

# Spanish 3013: Spanish Civilization

otoño 2021

lunes/miércoles 2:00-3:20 p.m., PY 203

**Instructor:** Dr. Oxford

**Oficina:** BW 116

**Horas de consulta:** MW 9:00-2:00; T 9:00-12:00

(but I am in my office much more than that, so feel free to come by at your convenience)

**Teléfono:** 397-4144

**Email:** jeffrey.oxford@msutexas.edu

## TEXTO MANDATORIO Y OTROS MATERIALES

**Mandatorio:** *España y su civilización* (Ugarte, Ugarte, and McNerney; 6th edition; McGraw Hill)

**Prerequisitos:** Spanish 2233 or instructor's consent.

## Objetivos:

Este curso está diseñado para presentarle al estudiante una introducción a la cultura española por medio de un estudio de la historia y las varias regiones y ciudades de España. Los objetivos principales del semestre son:

1. Adquirir un conocimiento general de los varios dialectos, idiomas, costumbres e historias de España y sus comunidades autónomas.
2. Aprender lo básico de unos temas específicos relacionados a las regiones y sus tradiciones históricas/culturales del país.
3. Adquirir una perspectiva de estos temas y cómo afectan la vida en, y cultura de, España.
4. Aprender información práctica de España y poder entender cómo son los españoles y por qué son así.
5. Mejorar las habilidades de escribir, leer y hablar en español.

## Notas importantes:

1. En este curso se emplea muchísimo el D2L. Se ruega que acceda al sitio de la clase en D2L **cada día** para ver actualizaciones de la tarea/práctica/información adicional/etc.
2. **Según** *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." Es decir, según las normas gubernamentales de los E.E.U.U., pasar un mínimo de 6 horas a la semana haciendo tarea u otras cosas relacionadas a esta clase es completamente razonable.
3. **Si usted porta un teléfono celular, u otro dispositivo electrónico, se ruega que lo silencie durante la clase. Mandar/recibir textos, o cualquier otro uso de dispositivos electrónicos, está prohibido.** Se ruega que hable con el profesor en caso de tener preguntas.

**Calificación:** Se computa la nota final del semestre según lo siguiente:

Categoría	Porcentaje
Asistencia	5%
Resumen noticioso semanal	15%
Tarea diaria	15%
Pruebas semanales	15%
Pruebas culturales	10%
Presentación cultural	20%
Examen final	20%

**Grade Scale:**

Percentage	Grade
89.5 – 100	A
79.5 – 89.49	B
69.5 - 79.49	C
59.5 – 69.49	D
0 – 59.49	F

### **Asistencia (5%)**

Attendance in class is fundamental to the acquisition of language 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 80-minute period. Arriving more than 10 minutes after the class start-time will result in a deduction of 2 points from your overall attendance grade (each occurrence); arriving after 30 minutes will result in a deduction of 3 points (each occurrence), and leaving before the end of class will result in a deduction of 2 points (if departure is before instructor dismisses class) or 3 points (if departure is before 3:00). Each absence lowers your attendance grade by 5 points.

**NOTE:** Failure to attend class during any of the three presentation days will result in a loss of **one-third of the total points of this section per occurrence**; i.e., miss one day, and the maximum you can receive for Attendance is a 66.6; missing two days means a maximum of 33.3 for Attendance. Also, late arrivals (failure to arrive before presentations begin) or early departure (before the last presentation is finished) on any of the three days will result in a **deduction of 10 points, per occurrence, from the overall attendance grade.**

### **Tarea diaria (15%)**

Regular assignments will be made from the text and from other sources (these will be detailed on the D2L class site which you should check every day). Students are expected to prepare homework as assigned, every day, and place it on the teacher's desk when they walk into the classroom **at the beginning of the class period** (if you want to check how you are doing on the homework, you should make a copy or take a picture of it so that you can have that available for when we go over it in class). **Only homework written entirely in Spanish and turned in at the beginning of class will be accepted.**

**Note:** homework is graded on a “points system” where each homework item of each assignment counts the same as any other individual homework item during the semester; all other grades for the semester are calculated based on an average in which each quiz/test/etc. grade for that particular assignment in toto counts the same as any other assignment’s overall grade. No late work is accepted; no homework turned in contrary to the above paragraph will be accepted, and no make-ups are allowed.

