



Course Syllabus: Senior Capstone
Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences
SPAN 4433 Section 280
Spring 2023 – Mondays 5:00pm – 7:50pm

Contact Information

Instructor: Philip Allen, Ph.D.
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Instructor Response Policy

You are welcome and encouraged to attend my regularly scheduled office hours or to call my office phone during those times. Outside of office hours, the best way to contact me is via MSU Texas email or D2L message. You should expect a response within 24 hours on weekdays and 48 hours on weekends, holidays, and days that the university is closed (Spring Break, etc.).

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Required:

1. González Pino, Ana María, Rocío Barros Lorenzo, and María del Mar Freire Hermida. *Curso de literatura: español lengua extranjera*. Madrid, Edelsa, 2006. ISBN: 978-84-908-1801-5
2. Kattán-Ibarra, Juan and Angela Howkins. *Spanish Grammar in Context*. London, Routledge, 2014. ISBN: 978-0-415-72347-3

Recommended:

1. A good Spanish dictionary
2. Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. New York, Modern Language Association of America, 2021. ISBN: 9781603295611

Course Description

Consolidation of vocabulary and grammar through practice of language functions. Further development of listening and reading skills. Review of language structures, Hispanic cultures, geography, history, and literature.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes/Course Competencies

This course is designed for advanced students of Spanish who have completed at least 15 advanced hours of Spanish and/or are completing their coursework requirements within two semesters. Students will review/acquire the tools and knowledge necessary to conduct research and write a term paper in Spanish over the presence of canonical Spanish-language literature in modern popular culture. Students are expected to read assignments from the text, prepare reaction papers based on the material, and discuss material in class. Some class sessions will be conducted in a workshop format. Other sessions will be handled in a discussion format.

Additionally, this is the class in which the Department carries out many of its assessment-of-the- program measures. Thus, you will be requested to self-assess your abilities at various points. Failure to do so will result in a non-passing grade for the course. Satisfactory completion of the course will document that students have demonstrated the ability to:

1. Prepare a formal *résumé* and cover letter in Spanish in preparation for future career opportunities.
2. Clearly define and articulate career goals and how knowing Spanish will contribute to achieving these goals.
3. Draft, revise, and polish reaction papers in Spanish for instructor review and scoring.
4. Understand and implement prescriptive grammar norms for formal written expression.
5. Formulate and elaborate upon an original thesis statement.
6. Participate in a scholarly peer-review of classmates' work.
7. Compose, review, and submit an original research essay in Spanish.
8. Participate in scholarly meetings by preparing and delivering an oral presentation on original research essay.
9. Differentiate and explain literary movements throughout the centuries of evolving Hispanic literatures, visual arts, and cultures.
10. Identify characteristics of and speak/write in an academic manner about salient works of literature in Spanish.

See Appendix A for assignment matrix

Writing Intensive Course

This course is designated as Writing Intensive (WI). This means that at least 50% of the final course grade comes from at least three writing assignments. Additionally, this course emphasizes writing as a process, meaning that students are expected to plan, draft, and revise their written responses. Finally, passing this course will partially fulfill the Writing Proficiency Requirement (WPR).

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook-2021-22](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

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's 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](#)

Grading/Assessment

The final course grade for SPAN 4433: Advanced Comprehensive Skills will be calculated according to students' performance on the following assignments:

Table 1: Percentage allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Percentage
Weekly Attendance and Participation	7.5%
Homework and Quizzes	7.5%
Résumé and Cover Letter	10%
Reaction Papers (5)	15%
Midterm Exam (Grammar)	8%
Term Paper	25%
Scholarly Presentation of Term Paper	10%
Final Exam (Literature and Literary Movements)	10%
Self-Assessments	7%
Total Percentages	100%

Table 2: Total percentages for final grade.

