

Spanish 2233.X20 – Intermediate Spanish II – spring, 2023

Instructor information: Dr. Oxford

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Textos: *Enfoques*, **5th edition** with full VHLCentral.com supersite access (i.e., the website access code)
Full color, loose leaf, 3 hole punched (binder ready) version of *Enfoques*, 5th edition, **with full VHLcentral.com supersite plus websam technology**. (I personally am okay with your purchasing only the electronic version of the text; however, please be aware that if you should wish to re-take Spanish 2233 from another instructor, they may not allow you to use the electronic text in their class.)

Materiales recomendados:

A good Spanish-English dictionary

Please note:

1. This course is a completely on-line course, and is designed with that in mind. Languages are best learned over a period of time; thus, there is homework due every day Tuesday and Thursday, as well as a weekly quiz every Friday-Monday. All assignments can be viewed on D2L (in the “News” section of the class site), although a large number of items must be completed using the VHL (textbook publisher website—view the calendar/assignments sections in VHL to see which particular items are due each day). In short, this class uses supplemental D2L as an important component of the class. Please make sure you access the D2L (MSU site) and VHL site (textbook site) every day for homework assignments, class updates, additional grammar explanation, practice materials, etc.
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.”
3. If you need/want to Skype/Zoom contact me for “face-to-face” conversations or questions, such is possible (as well as telephone calls or face-to-face meetings), but please contact me first via email so that we can set up a time to meet.

Prerequisitos:

Spanish 2133 (Intermediate Spanish I), or equivalent.

Objetivos:

Learning a second language is a process inextricably connected to the culture or cultures in which the language is spoken. Thus, this course focuses on developing students’ Spanish-language proficiency through modes of communication that reflect real-life communication in the varied cultures of the Spanish-speaking world. By employing interpersonal, interpretive and presentational communicative

modes in the target language, students will explore the ideas, values, beliefs and other cultural aspects of Spanish-speaking peoples across the world and how these aspects work together to affect human experience. By providing students with knowledge of a language and culture different from their own, this course contributes to preparing students to be productive members of global society as well as to understand and relate with people and ideas different from their own. The study of culture, then, is an important part of this course.

POLICIES

Homework. Regular assignments will be made from the text and from other sources (there may be homework other than just what you see on the VHL site, so be sure that you check the **News section of the D2L class site every day**). Students are expected to prepare homework (*tarea*) as assigned, every day, and complete it prior to the 11:59 p.m. of the day for which it is assigned; additional homework not complete-able via VHL must be turned in **as per the instructions in the News (or other indicated) section of the D2L class site** (failure to follow the instructions exactly will result in your receiving no credit for the assignment). The VHL homework often times can be completed more than once with only the highest grade counting (True/False questions and other similar sections can only be completed once). VHL homework completed after 11:59 p.m. on the due date will automatically result in points deducted. Independent study of grammar and vocabulary in addition to the homework assignments is also expected (I will post in the “Grammar Explanations” section of the D2L class site my own notes/thoughts concerning the grammar, providing you with another—perhaps easier—way of learning/remembering the grammar points. Additionally, more in-depth grammar explanations are also available on VHL; I have marked these as “Practice” exercises [they are good, but optional]). Students frequently in the past have commented how the “stupid Oxfordismos” posted in the “Grammar Explanations” section of D2L have helped them. Graded homework completed on the VHL site will be 15% of your final grade; other homework (assigned, but not completed on VHL; many of these are online quizzes) will be 15% of your final grade.

Oral Readings. There will be a cultural passage to be read aloud from each chapter. You will need to go to the D2L drop box (D2L – “Assessments” – “Assignments”) to see the particular passage in question that you will need to read out loud, in Spanish, while recording yourself—D2L has a voice recorder built into the system, so you don’t need anything other than a microphone on/attached to your computer. In the drop box you will also find a document which details common errors that non-Spanish speakers often make when reading these passages, as well as a recording of Dr. Oxford reading the assigned passage; you should study these prior to making your own recording. When you have finished the reading, upload that recording to the appropriate D2L drop box. Any recording not uploaded to the correct drop box will receive no credit. See the D2L class calendar (as well as the News section) for due dates.

