



**ADVANCED ORAL EXPRESSION**  
Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences  
SPAN 4133.123 TR 2:00pm - 3:20pm (PY 204)  
Spring 2022

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Professor:** Philip Allen, Ph.D.

**Office:** Bea Wood 105

**Office Hours:** Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10:00am - 12:00pm *or by appointment*. (face-to-face), and by appointment via *Zoom* or *Skype* (e-mail to reserve a time).

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**NOTE:** This course has been planned as a fully face-to-face course for Spring 2022. The class will meet in its regularly scheduled room but will utilize social distancing. Face coverings are encouraged. I will use D2L for posting the Syllabus, course communication, course schedule, attendance, and gradebook. You should regularly check D2L and the email hosted via D2L for important course information. This course is considered medium-risk according to the MSU Texas Return to Campus Task Force Academic Subcommittee's Report: <https://msutexas.edu/return-to-campus/assets/files/december-2020-reopening-taskforce-report.pdf> If you have health concerns that may affect your ability to participate in this face-to-face course, according to the guidelines set forth in the linked report, please consult with Disability Support Services as soon as possible: <https://msutexas.edu/student-life/disability/covid/student-concerns.php> Scroll to the bottom of the linked page and open the section titled: What is the process for working with the DSS on this issue? You may also call their office at 397-4140.

**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. Please check the D2L dashboard for this course and your MSU Texas email account daily. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Leave your comfort zone at the door! In SPANISH 4133, you will practice your oral production of Spanish during every single class meeting. This means, you are expected to be an active learner, not a passive recipient of information. After our first class meeting, when we will discuss the syllabus and course policies, we will speak exclusively in Spanish. You are required to speak in Spanish every day in front of your classmates and professor. Given that we learn from our mistakes, these are encouraged; however, as this is an advanced-level course, we will focus on minimizing our errors in spoken Spanish and developing full personal and professional proficiency in the language. To do so, we will cover a variety of topics and registers to prepare you to use Spanish in almost any situation!

## SKILLS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of SPANISH 4133, you will be able to understand and express complex ideas in Spanish at the advanced-mid level. This includes, but is not limited to:

1. How to maintain informal **conversations** with peers on a variety of spontaneous quotidian topics and **narrate** actions based on prompts.
2. Reciting **dramatic** dialogue without relying on the written text during the recital and acting-out the action of the words being recited.
3. Collecting and delivering **information** on current events in our **community** in a rehearsed, **professional** setting.
4. Watching, analyzing, and presenting about authentic Spanish language **films**.
5. Preparing **critical commentary** and offering an introduction to a debate among your classmates that you and a partner will moderate.
6. Engaging with native speakers in our community for an **interview** about their use of Spanish and cultural practices in the United States.
7. Broadening **cultural competency** by learning about Hispanic cultures from a representative of those cultures.
8. Preparing for and attending a mock **job interview** in Spanish as the interviewee based on your own professional objectives.

Some specific skills that will be developed in this course include:

- Preparing and practicing for the Diploma de Español como Lengua Extranjera (*DELE*) oral exam, advanced level (C1).
- Acquiring and incorporating specific vocabulary, disfluencies, and idiomatic expression into every day speech in Spanish.
- Delivering an oral presentation on an authentic Spanish-language film.
- Creating a “news broadcast” in Spanish to inform classmates of current events.
- Memorizing, reciting, and performing scenes from an authentic, canonical Spanish drama.

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- Preparing interview questions and conducting an interview with a native Spanish speaker.
- Circumlocution: learning never to rely on English to make yourself understood.
- Initiating and moderating an organized debate in Spanish.
- Controlling distinct linguistic registers: (in)formal, academic, professional, casual. Knowing *when* and *how* to say *what* to *whom*.

### REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGY

1. There is no required textbook for this class.
2. You must have regular access to a computer with high-speed internet capabilities.  
\*Chromebooks are not recommended as they will not work with D2L.\*
3. You must have access to a video camera (not on a cell-phone). Moffett Library has video cameras on loan if you request them in advance.
4. You must have access to a voice-recording device (*VoiceMemos* or a similar application on a smart phone will suffice).
5. You will need a small notebook in which to keep your “*glosario personal*,” a list of newly learned vocabulary that you will update each class.

### RECOMMENDED COURSE MATERIALS

1. A Spanish dictionary – NOT a bilingual English/Spanish dictionary, but a dictionary that provides definitions in Spanish.

**Example:** Larousse *Diccionario de la Lengua Española Esencial*.  
ISBN: 978-9702209959

### ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

All assignments submitted are to be your own, original work. You are encouraged to speak with your professor about assignments in advance if you would like additional instruction or assistance, but having native-speaker friends, acquaintances, or family members help you to prepare your assessments will be considered an act of Academic Dishonesty. Likewise, the use of online translators for any purpose is strictly prohibited.

