

**Spanish 4133.101**  
**Advanced Oral Expression**

**fall 2024**

**MW 3:30-4:50**

**PY 203**

**Instructor information:** Dr. Oxford

[jeffrey.oxford@mwsu.edu](mailto:jeffrey.oxford@mwsu.edu)

teléfono – 940-397-4144

Oficina: Bea Wood 114

**Required materials:**

1. There is no required textbook for this course, but articles and/or links to important readings will be posted on D2L and students will be expected to read/study such.

**Recommended materials:**

1. A good Spanish-English dictionary (hard copy – bring to class every day since online/computer translation software will be forbidden in class unless **previously indicated** permission is granted)
2. Access to a computer with high-speed internet capabilities—NOT a Chromebook (see below for MSU recommendations).

PC Desktops and laptops Minimum Specifications	Mac desktops and laptops Minimum Specifications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Intel Core (i3, i5, i7) processors; 4<sup>th</sup> generation or newer</li><li>• 4 GB of RAM, 8 GB of RAM is highly recommended</li><li>• 256 GB SSD Storage</li><li>• Dual band spectrum (2.4GHz and 5 GHz with 802.11ac or 802.11n)</li><li>• Use Windows' Operating System and PC Info to find your hardware information</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Intel Core (i3, i5, i7) processors; 4<sup>th</sup> generation or newer</li><li>• 4 GB of RAM, 8 GB of RAM is highly recommended</li><li>• 256 GB SSD Storage</li><li>• Dual band spectrum (2.4GHz and 5 GHz with 802.11ac or 802.11n)</li><li>• Use Apple's About this Mac feature to find your hardware information</li></ul>

**Chromebooks are not recommended** as they will not work with D2L.

**Please note:**

1. This course is a F2F (face-to-face) course, and is designed with that in mind. But this class also uses supplemental D2L as an important component of the class. Please make sure you access the D2L (MSU site) every day for homework assignments, class updates, practice materials, etc. Either check your D2L email daily or have that email set up to forward to an account that you check daily—your D2L email is my only way of contacting you in case I need to do so.
2. As per The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR Title 34, Part 600.2), “a credit hour is an amount of work [...that] reasonably approximates not less than one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out of class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester.”

**Prerequisites:**

Spanish 3333 (Conv/Comp) or 3353 (Media Writing), or an equivalent, or permission of instructor.

## Objectives:

The main goal of this class is to polish your SPEAKING and LISTENING Spanish abilities. Communication is about making yourself understood. This means that proper pronunciation, grammar, and syntax (word order), as well as idiomatic expressions, are important, and you will need to demonstrate mastery of such.

In short, Spanish 4133, Advanced Oral Expression, is an advanced conversation course designed for students who want to improve their communicative abilities in Spanish. With this goal in mind, the course will also provide exposure to the other language skills such as vocabulary acquisition, socio-cultural competence, etc. which are integral to developing speaking fluency. Certain grammar points will most likely be reviewed on occasion based on the texts and on issues that arise in class, but you are responsible for knowing/reviewing on your own the various grammar concepts even if they are not reviewed in class.

This course combines a content-based language instruction with an interactive task-based approach. Individual presentations provide students with practice in making a formal presentation in Spanish, a skill that is necessary for many professional settings. Classroom and small group discussions will provide practice in a more informal style of speech. All these activities are designed to improve the students' conversational skills and practical knowledge about culture and language both in formal and informal settings.

## POLICIES

**Attendance:** Attendance in class is fundamental to the acquisition of the knowledge and abilities being studied/polished in this class. 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 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 80-minute period. Arriving more than 5 minutes after the class start-time will result in a deduction of 1 point from your overall attendance grade (each occurrence); arriving after 15 minutes will result in a deduction of 2 points (each occurrence). Each absence lowers your attendance grade by 3 points. Attendance will be 15% of your final class grade.

