



Media Writing and Communication 3353 - 101
Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Fall 2023 August 28 – December 8
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.

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, 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

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, 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%
Translations	15%
Original Articles	25%
Essay Exams (2)	10%
Translation Exam 1	5%
Oral Presentations	10%
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, 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 D2L. The professor will do final corrections to the d2l version for students to return the final version via D2L 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

There will be two oral presentations for which the students have to prepare. In one the student will play the role of a 'News anchor' and in the other one will play the role of an 'Influencer'

As a News anchor, 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.

As an Influencer, the student will select any topic and prepare it so they will have to talk to the class as the 'expert' on such topic.

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.

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.

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 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](#).

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
08/26	A conocernos – Mini biografía Syllabus What is your level of translation?	
08/28	Review of the translation in class The Wichitan – Introducción Errores más communes en la traducción First translation work in class	
09/02	Peer Review Process	09/05 Translation 1 -First draft on paper due in class.
09/04	Una crítica Practica: como escribir una critica, como dar opiniones, sobre qué escribir El uso de adjetivos	
09/09		09/07 Translation 1 - Final draft due on d2l Select a topic for your Review / Crítica
09/11	First Article – The Review / Una Crítica Flechazos: dos versiones, argumenta cuál es mejor. Writing in Class	09/12 Translation 1 – Final version d2l
09/16	Biografía Nikola Tesla ¿Qué dijo? Comprensión auditiva e interpretación – frases sueltas Writing in Class	09/14 First Final Draft on D2L (There will be no paper version)
09/18	Peer Review Process	09/19 Final version of the Review on D2L
09/23	Translation 2 in class	
09/25	Peer Reviewing and corrections	09/26 Translation 2 Draft on paper
09/30	Writing in class	09 / 28 Translation 2 Final Version on d2l
10/02	Exam I - Translation	

10/07	Improvisando, cada quien en un papel diferente ¿quién eres? Construir un personaje. Seleccionar tema para el 'Feature' o 'Reportaje'. ¿Qué dijo? Diálogos – la peluquería y Album familiar ¿Qué es un feature o reportaje?	
10/09	La entrevista – Hacer la entrevista al invitado de la clase Cómo escribir un Feature incluyendo una entrevista Comunica el tema de tu feature a la profesora Escribir un mini-feature en clase como ejemplo	10/10 Select a topic for a Feature
10/14	Writing in class Preparar un discurso 'Influencer'	
10/16	Writing in class Work with the Oral Presentation, select topic and prepare	10/17 Feature Draft on D2L
10/21	Working and practicing the presentations / Getting into character (Gathering Information for a News Report)	10/19 Polish your oral presentation
10/23	In Class Oral Presentations	
10/28	La noticia – News report Ejercicios para escribir una noticia – Practica Escribe tu noticia y preséntala	
10/30	Writing News report in class	
11/04	Peer Reviewing	11/02 First Draft on paper of the News report (Gather information for a second News Report)
11/06	Second Oral Presentation, preparation: News Anchor (Create a fictional news according with your area of expertise, pasado, presente y futuro)	11/07 Final Version News Report on D2L (Gather information for a second News Report)
11/11	Second Oral Presentation	(Gather information for a second News Report)
11/13	Second News Report In class writing	
11/18	Peer Reviewing	11/15 Second News Report Draft on Paper
11/20	Exam II – Essay Exam	11/17 Second News report Final Version on D2L
11/25	Entrevista en clase a un invitado	11/22 Translation 3 – Final Draft on d2l
11/27	Thanks Giving	
12/02	Translation 3 in class	
12/04	Peer Review	11/30 Translation 3 Draft on paper