Academic Dishonesty is defined as 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 individuals to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

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## 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.”

For more information on proper student conduct and university-wide expectations, including additional guidelines on the procedures mentioned above, please refer to the most recent edition of the [MSU Texas Student Handbook](#).

## GRADE COMPONENTS

Category	Percent of Final Grade
Daily Class Participation	25%
Oral Exam I	10%
Oral Exam II	10%
Oral Exam III	10%
Oral Exam IV	10%
Oral Exam V	10%
Oral Exam VI	10%
Final Oral Exam	15%

This course is divided into six distinct didactical units which are designed to smoothly transition your oral production capabilities throughout different registers of spoken Spanish. Following each unit, you will complete an oral exam to demonstrate your mastery of the skills acquired and built upon in that unit. Your progress will be assessed by an evaluation of your performance in the following areas:

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### I. DAILY CLASS PARTICIPATION (25%):

SPANISH 4133 requires you to practice **Active Learning**; that is, rather than being a passive consumer of the material, you must become a participant in the learning process.

Additionally, regular active participation will allow me to evaluate your overall progression in the journey to proficiency in oral Spanish production from week to week, making sure that you are reaching the necessary milestones in your progress. You will be expected to study and use new vocabulary, expressions, and/or rhetorical devices prior to coming to class so that you can gain experience recalling and producing these newly acquired elements when speaking. Keep in mind that this objective also applies to native, near-native, and heritage speakers as we will be practicing using Spanish in situations that you may not have encountered before.

**Note:** Although you must be present in class to participate, attendance alone is not participation!

### II. ORAL EXAM I: INFORMAL CONVERSATION (DELE C1 EXAM) (10%)

For this exam, you will be paired with a partner (one group of three may be permitted in the event that we have an odd number of students enrolled), but scored individually (in other words, your partner's performance will not affect your grade). You will complete the *Interacción Oral* portion of the DELE C1 (advanced) exam and your individual grade will be determined based on your ability to achieve the linguistic goals outlined in the attached rubric. The objective of this exercise is for you to collaborate in describing a situation, identifying a problem, and working together to agreeing on a solution to that problem. You will take this exam during class time. Pairs will sign-up for a time to take the exam on the exam date (listed below in the course calendar) and will wait in the hall to be called to take the examination. Specific details will be provided by the professor closer to time.

### III. ORAL EXAM II: FILM PRESENTATION (10%)

This exam will be completed individually as an oral presentation during class time. You must find a Spanish-language film produced and distributed in a Spanish-speaking country for a native Spanish-speaking audience, watch the film, analyze it, and complete an oral presentation of your analysis. You must speak with your professor about your choice of film during Week 3 to get approval for your film before you begin working on the presentation. Your presentation must be 10 minutes in duration and include visual aides (promotional materials, posters, stills, short clips, etc.). The objective of this exercise is for you to demonstrate that you can consume an authentic cultural product from the Spanish-speaking world and speak about it in an academic register to your peers, thus beginning the transition from the informal register to more formal ones. Your presentation should be well organized and rehearsed. If using PowerPoint or a similar slideshow software, your slides must follow the 7X7 rule (no more than 7 words per line, no more than 7 lines per slide). Reading directly from the slides or word-for-word from any notes will not be permitted and your score will be

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reduced for doing so. Your grade will be determined based on the linguistic goals outlined in the attached rubric.

#### IV. ORAL EXAM III: LIVE THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE (10%)

This assessment will be completed in small groups (3-4 students) during class time. In consultation with your professor, your group must choose a scene from a canonical dramatic work in Spanish, composed in verse (not prose), assign the dialogues to individual members, and prepare a performance of the scene you chose. The performance should be of about 7-8 minutes in duration and outside materials (such as props, costumes, digital backdrops, music, etc.) are highly encouraged. Part of your score—as outlined in the attached rubric—will come from your ability to deliver the dialogues with dramatic effect to demonstrate your understanding of the words you are speaking. The objective of this evaluative event is to become familiar with and memorize a segment of a dramatic text in Spanish that is central to the plot of a work that has had a significant cultural impact in Hispanic letters. Additionally, this exercise will help speakers from all different backgrounds to understand and employ the natural intonation and fluidity of the Spanish language, which will, in turn, improve your oral production in every register.