**Participation** is based upon your use of Spanish in the classroom. Don't overly worry about speaking perfect Spanish—although, of course, the goal of the class is to improve your oral communication skills (which means your linguistic accuracy). Accuracy will come with practice and repetition. Every day that you actively participate in class, in Spanish, during the entire class period, you will receive the 5 participation points for that day. Any use of English in the classroom will result in a deduction of 1 point (per instance)—if you feel that you simply must speak in English (you have a technical/complicated question, you want clarification, etc.), you should get prior permission from the instructor to speak in English in order to avoid the penalty. Students may also lose points for non-participation (e.g., sitting in their chair doing nothing—or doing something other than the task assigned—during group work time [if you finish the required task early, go back and elaborate more or do it again]) or refusing to attempt to communicate in Spanish when called upon, etc.). Leaving the classroom during class time—e.g., to go to the bathroom—is also considered non-participation and will result in point deductions (1-5, based on time spent off task). Any absence (i.e., skipping class) will result in a deduction in both your attendance and participation grade. Participation will be 30% of your final class grade.

**Homework.** Regular assignments will be made from a variety of sources. Grades in this section will most commonly be submissions to D2L dropboxes (D2L – Assessments – Assignments) or bringing hard copies of pictures/magazine articles/etc. to the class. However, there may be an occasional quiz or other exercise. Homework assignments will be 10% of your final class grade.

**Individual Formal Presentation.** Students will make a formal presentation from one of the topics proposed. You should prepare a 15-20 minutes presentation in Spanish. After choosing your area of interest from the ones suggested, students should organize their ideas and sources and meet with the instructor. Failure to meet with the instructor will most likely affect your grade. The presentation should be accompanied by a Powerpoint; the presentation should not be reading a script from a sheet of paper (or the Powerpoint)—doing so will negatively impact the grade. This will be 25% of your final class grade.

**Final Exam.**

During the final exam week of classes, students will complete a 15-minute oral interview with the instructor. After the Thanksgiving Break, students will need to sign up for a time slot. Arriving late for the interview will result in a deduction of the grade, and no make-up assignment will be given. So you must meet with the instructor at the agreed upon time to complete the assignment. The topic of the interview will be chosen randomly by the student (drawing a slip of paper with the topic from a box), but it will be one of the topics from this semester. Students should be prepared to use past, present, future and conditional tenses, as well as the indicative and subjunctive modes. There may be a visual cue as well, to serve as an “ice-breaker” or a conversation enhancer. Linguistic accuracy (i.e., grammar, vocabulary, etc.) as well as pronunciation will be included in the grade. The final exam will be 20% of your final class grade.

**Conversation grading rubric used in this class.**

Speaking Rubric for Spanish Class Conversation/Speaking Assignments

	4	6	8	10
Task Completion	Minimal completion of task and/or responses frequently inappropriate.	Partial completion of the task; responses mostly appropriate yet underdeveloped.	Completion of the task; responses appropriate and adequately developed.	Superior completion of the task; responses appropriate with elaboration.
Comprehensibility	Responses barely comprehensible.	Responses mostly comprehensible, requiring interpretation on the part of the listener.	Responses comprehensible, requiring minimal interpretation on the part of the listener.	Responses readily comprehensible, requiring no interpretation on the part of the listener.
Fluency	Speech halting and uneven with long pauses and/or incomplete thoughts.	Speech choppy and/or slow with frequent pauses; few or no incomplete thoughts.	Some hesitation but manages continues and complete thoughts.	Speech continuous with few pauses and stumbling.
Pronunciation	Frequently interferes with communication.	Occasionally interferes with communication.	Does not interfere with communication.	Enhances communication.
Vocabulary	Inadequate and/or inaccurate use of vocabulary.	Somewhat inadequate and/or inaccurate use of vocabulary.	Adequate and accurate use of vocabulary.	Wide use of vocabulary.
Word structure/word agreement	Inadequate and/or inaccurate use of basic word structure.	Emerging use of basic word structure.	Emerging control of basic word structure.	Control of basic word structure.

