual to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

## [Office of Student Conduct](#)

### **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.

### **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) exist 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 an application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (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](#).

### **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 prohibit 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 as 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 the 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](#)

**\*Notice:** Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

### **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	Due Dates and Homework
08/27	Presentations Syllabus What is your level of translation and writing? Writing and Translation Practice	N/A
08/29	The Wichitan – Introducción Errores más communes en la traducción Gramática frecuente	N/A
09/03	First translation work in class	N/A

09/05	Peer Review Process	09/05 Translation 1 -First draft on regular paper due in class.
09/10	Ejemplo de una crítica en Inglés Practice: how to write a review, how to give opinions. What to write about The use of adjectives	09/10 Translation 1 - Final draft due on d2l Select a topic for your Review / Crítica
09/12	First Article – The Review / Una Crítica Una crítica en español Writing in Class	09/12 Translation 1 – Final version d2l
09/17	Writing in Class Solving doubts	09/17 First Final Draft on D2L (There will be no regular paper version)
09/19	Peer Review Process	09/19 Final version of the Review on D2L
09/24	Translation 2 in class	N/A
10/01	Peer Reviewing and corrections	10/01 Translation 2 Draft on regular paper
10/03	Writing in class	10 / 03 Translation 2 Final Version on d2l
10/08	Exam I - Translation	N/A
10/10	How to write a news report, examples	10/10 select the news you are going to cover for Homecoming
10/15	Writing a brief example of news report in class	Working with Homecoming article
10/17	Podcast: some characteristics. Spanglish: anything for Selena	Working with Homecoming article
10/22	How to conduct an interview, practice of interviews	<b>10/20 Homecoming article due on D2L</b>
10/24	Group work, creating a podcast	10/29 Organizing and practicing outside the classroom for the podcast
10/29	Group work, creating a podcast	10/29 Organizing and practicing outside the classroom for the podcast
10/31	Podcast Recording and submission / No class	10/31 Podcast Recording and submission / No class
11/05	Exam I – Essay Exam	
11/07	¿Qué es un reportaje o Feature? Seleccionar tema para el 'Feature' o 'Reportaje'.	11/07 Comunica el tema de tu feature a la profesora



	Cómo escribir un Feature incluyendo una entrevista	
11/12	La entrevista – Hacer la entrevista al invitado de la clase Escribir un mini-feature en clase como ejemplo	
11/14	Writing in class	11/14 Bring all your information for your feature, including your interview
11/19	Writing in class	
11/21	Peer Reviewing	11/21 Bring your first draft on regular paper
11/26	Writing in class	11/26 Submitting your final paper on D2L
11/28	Thanks Giving	N/A
12/03	Exam II Essay	
12/05	Atando cabos sueltos	
Final Exam TBA	The Final Exam will be an in class Essay	N/A