

**LG 333 – Conversational Spanish and Composition**  
**Spring 2009**  
**University of South Alabama**

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**Class Time:** 11:15-12:05 MWF

**Office Hours:** 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. MWF and by appointment

**Section:** 101

**Goals and Objectives:** *LG 333 is a third-year level course in which conversation and simple writing skills are emphasized. Through short, informal essays, journal entries, daily oral presentations, and a final examination that includes both a written and an oral part, the student can expect to have a better sense of fluency when speaking and writing in Spanish at the conclusion of the course.*

**Prerequisites:** **LG 231 and 232 or equivalent.**

**Texts:**

- 1) Bénitez, Rubén and Paul C. Smith. Hablando seriamente: Textos y pretextos para conversar y discutir.
- 2) Kooreman, Thomas E., Olga Kooreman and Efuemia Sánchez de la Calle. Breves cuentos hispanos. 4ta edición.

Blue Books for Personal Journals

**Movies:** **Como agua para chocolate (dir. Marco Leonardi)**  
**La misma luna (dir. Kate del Castillo)**  
**Mujeres al borde de un ataque de nervios (dir. Pedro Almodóvar)**  
**Camila (dir. María Luisa Bemberg)**  
**María, llena eres de gracia (dir. Catalina Sandino Moreno)**  
**Antes que anochezca (dir. Julian Schnabel)**  
**Un día sin mexicanos (dir. Sergio Arau)**

**Course Policies and Grading:**

**Attendance Policy:** Class meets three days a week and students are expected to devote at least two to three hours of preparation time outside of class for each class meeting. Students are to come **prepared** to class. Class-time will be used for practice, interaction and other communicative activities. Absences are strongly discouraged. **Any unexcused absence beyond two will result in a deduction of two points per absence from the total final average.** (For an explanation of unexcused absences please consult the Student Low Down. 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:** Regular, punctual and active/informed participation in class is crucial to your progress in this class and will be reflected in your class participation grade. Your participation will be assessed on the basis of 1) your use of Spanish, 2) your willingness to participate in classroom activities, 3) your level of preparedness and 4) timely submission of assignments

**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 for every class day, i.e. five times a week. These entries must be in Spanish, 1-2 paragraphs long, and can be on any topic of your choice.

The journals will be collected on alternate Fridays, as indicated in the syllabus, and will be evaluated for completion and punctual submission as well as on the quality of their content and grammatical accuracy. The journals will be assigned a holistic grade. A brief guide on the grading criteria is provided below.

Grade	<u>Characteristics</u>
A	Highly coherent in communicating thoughts supported with relevant details. Very clear writing with effective use of complex grammar constructions and vocabulary studied.
B	Coherent in communicating thoughts. Mostly clear writing and appropriate use of grammar constructions and vocabulary studied.
C	Some coherence in expressing thoughts (ideas presented with some details). Contains many erroneous uses of grammar and vocabulary that make for difficult understanding.
D	Inadequate coherence in communicating thoughts, clarity of expression and erroneous use of grammar and words.
F	No journal turned in.

**Compositions:** Five compositions are due as indicated on the syllabus. These are to be written on a word-processor, double-spaced, with careful attention given to spelling, conjugation and accent marks. The length for each composition is a full page or page and a half, unless otherwise indicated by the instructor. Only 12 pt. font is acceptable. Suggested topics for each composition are given for each date the composition is due.

**Evaluation of Compositions:** These will be graded on content (20%), grammar (50%) and overall structure [use of vocabulary, proper introduction and conclusion, paragraph development, and creativity] (30%). Although no one is to help you with the first draft of the composition, you may receive assistance from the professor, the tutors or native speakers in order to correct the second draft. Your final grade is determined by dividing the amount of points subtracted from the first draft in two. That result is then subtracted from 100 points.

**TESTS:** There are four tests and one final exam. The tests and the final include all assigned pages **even when not covered specifically in class.**

**Oral Exam:** The oral exam will be a fifteen-minute exam that will take place during final exam week. With a partner from class you will be asked to answer questions based on the material studied in class and you will converse with the professor on a subject selected at random. This subject will be one of several that you will have previously been given.

**Daily Report:** Taking turns, students will give a summary of a news item from an online Hispanic newspaper. The following is an excellent website for online newspapers:

<http://biblioweb.dgsca.unam.mx/periodicos/>.

**Final Presentation:** Students are to prepare a television news broadcast to be taped in April. Each student will be evaluated on preparation and creativity, with a special focus on vocabulary use and the correct use of basic grammar skills.

**MOVIES:** Please watch any four of the seven movies listed here. Answer the questions that are stored in the LRC for each movie.

### **Course Facilities:**

**Tutoring :** The department offers free tutoring. The tutors have regularly scheduled office 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.

**Language Resource Center:** This multi-media language facility is located in HUMB 337. Only students who are currently enrolled in a foreign language course will have access to the laboratory.

The Language Resource Center (LRC) is an excellent place to do all computer related homework, to explore web sites related to the Hispanic World, to participate in Spanish chat-rooms, and meet other language students.