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

Weekly Attendance and Participation

Please note that attendance and participation contribute 7.5% toward the final grade in this course. Attendance and active participation in class are fundamental to the acquisition of language/literary knowledge and ability. It should be understood that enrollment in the class represents a commitment to be in class,

every day of class, for the entire class period. If you cannot attend class for some reason, such does not mean that you have the right to simply skip that information but, rather, that you must make a double effort on your part to find out what you missed and what you need to do for the next class period. In fact, the attendance grade is based on your being in class for the entire 170-minute period. Arriving more than 10 minutes after the class start-time will result in a deduction of 1 point from your overall attendance grade (each occurrence); arriving after 30 minutes (or leaving 30 minutes before class ends) will result in a deduction of 2 points (each occurrence). Your attendance and participation can earn you a maximum of 10 points per week. Although you must be in class in order to participate in the lessons, simply being present does not guarantee a perfect score in this category. Each absence lowers your attendance grade by 10 points per week. Please refer to the "Rubric for Grading Attendance and Participation" on the course D2L site (Content > Read Me First).

Note on absences: No absence will be "excused" without written documentation (telling me orally is not sufficient), and only then will it be excused if it involves an official religious holiday, university activity, illness, death, or other catastrophic event. Any unexcused absence will result in a "0" for that day's activities; excused absences will not be factored into the final grade (they will neither increase or decrease your total course grade).

Absence on the day of term paper presentations and the Midterm and Final Exams will constitute an automatic grade of zero, "0," for the entire category of "Attendance" (i.e., your entire Attendance grade for the entire semester will be a "0" and for the Final Exam.

Homework and Quizzes

Regular assignments will be made from the text and from other sources (these will be detailed on the course calendar and D2L class site which you should check every week). Students are expected to prepare homework (*deberes*) as assigned and submit it via D2L Dropbox before the start of class on the due date or have it completed and ready to submit in person before the start of class on the due date. Independent study of grammar and vocabulary is also expected. Occasional in-class quizzes, based on homework and class work, will be given and scores will also be factored into this grade category. Graded homework assignments and quizzes will contribute 7.5% to the overall course grade.

Résumé and Cover Letter

You will prepare a polished, professional "job application package" package that includes a well-written and reviewed Résumé and Cover Letter. Your scores on these items will contribute 10% to your overall course grade. Both aforementioned items must be reviewed and critiqued by the MSU Texas Career Management Center and your final submitted draft must demonstrate changes made to the document as a result of their feedback. Your score for this grade category will be determined according to the following percentages:

1. Rough draft of both documents (30%) - Due in D2L on February 27.
2. Participation in peer-review of application documents and completed Peer Review Form (15%) - Due in D2L on March 6.

3. Final draft of both documents (55%) - Due in D2L on March 6.
Please consult the "Rubric for Grading Job Application Materials" for more information on how the submitted drafts will be graded.

Reaction Papers

You will write a total of five (5) reaction papers throughout the semester that will collectively contribute 15% to the overall course grade. A reaction paper is a brief essay (minimum of 700 words, roughly three pages, written in 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced) about a literary work, movement, or topic that is directly responsive to the material being covered in class. You will be provided a prompt for some reaction papers; for others, each student will choose a topic to write on. Reaction papers must be written in Spanish. You should include a title, an introductory paragraph, and a conclusion for each reaction paper. Citing from outside sources is encouraged and proper MLA 9th edition citation guidelines must be followed. See the "Rubric for Grading Written Assessments" (D2L > Content > Read Me First) for more information about how these items will be scored. Reaction papers will be graded on a weighted scheme, meaning that they will all be worth the same amount of points. You should upload reaction papers to D2L prior to the beginning of class on February 6, March 6, March 20, April 10, and April 17. *Turnitin* will be enabled.

Mid-Term Exam

The Midterm Exam will cover all grammar items studied in the class prior to the exam date. The exam will consist of matching and/or multiple-choice questions, fill-in-the-blank questions, short answer questions, and error identification exercises. The Midterm Exam contributes 8% to the final course grade. The Mid-Term Exam is scheduled for March 13, 2023.