Your daily homework will consist of reading the assigned pages from the textbook and writing activities in Spanish which you will need to turn in. Your homework grade will be based on submission of any/all work assigned on D2L.

### **Pruebas semanales (15%)**

As a student in this class, you are committing yourself to coming to class each and every day completely prepared for class—i.e., having completed the homework and bringing any questions you may have (if you haven’t understood something about the readings/questions/videos/etc.). Your participation and attendance are highly valued and will help other students better their understanding of the material. If you are going to miss class, please so inform the instructor beforehand if at all possible.

Frequent quizzes, based on homework and class work, will be given; these may be announced (in class or on D2L) and/or unannounced. Every weekend, there will be a quiz on the D2L site that you will need to complete between Friday, 10:00 a.m. and Monday, 8:00 a.m. These will generally be 25-30 questions long with 75%, approximately, of the questions related directly to the material covered that particular week in class and 25% coming from material from prior weeks. No “make-ups” or “late work” will be given.

### **Pruebas culturales (10%)**

Every week there is a timed D2L cultural quiz (10 questions in 7 minutes). These must be completed between Monday 5:00 p.m. and Wednesday 8:00 a.m. You may take the quiz up to two times, and only the highest grade counts.

**NOTE:** The quizzes all have a general theme, and the items on each quiz relate to that theme. You are NOT expected necessarily to know the information, but you ARE expected to take the quizzes. If you **complete** every one of the quizzes, you will receive automatically a 100 for this portion of your grade no matter what you score on the quizzes. Every quiz that you do not take/complete will result in a deduction of 10 points (from a total of 100) for this portion of your grade. The answers to the quizzes will become available on Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. You should review these answers on the D2L site as some of these questions may appear on the weekly D2L quizzes. This is a way for you to learn additional cultural information about Spain which may not be in the text or covered in class. **The three persons with the highest overall score in this section at the end of the semester will be awarded bonus points.**

### **Presentación cultural (20%)**

In order to demonstrate a more comprehensive mastery of at least one topic/area of Spain, students—either individually or in groups of a maximum of two persons—will research one of the below-named topics, develop an oral presentation, and graded (in part) by other members of the class. Choice of topic is on a first-come, first-served basis; once chosen, that topic is no longer

available as an option for others, so contact the instructor as soon as you make your choice of topic.

The goal of this project is to combine/present research regarding cultural, historical and practical information. **Your presentation is a semester-long project and should reflect such in its depth/breadth.**

Your presentation should be both intellectually stimulating and visually appealing. At a minimum, it must be a 10-12 minute (15 min. max.; you will be “cut off” and asked to sit down at this point) presentation, entirely in Spanish, that you will present in front of the class, and include a handout (“brochure” or notes) that you will distribute to each person in the class, a written term paper (see below), and demonstrate an equitable distribution of work/presentation between group members. You may also want to keep in mind the following to enhance your presentation (remember, your grade will depend, in part, on your classmates’ comments/grading):

**General Topics (remember, you must develop/have ONE overarching thesis statement that ties together the various aspects of your topic):** (first-come, first-served)

- Disability issues and rights
- Domestic violence
- Drugs – non-medical usage (laws, usage, etc.)
- Economics (choice of particulars: employment, poverty, labor laws, GDP, cost of living, income, etc.)
- Education
- Environmental issues (do **NOT** include hunting/fishing)
- Family issues (e.g., child care/rearing, maternal/paternal leave, etc.; do **NOT** include domestic violence nor reproductive rights)
- Flamenco (and the *gitanos/rumanís*)
- Food and dietary issues (e.g., vegetarianism, obesity, caloric intake, hunger, etc.)
- Gender-related issues and rights (but **NOT** domestic violence issues)
- Gibraltar (history, current situation, future)
- Government subsidies and laws (medicine/medical care, unemployment, social security, etc.)
- Homelessness, housing, and squatter’s rights (*okupas*)
- Hunting and fishing
- Immigration issues (focusing on since 1985’s “Ley de Extranjería”; do **NOT** include terrorism)
- Important inventions, scientists and/or businesses
- Important cultural figures (authors, actors/actresses, singers)
- Minorities (numbers, discrimination, rights, etc. – do **NOT** include immigrants from last 50 yrs nor the *gitanos/romani*)
- Political extremism and corruption (people, parties, beliefs, etc.; do **NOT** include terrorism)
- Religion-related issues and stats (focusing on non-Catholic)
- Secession movements (in particular, Cataluña and el País Vasco)
- Sports (do **NOT** include soccer; do **NOT** focus on bullfighting)
- Terrorism

