



Español Conversación y Composición 3333  
Section 201/Classroom PY203  
Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Spring 2022 January 10 through April 30

#### Contact Information

Instructor: Claudia Montoya

Office hours: M 1pm to 3pm – T/Th 2pm to 3:30pm – F 1pm to 2pm

Office: BW100

If you can't meet during these hours and you need to speak with me, email me, we can have a zoom meeting in the evening, by appointment.

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#### Course Description

This class will provide the students the tools and opportunity to improve their language skills through a 'hands on' approach to the language. This is a production class where students will be engaged from day one; hence student participation is fundamental and mandatory. The goal is to develop students' linguistic abilities and self-confidence in their Spanish expression by means of translation, interpretation, oral production and writing production. 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. Finally, the use of a computer in the class is strictly

prohibited, and students will be able to use their cellphones only when the professor authorizes it for the entire class, and only for class purposes.

Reading materials, as well as quizzes, will be posted on d2l for you to access them during your free time, not during the class time.

### Important Dates

Change of Schedule or Late Registration: January 10 - 13, 2022

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" March 21, 2021 (4 pm)

Final Exam: Thursday, May 3rd. from 3:30pm to 5:30pm.

### 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
Participación	25%
Exámenes de Ensayo	15%
Artículos & Traducciones	35%
Presentación Oral	10%

Assignments	% of Course Grade
Pruebas	5%
Examen Final Oral	10%
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

### **Participación en clase**

There will be constant discussions and exchange of ideas in class. Every day your professor will choose a topic and there will be discussion in groups as well as class discussion. You will answer questions both, in writing and orally, about short texts, monologues by native speakers, and short films, with occasional works in English as well. Sometimes there will be group work, and participation will be graded as well. Attendance is directly related to participation simply because if you are not in class, you can't participate. Also, there will be some in class translation of English written articles from The Wichitan, the University's newspaper; although most of the translation will be for homework. Finally, we will write brief in class paragraphs, in order to practice for the big 'Articles' that will have to be turned in along the semester, and that will be published in The Wichitan, the University Newspaper. One more aspect of the participation grade will be the participation in the GroupMe chat that the professor will create for the class. The GroupMe chat will be a tool for students to post questions on the meaning of phrases or words they are having difficulty translating. All kinds of grammar and vocabulary questions are welcomed in the chat, and other students are encouraged to answer the questions and contribute to the discussions. Participation in the chat with questions and answers will be 5% of the total participation grade for the class. If you have questions about the class, you can also post them in the chat.

### **Traducciones**

Along the semester we will be translating different articles from The Wichitan. Most of the translations will be for homework. It's strictly prohibited to use Google translator to directly translate the article. The students will receive the English version of the article on paper, and they will have to submit their translation by the due date in dual format, paper and electronic submission. The translation in paper format will be the one the professor will check and grade, the electronic version will be just to make sure there was no Google translation made on the part of the student.

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, there is no limit though

### **Artículos**

During the semester students will be consistently practicing different types of expression in Spanish, orally and in writing, like description, narration, dialogues, opinions, etcetera. One of the goals is to facilitate the practice to be able to write newspaper articles such as interviews, news reports, and reviews. There will be five articles to turn in to be graded by the professor, and for possible publication in The Wichitan. Those articles will not be in class activities, they will be for homework, and the due dates are in your syllabus. The best articles, each round, will be selected for publication in The Wichitan, and you will be credited as the author. If when writing you have questions, you can comment in the GroupMe chat, and anyone besides the professor will be able to provide an answer. The length and format of each article will vary. The articles will also be submitted in both formats: paper and electronic file using d2l.

### **Exámenes**

There will be a total of three written exams. The first two will be essays, in which students will be asked to apply the knowledge acquired in class, particularly when it comes to grammar, vocabulary, and general writing abilities. The essays will be written in class, and only the use of a dictionary will be allowed. The third exam will be an in class translation of a newspaper article, for this exam you should also bring a dictionary.

### **Presentación oral**

Towards the end of the semester, the student will give an oral presentation on the articles s/he translated and wrote for the class. The student will

explain to the class the content of the articles, what was interesting or important about them, where and why the student had difficulties with the work, etc. The presentation will be an in depth reflection of the work done during the semester. Some of the aspects to be evaluated are, the student's ability to communicate in Spanish, the structure of the presentation, the ability on the part of the student to make the presentation interesting, and so on.

### **Pruebas**

The students will receive a total of six quizzes on d2l, the quizzes will contain vocabulary and grammar exercises based on what we have been learning and discussing in class along with the grammar topics the students have to study on their own and that they can find online, the online link is provided in the syllabus. Students are expected to go over the grammar topics and do the practice tests online, as homework, using the links provided in the syllabus. All grammatical aspects are a review of what you have learned during the first two years of Spanish, so we will not go over those in depth in class since this is not a grammar class. Students are not allowed to make-up quizzes, if a quiz is missed the student will receive a zero for that quiz, but at the end of the semester one quiz grade will be dropped. The quizzes will be taken outside the class time on d2l.

### **Extra Credit**

In order to obtain extra-credit, you will be asked to attend some University functions, particularly Spanish Club and cultural activities, either in person or via zoom. 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 Exam Oral**

The final exam will be an oral exam, via zoom. Our final exam is Thursday, May 3rd. from 3:30pm to 5:30pm. This is a time and date assigned by the Registrars Office and it can't be changed. Failure to show up for the final exam will grant you a grade of Zero. The final exam will be an individual oral interview with each student. The interview will be about 15 minutes long and it will cover topics from the personal (not confidential) to the global, touching upon aspects covered in class.

### **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](#).