



Español Conversación y Composición 3333  
Section 101/Classroom DB 131  
Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Fall August 22 – December 2

#### Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Claudia Montoya  
Office: Bea Wood 100  
Office Hours: T, Th & F : 12pm – 1pm / T & Th 2:00 – 3:30pm  
E-mail: [claudia.montoya@msutexas.edu](mailto:claudia.montoya@msutexas.edu)

#### 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 MCOM 1243, ENGL 2223, or ENGL 3203. 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 and speaking, translating and interpreting. 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 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. You will need a notebook that your professor will provide. Use this notebook for your translations, your new vocabulary, and any in class notes. Also, you will need a Spanish/ English dictionary. 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. Students will be allowed to use their cellphones to search for words, but the privilege will be lost if students start texting and getting distracted. The cellphone, as well as the computer, will be only tools for the 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.

#### Important Dates

Classes begin ..... August 22  
Change of Schedule and late registration..... August 22 - 25  
Last Day for "W", 4:00 p.m. – Drops after this date will receive grades of "F." ..... October 24  
Labor Day, no classes .....  
September 5  
Deadline for August graduates to file for graduation..... September

### 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, 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.
2. Attendance: You have the right to miss three classes, do 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 (such as COVID or Surgery), 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 or not, 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 quizzes and graded assignments will vary according to the discretion of the instructor.

Table 1: Grade distribution.

Assignments	% of Course Grade
In class writing / Participation	15%
In class talking / Participation	10%
Translations	15%
Original Articles	20%
Essay Exam 1	5%
Essay Exam 2	5%
Translation Exam 1	5%
Presentación Oral	10%

Assignments	% of Course Grade
Final Essay Exam	10%
Final Oral Exam	5%
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, 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.

### **In class Participation Oral Component**

During the semester students will practice and develop their oral abilities thru different exercises like interviews, sketches, monologues, as well as discussions of news items, video clips, and short readings.

### **Translations**

During the semester students will translate four articles for The Wichitan, and part of that process will begin in class. Be aware you will not be allowed to use Google translator. Everyone in the class will contribute towards the translation process. We will translate half of each article in class and half of it 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, while 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 writing.

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, news reports, and features 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 five 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 need be engaged in the writing process by asking questions and helping to solve problems. The articles in paper format will be the one the professor will check and grade, the 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.

### **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.

### **Presentación oral**

Towards the end of the semester, the student will give an oral presentation based on a current event, national or international. The student will have to research a particular news event and explain the present of the situation, the events that preceded the news, and what the student predicts, as the expert of the situation, may happen in the future based on the information gathered.

### **Extra Credit**

In order to obtain extra-credit, you will be asked to attend some University functions, particularly Spanish Club and cultural activities. Please understand that extra-credit is volunteered and not mandatory. There is no such thing as making up extra credit despite personal conflicts you may have.

There will be an extra .5 added to your Final Essay exam if you present the notebook you were given at the beginning of the class. The notebook should have class notes, translations, partial or completes, articles, partial or completed, sketches for articles, your vocabulary list, and any drawings or creative ideas you developed during the class.

### **Final Exam Oral**

The final exam will be an oral exam, via zoom.

### **Final Essay Exam**

The students will have a final essay exam that will take place on the assigned date provided by the Registrar's office.

### **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.

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

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

### **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 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 [Student Life Disability](#).