a. You must have your topic chosen and approved by the instructor by **September 1**. You will receive a daily homework grade for this task.

b. Your thesis statement (i.e., a **detailed**, one-sentence description of the focus of your essay; it is **heavily recommended that you review:** [How to write a thesis statement](#)) will be due on **September 13**. A preliminary outline (bullet-points is ok) of your presentation must be turned in by **September 29**. All members of the group must meet collectively with the instructor and go over the thesis/outline by **October 18**, at the latest; it is YOUR responsibility to set up a time for this meeting (there are many students in the class; thus, it is better to set a time to guarantee a meeting). You will receive a daily homework grade for meeting with the instructor.

c. A formal essay (1250-1600 words [5-7 pages of text, not including bibliography]; per MLA format; written entirely in Spanish) of your presentation must be turned in on **November 29**; the essay should contain (**in addition to** the 1250-1600 words of text) a bibliography of at least 10 scholarly/academic items (per MLA format). The final grade for the presentación cultural will be ½ for the written version and ½ for the oral part (this latter part will also include peer-review elements/grading). Please see the grading rubric on the D2L site for how each part will be graded.

d. There are a limited number of topics, so first-come, first-served (all groups must have a different topic); all topics must be preapproved by the instructor. This is an end-of-semester project; the final project **MUST** reflect a comprehensive knowledge of your topic and reflect a semester-long effort!

e. Additional notes regarding presentations.

- It is **HIGHLY** recommended that you practice the oral presentation in front of someone else (non-group member) before you present in class. It is even better if that person(s) would give you an honest assessment of your grammar, linguistic ability, comprehensibility, timing, etc. so that you can improve the presentation.
- Remember, if you are bored, or less than thrilled, with your presentation, that will be obvious to your audience, and your audience will probably be bored as well. Always keep in mind: What can I do to keep my peers' interest? / Who cares, and why should they, about what I am saying?

f. Presentations will be made during the week after Thanksgiving break. **No make-up or "late work" will be given.**

### **Resumen noticioso seminal (15%)**

Every week (by Saturday, 11:59 p.m.) you will need to submit to that week's dropbox (D2L – Assessments – Assignments) a summary of a news/media article/video that you have found related to your Oral Presentation theme. The summary must be from an official newspaper/magazine/blog **in Spain** (if not from Spain, you will receive NO credit; no "personal" blogs, TikTok, etc. are acceptable). Your summary should be

1. written in Spanish,
2. clearly indicate the main idea of the article
3. summarize the main points of the article (do not repeat word for word)
4. include your opinion of the article (why would or would not recommend it)
5. 150-250 words long,
6. contain the link of the article that you are summarizing (I would highly suggest you follow the format as found at ["How to write an article summary"](#))

Summaries which are 40% or more quotes of the original article will receive no credit. Remember, repeating verbatim what is in the original article without using quotation marks is plagiarism, and the penalty for such is listed below in the Academic Integrity section.

### **Crédito extra:**

There may be a few extra credit activities available and detailed on the D2L site. In order to receive any extra credit, you must complete the activity as per the instructions on the D2L site (and entirely in Spanish).