Term Paper

The term paper will consist of an original written research essay (following the MLA style 9th edition ONLY) on a topic pre-approved by the professor with a **minimum of 10 pages**, excluding the bibliography. The term paper must be written entirely in Spanish. Please be aware—if writing a literary-based paper—that author biography and plot summary are not appropriate content for a research paper and will result in a deduction of the grade assigned to the paper. In order to demonstrate that you have thoroughly researched your topic, a substantial literary review (i.e., brief summaries of what other critics say about your author/topic) is required as a part of your essay introduction. **You should also overtly state what your paper's thesis is.** As well, the instructor is VERY demanding in terms of your following the MLA style manual, which you should practice consistently with your reaction papers; if you have any questions about proper citation and source documentation, be sure to ask! The bibliography must consist of at least 12 secondary sources, of which a maximum of one (1) may be a non-scholarly source (use [this guide](#) to help determine if a source is scholarly or non-scholarly). Students should individually consult, in-person or electronically, with the instructor and must obtain permission of the book/cultural

topic to study. Your overall topic (written as an abstract) is due January 30. Your thesis statement is due February 13. Your introductory paragraph, and outline for the project is due February 20. A working bibliography is due March 20. Your final term paper is due May 1 via D2L Dropbox (*Turnitin* will be enabled).

The term paper will be completed in various stages, each of which contributes a percentage to the grade of the term paper according to the following schemata:

Abstract (5%): A brief (3-4 complete sentences) summary of the topic you wish to address in your term paper. The topic must be discussed with and approved by your instructor prior to submitting your abstract. Please submit via D2L Dropbox prior to the beginning of class on January 30, 2023.

Thesis Statement (10%): One of the most important parts of your term paper, as well as the introduction which you will be turning in, is your thesis statement. The thesis statement should be specific, tell the reader precisely what s/he is going to learn upon reading your paper, and answer the question "So what?" (i.e., explain why it is important that the reader should take time out of her/his schedule to read your paper). Because the thesis statement is of such extreme importance, it is highly recommended that you closely read the following website concerning how to create a thesis statement, and what this should contain: [Thesis Statements](#). Please submit via D2L Dropbox prior to the beginning of class on February 13, 2023.

Peer-Reviews of Thesis Statement (2%): You will participate in the peer-review process of a classmate's thesis statements. To receive credit for this activity, please submit three copies of the "Peer-Review Form" completed by classmates via D2L Dropbox by the beginning of class on February 20, 2023.

Introductory Paragraph and Outline (10%): The introductory paragraph should inform your reader about the upcoming contents in the paper, an ample literature review (see above), and your thesis statement (see above). Along with the submission of the introductory paragraph, you must also submit an outline that mentions the contents of each paragraph that will form the final term paper. Please submit via D2L Dropbox prior to the beginning of class on February 20, 2023.

Peer-Review of Introductory Paragraph (3%): You will participate in the peer-review process of a classmate's introductory paragraph. To receive credit for this activity, please submit a copy of the "Peer-Review Form" completed by classmates via D2L Dropbox by the beginning of class on March 6, 2023.

First-Draft (20%): Once you have prepared the thesis statement and introductory paragraph, you will prepare a first draft of the final term paper to be reviewed by a classmate. You must include the complete list of "Works Cited" with this submission, although you may add or substitute secondary sources in

further steps of the writing process. Please submit via D2L Dropbox prior to the beginning of class on April 10, 2023.

Peer-Review of First Draft (10%): You will participate in the peer-review process of a classmate's first draft of the term paper. To receive credit for this activity, please submit a copy of the "Peer-Review Form" completed by classmates via D2L Dropbox by the beginning of class on April 17, 2023.