#### V. ORAL EXAM IV: NEWS BROADCAST VIDEO (10%)

This examination will be completed individually, outside of class. Having practiced an academic register and memorizing speech in previous units, you will be required combine these skills in a video in which you record yourself using the “news anchor” register in Spanish to inform viewers of a current events topic in our local (Wichita Falls) community. Your topics should be discussed with and approved by the professor prior to beginning work on this assignment. You must do sufficient research on the topic, prepare a news broadcast on the topic, memorize a spoken segment about the topic, and video-record your delivery of the broadcast. The video should last between 6-7 minutes and will be watched during class time for your classmates and you to practice commenting on current events issues that are directly related to your lives. Visual aids and/or on-scene reporting are highly encouraged. Your grade for this exam will be determined based on the criteria outlined in the attached rubric. The objective of this exercise is for you to develop new research and oral presentation strategies in a medium that is likely unfamiliar to you. You will also continue the transition from the academic register to the more formal “news anchor” one.

#### VI. ORAL EXAM V: INTERVIEW WITH A NATIVE SPEAKER (10%)

For this assessment, which you will complete individually outside of class, you must interview a native Spanish speaker that you have not met before. Ideally, this speaker will come from a cultural background different from yours (for example, if your family is from the Dominican Republic, you should seek an interview subject from a country other than the Dominican Republic, or someone from a different region of that country than where your family is from). You must prepare a list of questions (roughly 20) to ask the speaker prior to conducting your interview and receive permission to record the interviewee’s voice. Your

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questions **must be submitted for approval** to your professor prior to you conducting the interview. This exercise's objectives are two-fold: (1.) you are to practice speaking formally to an unknown speaker (unless invited to speak informally during the recording of the interview) and (2.) to foster a more profound cultural competency by learning how, when, and why native speakers living in our community use the Spanish language in their daily lives and how they continue to celebrate the cultural practices of their Hispanic heritage while living abroad. You must use a voice recording device (such as *VoiceMemos* or a similar smart phone application) and submit your assignment electronically to your professor. Your recordings will not be played during class and your grade for this task will be determined based on the criteria outlined in the attached rubric.

#### VII. ORAL EXAM VI: DEBATE (10%)

This exam, which will be completed in pairs, is designed to allow you and a classmate to choose a controversial or salient current events topic to investigate and present. The chosen topic should be an issue in which participants in political or popular culture are divided. Your task for this assessment is to work with your classmate to select sides on the issue (*for* or *against* it) and build your cases accordingly in an introduction in Spanish (6 minutes each). After you have introduced the topic, you should divide your remaining classmates into two groups according to their positions and moderate a debate between the two sides, all in Spanish. As this is designed as a professional/academic exchange, you should speak formally and with precise vocabulary in a way that your classmates can understand and actively participate in the debate. The total amount of time you should speak during the debate will be from 10-12 minutes, and at the end you should summarize the arguments made and declare a winning side based on which students best defended their positions.

#### VIII. FINAL EXAM: MOCK JOB INTERVIEW (15%)

The final exam for the course will require you to reflect on your own professional objectives and perform a search for a job in a Spanish-speaking country that you would be interested in applying for and qualified to interview for. You must submit a resume (in Spanish) and a copy of the job advertisement to your professor two weeks prior to finals week (33% of your grade for this assessment will be based on your turning these items in, complete and on time, although the quality of written expression of the resume will not be considered as part of the score). During finals week, you will come to Bea Wood 105 to "interview" for the position with your professor. This assessment will be completed individually and you will be evaluated on your control of the appropriate grammar and vocabulary for your profession as well as your ability to speak and behave in a professional manner during the interview (using the formal register, being prepared to answer questions, etc.). The attached rubric outlines the criteria for scoring this final exam.

**Note:** *Failure to attend class or a scheduled exam appointment on the day of an evaluative event without medical or official university documentation proving your inability to attend will result in a "0" for that assessment.*

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## GRADING SCALE

Grade	Percentage Range
A	90 - 100
B	80 - 89
C	70 - 79
D	60 - 69
F	59 and below

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

You are expected to be in class during every meeting in order to practice your oral expression in Spanish by actively participating 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. If the excused absence is completely unpredictable, you have one (1) week to submit the documentation to your instructor.

## EXTRA CREDIT

There will be no extra credit offered to 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.

## LATE WORK AND MAKE-UP ASSIGNMENTS

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 plan ahead. If you know you will miss an evaluative event —exam, etc.— due to an official university function, please make arrangements with your instructor prior to the absence and as soon as possible. Absences from an evaluative event (an Oral Exam) 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 has been submitted.

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## STUDENT CONDUCT

Speaking in front of others can be a daunting task, especially when you are being graded on your oral production. 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.

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

## 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](#).

Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary arrangements. Students must present appropriate verification from the University's Disability Support Services (DSS) Office during the instructor's office hours. Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodation(s) to a student until appropriate verification from DSS has been provided. Please provide any documentation from DSS to your professor as soon as possible.

## UNIVERSITY POLICIES

### CAMPUS CARRY RULES/POLICIES:

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#).

### SMOKING/TOBACCO POLICY:

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College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. 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.

GRADE APPEAL PROCESS:

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog](#).

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