Fecha/Nota	Fecha/Nota
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Taken from: project-rubric.pdf

**Absences.** No “absence” or missed work will be “excused” without written document, and only then will it be excused if it involves an official university activity, illness, family-member death, approvable religious activity, or other catastrophic event. Any unexcused absence will result in a “0” for that day’s attendance and activities; grades for excused absences will be treated as per the section below entitled “Late work and make up.”

**Late work and “make-up.”** **ALL** assignments must be turned in by the stated deadlines; late work will not be accepted. There are **no** types of “make-ups” of any type in this class; in the best of scenarios (i.e., you present written documentation to justify an “excused” absence for an assignment), you will be assigned a grade of “missing” and the overall semester grade will be calculated without that. All requests for “excused absences” must be in writing, within three business days following the event.

**Remember, computer systems do crash and/or otherwise have problems; such, however, does NOT constitute a valid reason for an “excused absence” or waiver of the late-submission penalty; i.e., your failure to upload work to the system prior to the stated deadline. You can always upload things early.**

**Grading curves.** What you make is the grade you will get; don’t ask/beg for something you didn’t earn.

### **Student Honor Creed.**

“As an MSU Student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else do so. As students at MSU, we recognize that any great society must be composed of empowered, responsible citizens. We also recognize universities play an important role in helping mold these responsible citizens. We believe students themselves play an important part in developing responsible citizenship by maintaining a community where integrity and honorable character are the norm, not the exception. Thus, we, the Students of Midwestern State University, resolve to uphold the honor of the University by affirming our commitment to complete academic honesty. We resolve not only to be honest but also to hold our peers accountable for complete honesty in all university matters. We consider it dishonest to ask for, give, or receive help in examinations or quizzes, to use any unauthorized material in examinations, or to present, as one’s own, work or ideas which are not entirely one’s own. We recognize that any instructor has the right to expect that all student work is honest, original work. We accept and acknowledge that responsibility for lying, cheating, stealing, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty fundamentally rests within each individual student. We expect of ourselves academic integrity, personal professionalism, and ethical character. We appreciate steps taken by University officials to protect the honor of the University against any who would disgrace the MSU student body by violating the spirit of this creed.” Written and adopted by the 2002-2003 MSU Student Senate

Note: All assignments submitted are to be your own individual work (unless otherwise indicated in advance by the instructor). Having native-speaker friends, acquaintances, classmates, family members, or translation software (including AI) help you to prepare your assignments will be considered an act of Academic Dishonesty and result in a grade of zero (first occurrence) or a grade of F for the class (subsequent occurrence). There may be some assignments for which technological software is allowed for assistance, but these will all be preannounced verbally (if a classroom assignment) or in writing on D2L (if an out-of-class assignment); remember, **use of translation software is only allowed if/when permission for such is also given simultaneous to, and accompanying, the assignment instructions.**

**Students with Disabilities.** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-

discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Support Services in Room 168 of the Clark Student Center, 397-4140, and provide me with a copy of the accommodation paperwork; without that I cannot provide any accommodations.

**Safe Zones Statement.** The professor considers this classroom to be a place where you will be treated with respect as a human being – regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Additionally, given that understanding and sharing of cultural issues/differences between the original language culture and the target language culture is an extremely important part of any linguistic interaction, diversity of thought is appreciated and highly encouraged, provided you can respectfully recognize the validity of other points of view. It is the professor’s expectation that ALL students consider the classroom a safe environment; failure to respect others is grounds for immediate expulsion from the class for the remainder of the semester.

**Concealed Handguns on Campus.** Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University’s webpage regarding [campus-carry](#). If you have questions or concerns, please contact MSU Chief of Police Patrick Coggins.

## GRADING COMPONENTS

Section	Percentage
Attendance	15%
Participation	30%
Homework	10%
Individual Formal Presentation	25%
Final Exam	20%

**General class calendar:** see the D2L page for specific assignments