### **Otras cosas:**

#### **Late work and “make-ups”**

Late work is not accepted for credit; do not even bother to ask. There are no “make ups” of any type in this class; in the best of scenarios (i.e., you present written documentation to justify an “excused” absence), you will be assigned a grade of “missing” and the other grades in that section will count more. **Note:** due to your knowing from the first day of the semester the deadline for the submission of the presentation, including the written version, NO excused absence will be given (not even for printer or computer malfunctions; **DO NOT WAIT** until December 2 to print it off!!!!), and an excused absence for any weekly D2L quiz or news summary item will require documentation for the entire Thursday – Monday a.m. period.

#### **“Curves”**

No “curves” are given in this class—not on individual assignments nor on the overall class average. What you make is what you get. Don’t even bother asking. The extra credit listed on D2L and having one of the top three averages on the D2L *Pruebas culturales* are your only opportunities to “modify” your grade.

### **Academic Integrity**

Midwestern State University is a community of scholars committed to developing educated persons who accept the responsibility to practice personal and academic integrity. Any student participating in any form of academic dishonesty will be subject to sanctions. Academic dishonesty includes all forms of cheating and any methods that result in work that is not completely original and based on students’ own, unassisted efforts. Although the following list is not exhaustive, behaviors constituting cheating include:

- Any unauthorized consultation or collaboration with peers on assignments or exams (unless otherwise stipulated, assignments are to be completed individually)
- Copying the answers or work of peers, with or without their knowledge
- Unauthorized use of notes or prompts (in any paper or digital/electronic form) during exams or other graded academic exercises
- Using words or ideas derived from another person’s work without acknowledging and properly citing the source (plagiarism)
- Turning in assignments used previously or simultaneously in another class (all work for each course should be original and course-specific)

- Allowing tutors, native speakers, or others to significantly contribute to or alter your own work without the authorization of the instructor
- Sharing exam details or answers with others in your section or other sections or consulting copies of previous exams
- Copying workbook answers from answer section (which is to be used only to self-correct exercises)
- Including text copied or “cut and pasted” from online sources (websites may be used in research when so indicated by the professor, but they must be cited)
- Not reporting to the instructor cases of academic dishonesty of which you become aware

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**Using translation software to convert your ideas/thoughts to Spanish (single word translations are acceptable; use of software—or other people—for translations involving more than single words is entirely unacceptable and will be treated as plagiarism (i.e., receive a grade of zero and be reported to the Dean of Students); see two paragraphs below.**

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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.”

Written and adopted by the 2002-2003 MSU Student Senate

### **Statement on the use of online translation resources**

Online machine translation websites or apps and other digital resources used in translation are best understood as tools designed to assist – rather than replace – human translators or your learning of the language (including vocabulary and grammar). Effective and appropriate use of these tools by translators requires a sound understanding of many aspects relating to language and translation, as well as familiarity with how they work and what their strengths and limitations are. The same is true of parallel text comparison websites, such as [www.linguee.com](http://www.linguee.com), and of crowd-source or peer-to-peer consultation websites, such as [www.wordreference.com](http://www.wordreference.com). It is generally acceptable to use these tools only to look up words as you would in a bilingual dictionary. When it is clear that online

translation resources have been used uncritically or irresponsibly (such as to translate entire sentences, paragraphs, or text of more than one word) or in a manner inconsistent with the assignment, such use will be considered cheating and will be dealt with as per MSU policy.

### **Disability Accommodation**

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.

**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.

### **Dropping a Class**

It is your responsibility to understand the university’s procedure for dropping a class. If you stop attending this class but do not follow proper procedure for dropping the class, you will receive a failing grade and will also be financially obligated to pay for the class. For information about dropping a class or withdrawing from the university, contact the Office of the Registrar in the Hardin Building.

### **General class calendar**

(Subject to modification)

see the D2L page for specific assignments

<b>Important Dates</b>	<b>Activity</b>
September 1	Deadline for choosing presentation topic
September 6	No hay clase – Labor Day
September 13	Deadline to turn in the thesis of your presentation
September 29	Deadline for outline of presentation
October 18	Deadline to go over thesis and outline with instructor
November 29	Deadline for submission of final written term paper
December 1	Oral presentations
December 1	Oral presentations
December 8	5:45-7:45 – Final Exam