**Websites:** Students can obtain more information about this department, the Spanish program at USA, and study abroad opportunities on the Department's homepage: <http://www.usouthal.edu/languages>.

### Grade Evaluation

Participation	10 %
Journal Entries	5%
Compositions	10%
Tests	20%
Oral Exam	15%
Presentation	10%
Movies	5%
Final Exam	25%

### Grading Scale

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

**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). This office 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

### DAILY SCHEDULE

lunes, 12 de enero

Introducción al curso  
Introducción general  
Charla general

miércoles, 14 de enero	“El recado” de Elena Poniatowska pp. 1-7 <u>Breves Cuentos Hispanos (BCH)</u>
viernes, 16 de enero	1 – 5 <u>Hablando seriamente (HS)</u>
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lunes, 19 de enero	<b>Día de Fiesta – Día de Martín Lutero King</b>
miércoles, 21 de enero	5 – 16 (HS)
viernes, 23 de enero	diario 8 – 27 “Juan Darién” de Horacio Quiroga (BCH)
lunes, 26 de enero	primera composición: Temas: 1) Crítica de algún restaurante que conozca 2) Defienda al vegetariano o al no vegetariano 3) Explique por qué la inflación afecta más gravemente a los pobres. Continuamos con “Juan Darién”
miércoles 28 de enero	18 – 22 (HS)
viernes, 30 de enero	22- 35 (HS) Resumen de Primera película
lunes, 2 de febrero	Primer Examen
miércoles, 4 de febrero	28 - 34 “Los dos reyes y los dos laberintos” de Jorge Luis Borges (BCH)
viernes, 6 de febrero	Diario 37 – 40 (HS)
lunes, 9 de febrero	41 – 54 (HS)
miércoles, 11 de febrero	35 – 43 “El encuentro” de Ramón Luis Acevedo (BCH)
viernes, 13, de febrero	segunda composición Temas:

	1) Discuta cualquier aspecto de la contaminación 2) Discuta cualquier aspecto del papel de la mujer en la sociedad hispana o anglo. 3) Discuta cualquier aspecto de la drogadicción 56 – 61 (HS)
lunes, 16 de febrero	61 – 74 (HS) Resumen de la segunda película
miércoles, 18 de febrero	44 – 53 “El huésped” de Amparo Dávila (BCH)
viernes, 20 de febrero	segundo examen
lunes, 23 de febrero	76 – 80 (HS)
miércoles, 25 de febrero	81 – 94 (HS)
viernes, 27 de febrero	Diario Resumen de segunda película 54 – 60 “Continuidad de los parques” de Julio Cortázar
lunes, 2 de marzo	96 – 99 (HS)
miércoles, 4 de marzo	100 – 113 (HS)
viernes, 6 de marzo	61 – 70 (BCH) Tercera composición: 1) Discuta cualquier aspecto de los hispanos en los EE.UU. 2) Compare y contraste las posibilidades tecnológicas de los años de sus abuelos con las que tiene Ud. hoy. 3) Discuta cualquier aspecto de la discriminación.
lunes, 9 de marzo	115 – 118 (HS) Resumen de la tercera película
miércoles, 11 de marzo	119 – 130 (HS)
viernes, 13 de marzo	Tercer EXAMEN

## VACACIONES DE PRIMAVERA

lunes, 23 de marzo	71 – 79 “La gloria de los feos” de Rosa Montero
miércoles, 25 de marzo	131-134 (HS)
viernes, 27 de marzo	135 – 149 (HS) Diario (último día para dejar la clase)
lunes, 30 de marzo	80 – 89 “Estampida” de Dinorah Cortés-Velez
miércoles, primero de abril	151 – 153 (HS)
viernes, 3 de abril	154 – 167 (HS) cuarta composición: Temas: 1) ¿Qué es la felicidad para Ud? 2) ¿Cómo es su mejor amigo/a? 3) ¿Cuál es su opinión de la programación de la televisión en los EE.UU.?
lunes, 6 de abril	Cuarto Examen
miércoles, 8 de abril	90 – 99 “La corta vida feliz del Profesor Iriarte” de Alfredo Bryce Echenique (BCH)
viernes, 10 de abril	168 – 172 (HS) Diario
lunes, 13 de abril	172 – 186 (HS) Resumen de la cuarta película
miércoles, 15 de abril	100 – 109 “Rosamunda” de Carmen Laforet
viernes, 17 de abril	Ensayar noticiero
lunes, 20 de abril	187 – 192 (HS) quinta composición Tema: el que se le antoje

miércoles, 22 de abril	192 – 204 (HS)
viernes, 24 de abril	Presentación del Noticiero
lunes, 27 de abril	110 – 119 “Con los ojos cerrados” de Reinaldo Arenas
miércoles, 29 de abril	206 – 210 (HS)
viernes, primero de mayo	210 – 223 (HS)

EXAMEN FINAL Y EXAMEN ORAL:

miércoles 6 de mayo: 10:30 – 12:30