

LG 232 - INTERMEDIATE SPANISH II

University of South Alabama
Spring 2009

Instructor: Dr. David Faught

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Office Hours: MWF 8-9 a.m.

Class times: MWF 12:20 a.m.

Intermediate Spanish II is the second of a two-semester sequence in Intermediate Spanish. The goal of the sequence is to promote communication in cultural contexts, and to further language proficiency in the four basic language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. By the end of the two-semester sequence, the student is expected to speak and write on the low to medium intermediate level, and listen and read at the medium to high intermediate level.

Texts

- a) *En contacto: Gramática en acción**
- b) *En contacto: Lecturas intermedias*
- c) *En contacto: Cuaderno de ejercicios y laboratorio*
- d) Webster's New World Spanish/English; English/Spanish Dictionary Concise Ed.
- e) Blue Books for personal journals
- f) *Motorcycle Diaries*. Dir. Walter Salles. Universal, 2004.
- g) *Belle Époque*. Dir. Fernando Trueba. Sony, 2002.
- h) *La fiesta del chivo*. Dir. Luis Llosa. Future, 2006. (to be shown as part of the International Film Series; watch for flyers and dates).

*Please note: the *Gramática en acción* should come with an Audio Compact Disc.

Course Goals for LG 231 and 232

1. To understand spoken Spanish on topics ranging from social to moderately academic.
2. To write in Spanish on topics ranging from social to moderately academic.
3. To read Spanish language newspapers and news magazines.
4. To master a vocabulary of 5,000 words over the course of the two semesters.
5. To conduct social conversations with ease (*LG 232).
6. To demonstrate an educated knowledge of Hispanic countries, their people and cultural contributions.

Grade Evaluation

Participation/Workbook	10%
Journal Entries (5 sets of 5)	10%
Compositions (5 @ 3% each)	15%
Chapter Tests (4 @ 9%)	36%
Oral Exams (2)	8%
Group Project	6%
Final Exam	<u>15%</u>

Grading Scale

90 – 100	A (Excelente)
80 – 89	B (Muy Bien)
70 – 79	C (Regular)
60 – 69	D (Malo)
0 – 59	F (Inacceptable)

100%

Course and Grading

Attendance Policy: Class meets three hours a week and students are expected to devote one to two hours of preparation time outside of class for each class hour. Students are to come **prepared** to class. Class-time will be used for practice, interaction, and other communicative activities. Absences are strongly discouraged. Any absence beyond **two** will result in a **deduction** of two points per absence from the total final average. Late arrivals, even by 5 minutes, are absolutely discouraged and three of them are equivalent to an absence. There will be **no** make-ups for tests and quizzes. Assignments are due as indicated on the syllabus or as assigned in class. Ten points from the final grade of said assignment will be deducted for each day late.

Participation: Students should work to acquire and improve all **four language skills:** comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. A new language is learned most effectively by using it. Therefore it is necessary to attend class regularly to take advantage of the opportunities for practicing it. Classes will be conducted predominantly in Spanish, and even though you will not understand every word, especially at first, regular participation will insure progress in listening skills. In the formal and informal speaking activities you should not be afraid to make mistakes -- your goal is to communicate with native speakers of Spanish, and it is understandable that you will make errors at first. As your study continues, however, your mistakes should become less and less frequent. Read the grammar explanations at home so that as much class time as possible can be spent on oral practice. Do not be afraid to ask questions about matters that you do not understand, however. Your participation grade is based on an assessment of your active and daily preparation for class and your willingness to participate in class activities. Since people learn at different paces it is important that everyone feel comfortable speaking Spanish in class. Please be respectful of your fellow students!

Workbook: Grades will be given for the work done in the workbook and laboratory manual (WBLM) on chapter test days. An **answer key** to the WBLM is available in the Language Resource Center. Each WBLM chapter will receive one of the following grades:

√ (full credit= total completion)

½ (partial credit 99.9% completion or fewer)

0 (no WBLM submitted to instructor)

Journals: The objective of the journal entries is to promote the development of your writing and reading skills, enabling you to express in Spanish your thoughts on specific topics while improving your use of vocabulary and grammatical structures studies. You will write a brief entry in a blue book 5 times every 3 weeks. These entries must be in Spanish, 1-2 paragraphs long and can be on any topic of your choice or any aspect of your life. Journals are to be turned in to the instructor as indicated on the schedule and will be evaluated on content quality and grammatical accuracy. While the journals will be assigned a holistic grade, you are expected to consult the instructor in order to get detailed feedback on the entries. A brief guide on the grading criteria is provided below.