Second (Final) Draft (40%): By far the largest percentage of this grade category will come from your second and final draft of the research paper. The paper should show considerable improvement from the first draft and must include a complete and finalized list of "Works Cited" (see above). Refer to the "Rubric for Grading Written Assessments" for more information as to how the final draft will be evaluated. Please submit via D2L Dropbox prior to the beginning of class on May 1, 2023.

Scholarly Presentation of Term Paper

Towards the end of the semester, you will prepare and deliver a scholarly presentation of your term paper, which will contribute 10% to your final course grade (this grade is separate from the "Term Paper" grade category detailed above). You must include at least one visual aid (such as a PowerPoint presentation) and explicitly state your thesis statement and conclusions in the presentation. Your presentation should have a duration of at least 10 minutes and at most 15 minutes. A brief (5 minute) question-and-answer period will follow your presentation. Please note that you are not allowed to read the entire paper for your presentation; rather, you should prepare the most important and interesting pieces of your research to share with your audience. The Scholarly Presentations will be conducted during class time at a location that is to be determined. In addition to your classmates (whose attendance is mandatory), family, friends, and other MSU Texas professors are also invited to attend. Presentations will take place on May 1, 2023.

Self-Evaluations

These will be in-class exercises during the last few weeks of the semester. You will not receive a passing grade for the class unless you complete these and submit these (i.e., you will receive an "I," Incomplete," [if passing the class otherwise] or an "F" [if you have a failing grade at that point]).

Final Exam

The final exam will cover materials related to literary movements through the ages and some of the most important and iconic works that represent these periods. The exam will be done in a take-home format and will consist of essay questions for which you should complete a minimum of a five-paragraph answer (following proper MLA style guidelines) to thoroughly address all parts of each question. All answers must be written completely in Spanish. A minimum of 200 words —excluding "Works Cited"— per answer must be written. You must submit

a PDF file of your final draft of the final exam via D2L Dropbox by Monday, May 8, 2023 at 11:59pm. *Turnitin* will be enabled.

Extra Credit

There is no extra credit planned for any student in this course. If at any time during the semester you feel concerned about your performance in this class, please consult with me as soon as possible to discuss strategies to help you improve your grade before the end of the semester approaches.

In the event that an opportunity for extra credit arises, it will be available to all students enrolled in the course, announced in class, and posted to the D2L course home page.

Late Work and Make Up Work / Tests

No late work or make-up assignments will be allowed for this course. Please be mindful of the weekly deadlines outlined in the Course Calendar below and on D2L and plan ahead. If you know you will miss an evaluative event —exam, presentation, etc.— due to an official university function, illness, or religious observance, you must speak with your professor and provide documentation of the absence before a make-up exam can be scheduled. Absences from evaluative events should be avoided when at all possible and will be managed on a case-by-case basis between the student and the instructor as long as proper procedures are followed and any necessary documentation (medical, etc.) has been submitted.

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: January 20, 2023. Confirm date on [Academic Calendar](#).

Deadline to file for graduation: February 20, 2023 Confirm date on [Academic Calendar](#).

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" March 20, 2023. Confirm date on [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.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all meetings of the classes in which they are enrolled in order to stay on track with learning the material presented and actively participate in each session. I will be taking attendance for every class meeting as I track your progress through participation. You must be present in class in order to receive participation points for that day, which will be calculated

into your weekly grade. In the event of an excusable absence (university-sponsored sporting event, illness, religious observance, etc.), you must present proper documentation to your instructor as soon as you become aware of the absence in order to avoid losing participation points. If you will be missing class for a religious observance, you have until the end of the business day on the last day of the second week of classes to alert your professor of the absence in writing (5:00PM on January 27, 2023).

Student Conduct

Speaking in front of others in class discussions and presentations can be a daunting task, especially when you are acquiring new skills such as literary analysis. Mistakes are natural and necessary to the learning process. There will be zero tolerance for any remarks or attitudes that do not contribute to a constructive, respectful, and supportive environment, both to your classmates and to your instructor.