Quizzes. Frequent quizzes based on homework, the textbook (the cultural readings and grammar points, in particular) and other class work will be given—in part—so that you will know what you need to study even more before the exam. There may be an occasional D2L quiz during the week, but you can be assured that there **WILL BE** a D2L quiz every weekend. These weekend quizzes are accessible starting at 10:00 a.m. on Friday morning and close down at 8:00 a.m. on Monday morning. They may be taken as many times as you like during the period when they are available, and only the highest grade counts. As of Monday morning, 9:00 a.m., you can go back into the system (at any time until the end of the

semester) and see the questions with the correct answers, as well as your answers. These weekly D2L quizzes cover any/all the information from class/textbook during that week. Any D2L quizzes assigned during the week will have its own due date; be sure to pay attention to such on D2L. Quizzes will be 15% of your final grade.

Compositions. Students will write three compositions in Spanish to demonstrate their ability to use acquired vocabulary, language structures, and cultural information. The compositions will be written on a certain day (see class calendar) based on the vocabulary theme and grammar points in the chapters being studied. The three compositions will equal 15% of your semester grade average.

Exams: There are two. The Midterm Exam, covering chapters 7-9, is scheduled for Thursday, March 9. The Final Exam, covering information from the entire semester while focusing on chapters 10-12, is scheduled for Tuesday, May 9, 2023, from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 (“noon-thirty”), as per university rules. Each of these exams is 15% of your overall semester grade average. If you are absent from an exam, you must present an obituary, or other written documented proof of illness or university/religious activity to your instructor, at which point your grade of zero will then be adjusted (an “excused absence” from the Midterm Exam will result in the Final Exam grade counting for the Midterm Exam grade as well; an “excused absence” from the Final Exam will result in an alternate exam time.

Absences. A request for an “excused absence” or missed work will be excused ONLY if it is 1) in writing, 2) accompanied by official paperwork (letterhead, doctor’s note, obituary, etc.) and 3) 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 activities; grades for excused absences (other than the Midterm or Final Exam) will be treated as per the section below entitled “Late work and make up.” **NOTE:** any request for a religious absence/excuse **for any activity/quiz/exam that may occur this semester** must be submitted to the instructor at least two weeks prior to the absence and must be accompanied by a letter from your minister, rabbi, imam, or other religious mentor (failure to meet this two-week deadline will result in a grade of zero).

Late work and “make-up.” You will have the opportunity to turn in **up to three non-D2L quizzes/exams** “late” during the semester; the fourth, and subsequent, item(s) submitted late will receive the grade of zero, and **ALL** D2L quizzes must be taken within the time-frame originally designated (**no exceptions!**). Any accepted late work is docked 10% per 24 hour period late, but is it only accepted within 48 hours of the original due date/time (i.e., most things have a submission deadline to D2L of 11:59 p.m.; if the system logs your upload at 12:01 a.m. [2 minutes later], that would be a 10% automatic deduction. If something is due on April 10 at 11:59 p.m., and the system says that you uploaded it at 12:01 a.m. on April 13, you would receive no credit at all). There are no types of “make-ups” of any type in this class other than the Final Exam; in the best of scenarios, you will be assigned a grade of “missing” and the overall semester grade will be calculated without that (see the previous “Exams” section for a missed Midterm or Final Exam). All requests for “excused absences” must be in writing, prior to or shortly 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 your uploading work to the system after the deadline without penalty. Posted deadlines are the final time that you can submit something and receive full credit; you can always upload things early.***

Extra Credit. There are also extra credit possibilities available; these will be listed on the D2L in the News section. All extra credit must be completed and uploaded to the appropriate drop box in the D2L system by May 1, 2023, 11:59 p.m.

Grading curves. They will not be any, not on quizzes, not on homework, not on exams, not on the final class grade. There absolutely are no “curves” on grades in this class. Don’t even bother to ask; you will be referred back to this section of the syllabus. What you make is the grade you will get. A grade of 59.499999 is an F; a grade of 69.499999 is a D, etc. There are plenty of opportunities to raise your grade in this class through unlimited opportunities to re-do D2L quizzes, extra credit, etc..

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

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, diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided you can agree to disagree. 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.

GRADING COMPONENTS

The final grade will be based on the following factors:

Tarea – VHL	15%
Tarea – other	15%
Oral Readings	10%
Quizzes	15%
Compositions	15%
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	15%

General class calendar (chapters 7-9 prior to the midterm exam; chapters 10-12 after the midterm exam): see the D2L page for specific assignments as well as pages of the text and topics covered each day/week of class.