Grade	Characteristics
18-20	Highly coherent in communicating thoughts supported with relevant details. Very clear writing with effective use of complex grammar constructions and vocabulary studied.
14-17	Coherent in communicating thoughts. Mostly clear writing and appropriate use of grammar constructions and vocabulary studied.
9-13	Some coherence in expressing thoughts (ideas presented with some details). Contains many erroneous uses of grammar and vocabulary that make for difficult understanding.
1-8	Inadequate coherence in communicating thoughts, clarity of expression and erroneous use of grammar and words.
0	No journal/composition turned in/Composition not turned in on time.

Compositions: Five compositions are due as indicated on the syllabus. These are to be 12 pt. font, double spaced, with careful attention given to spelling, conjugation, and accent marks. The length for each composition is from three-quarters to a full page. Topics will be assigned in class. The above rubric will be used in assessing student performance. NOTE that there are no second drafts of compositions.

Exams: There will be 4 chapter tests and a final exam (given on the time and date indicated in the University Bulletin) that will cover the last two chapters. The dates for these exams are indicated on the syllabus and there are **no make-ups**. The chapter tests each include all the material from each chapter *even if it was not covered in class* - unless otherwise indicated by the professor.

Oral Exam: The oral exams will be conducted at mid-term and toward the end of the course. These will be short 6-8 minute proficiency exams with our visiting professor, Víctor Hugo Ramírez. The dates for these exams are indicated on the syllabus. **No make-ups** will be given. Details regarding the content and format of the exams will be given during the term.

Movies: You are required to **watch 2** of the three movies indicated above. The movies are available for viewing in the LRC (HUMB 337) and as part of the International Film Series. One is due before mid-term and the other by the end of the course. You may devote 2 journal entries to summarizing/analyzing each of the movies (3/4 page to 1 page).

Group Presentations: After the first few weeks of class, small groups will be announced by the instructor and an outline of the groups' projects will be given at that time. Near the end of the semester, each group project will be presented in front of the class. Presentations are tentatively scheduled for the evening of Thursday, March 26, 2009.

Course Resources

TUTORING is offered by the department. The tutors have regularly scheduled hours in the department to provide extra help and practice. Please look for posted signs that announce their schedules. Take advantage of this free service early on, especially if you are having difficulty with some aspect of the language. Please consult the schedule as posted in the LRC and on-line for times and places (see <http://www.southalabama.edu/languages/lrc/index.html>).

LANGUAGE RESOURCE CENTER (LRC): This multi-media language facility is located in room 337. Only students who are currently enrolled in a Foreign Language will have access to the center. The LRC is an excellent place to do all computer-related homework, to explore websites related to the Hispanic world, participate in Spanish chatrooms, and meet other language students. To access the LRC you will need to leave your ID with the lab attendant and retrieve it when you depart. For more details about the LRC, go to its website:

<http://www.southalabama.edu/languages/lrc/index.html>

If you have a disability that qualifies you for academic accommodations, please notify your instructor and provide certification from Disability Services (Office of Special Student Services). The Office of Special Student Services is located in the Student Center, Room 270, Phone: 460-7212.

Waiver: Changes in this syllabus due to unforeseen circumstances may occur. Students will be notified of any modifications in advance, whenever possible.

XALAPA

Xalapa is the capital city of the state of Veracruz in Mexico. It is where USA has its six-week study abroad program every summer. It is strongly recommended that students attend the summer session abroad after the completion of the intermediate year (LG 231 and LG 232). For those who plan to minor in Spanish, the study abroad segment completes the requirement. For those who plan to major in Spanish, they are left with only four courses to take to complete the courses in Spanish. The other core requirements for a Foreign Language major include: LG 110 World Languages, IS 100 Global Issues, EH 235 and EH 236 Survey of World Literature II, and the Senior Seminar- LG 480. If you start planning early, it is actually quite easy to double-major in Spanish and something else. The cost of the program is approximately \$4,500. Majors receive a grant to help them finance this cost. The cost of the program includes tuition for 10 hours of credit, food and housing. **Students are responsible for travel costs to Xalapa and back.** An informational meeting on the Xalapa program will be held in a few weeks. Watch for fliers announcing the meeting where you will have the opportunity to meet some of the students who went to Xalapa this past summer.

Víctor Hugo Ramírez

We are privileged to have a visiting professor from Xalapa, México, with us this semester. Mr. Ramírez will be teaching a Business Spanish course and a beginning language course as well as working as a tutor in the LRC 20 hours a week. Those of you going to Xalapa this summer will also see him at meetings regarding study abroad. You are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to better your conversation skills by visiting him during his tutoring hours. In addition, Mr. Ramírez will be conducting all 232 oral examinations this semester, so smart (!) students will make it a point to practice with him before those come up.