Mobile phones and other devices should be silenced and put away during class unless permission is given to use them for an educational purpose. Text messaging, making phone calls, and being off task during class time in any other way will not be tolerated and will be taken into account when calculating your participation grade.

Eating and drinking —with the exception of bottled water with a lid— is not allowed in the classroom.

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) 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 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 MSU TEXAS 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](#)

Notice

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

Appendix A: Course Schedule

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Week 1 01/23	Introduction to the course / Review of Syllabus / Expectations / Library Orientation (6:30pm)	N/A
Week 2 01/30	Career Management Presentation / Review of verb tenses in Spanish / Goals questionnaire	Term Paper Abstract (Due in D2L by 5:00PM today)
Week 3 02/06	Setting Financial Goals Workshop / Indicative Past Tenses (Preterit, Imperfect, Present-Perfect) / Writing the Thesis Statement	Reaction Paper #1 (Due in D2L by 5:00PM today) Career Goals Sheet (Due in D2L by 5:00PM today)
Week 4 02/13	Future and Conditional Tenses / In-class peer-reviews of Thesis Statements and Introductory Paragraphs	Thesis Statement (Due in D2L by 5:00PM today)
Week 5 02/20	Managing Your Money - Budgeting and Saving Workshop / Present Subjunctive / Adverbials / Clauses that Trigger Subjunctive Mood / In-class Peer Review of Introductory Paragraphs (turn-in during class).	Three (3) "Peer- Review Forms" of Thesis Statement completed by classmates (Due in D2L by 5:00PM today) Introductory Paragraph and Outline (Due in D2L by 5:00PM today)
Week 6 02/27	Protecting Yourself from Fraud Workshop / Imperfect Subjunctive / Conditional Review / "Si" clauses / In-class peer-reviews of application materials	First Drafts of Résumé and Cover Letters (Due in D2L by 5:00PM today)
Week 7 03/06	Compound Tenses / Prepositional Regimen / In-class error detection and correction exercises / In-class "job search" activity **Class today will be held in the World Languages and Cultures Computer Lab (BW 128)**	Final Drafts of Résumé and Cover Letters and three "Peer-Review Forms" (Due in D2L by 5:00PM today) Reaction Paper #2 (Due in D2L by 5:00PM today)
SPRING BREAK		

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Week 8 03/20	Ser and Estar and Passive Voice / Reported Speech Mid-Term Exam Today	Working bibliography for term paper (Due in D2L by 5:00PM today) Self-Assessment Survey ((Due in D2L by 5:00PM today) Grammar Worksheets / Review due in person at start of class.
Week 9 03/27	From Latin to Spanish / Linguistic Myths / Edad Media & Renacimiento	Reaction Paper #3 (Due in D2L by 5:00PM today)
Week 10 04/03	Barroco & Ilustración Reading Quiz	Reading Self-Assessment (D2L)
Week 11 04/10	Romanticismo & Realismo/Naturalismo	First Draft of Term Paper (Due in D2L by 5:00PM today)
Week 12 04/17	A Guide to Repaying Your Student Loans Workshop / Generación del 98 / Modernismo / Generación del 27 / Vanguardismo	Reaction Paper #4 (Due in D2L by 5:00PM today) Three "Peer-Review Forms" of term paper (Due in D2L by 5:00PM today)
Week 13 04/24	Boom and Posmodernismo / Self-Evaluations / Review of Literary Movements / Preparation for Final Exam / Self-Evaluations	Reaction Paper #5 (Due in D2L by 5:00PM today) Self-Assessment #3 (D2L)
Week 15 05/01	Scholarly Presentations of Term Papers (During class time, West Campus Annex Building: Olympus Room)	Final Draft of Term Paper (PDF ONLY) (Due in D2L by 5:00PM today)

Final Exam Due Date: Monday, May 8, 2023 by 11:59pm in D2L