

WESTERN ONTARIO UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

**Sp 2220/ 3327 – Spanish Conversation
Winter 2017**

(Please note this course outline is subject to change)

Professor: Alena Robin (Winter 2017)
Schedule: Monday 12:30-2:30 and Wednesday 1:30-2:30 (Winter 2017), Room TBA



Email: Alena Robin: arobin82@uwo.ca
Office: TBA
Phone: 519-661-2111, ext. 81599 (Alena Robin)
Office Hour: Tuesday: 2:00-4:00

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

A variety of guided conversations in Spanish dealing with a selection of issues in contemporary Hispanic World (Spain, North America, Mexico and the Caribbean, Central and South America). Students will develop their communicative skills in Spanish through discussion of a number of topics, ranging from social and political issues to TV and pop culture, films, music, fashion, food, and sports.

No texts are required for the course. A good quality Spanish-English dictionary and Spanish dictionary are highly recommended. **THE COURSE AND EVALUATIONS WILL BE ENTIRELY IN SPANISH.**

Please note, Spanish 3327A/B – Advanced Spanish Conversation :

This advanced conversation course will be taught cross-listed with the current second year conversation class. This will allow to integrate more equitably into a conversation class advanced students based on different and higher expectations. The evaluations will be the same as for Spanish 2220. The instructor will do recommendation in this regard.

This course is design to:

- Improve oral fluency through guided conversations and presentations in Spanish
- Expand students' vocabulary in a way that will benefit both general conversation and discussion of specific topics
- Familiarize students with a variety of current issues in the Hispanic World through different sources, such as short readings, websites, videos, music, etc.
- Provide a solid foundation for advanced courses in the target language.

¹ <https://plus.google.com/111836790435904293698/posts>

² <http://www.onetoonspanish.co.uk/conversational-spanish.htm>

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course successful students will:

- Speak with greater confidence and fluency in the target language
- Have a broader passive and active vocabulary
- Comprehend every-day spoken language
- Be able to express opinions and doubt, as well as agreement and disagreement
- Improvise questions and answers in a discussion on a prepared topic
- Be able to give meaningful oral presentations using only a list of key words
- Have a broader cultural awareness and an understanding of some current issues relating to the Hispanic world.

III. PREREQUISITES:

Antirequisite(s): Spanish 3327A/B

Corequisite(s): Spanish 2200 or Spanish 2200W/X or permission of the Department.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

IV. EVALUATION:

Participation (20%): students are expected to participate actively in class discussions through expressing their own viewpoints about the topics and by responding to the professor's or other students' questions addressed to the class in general. Keep in mind that this is a CONVERSATION CLASS.

Students are expected to attend every class unless medical circumstances prevent them from doing so (please see section below on Department Policies).

When absent, it is still the student's responsibility to complete and turn in coursework on time and to catch up on the material covered in class. Students must inform their professor by email of any absence as soon as possible.

In- class presentations: Celebrity –News (2 x 10%): In different moments of the semester, each student will present a celebrity and a news topic of the Hispanic world, in relation to the weekly topic. The presentations must be informative in their content, but also generate conversation among students. These presentations should be done in pairs (minimum of 10 minutes).

Two weeks prior to their presentations students must send their topics to the professor and a link, copy of the reading and/or video they want to share with other students to be prepared for the presentations.

Animation of debate (15%): According to the calendar of activities, students divided in small groups are expected to present a topic, animate and moderate the debate that their presentation will generate. Preferably by group of 4 people. This activity, in total, should cover the 50 minutes of the class.

Two weeks prior to their presentations students must send their topics to the professor and a link, copy of the reading and/or video they want to share with other students to be prepared for the debate.

Diary of expressions and vocabulary (3 x 5%): Throughout the semester, students are expected to maintain a diary of expressions and vocabulary acquired through the conversations. To follow the progression of the learning process of the student, the diary will be handed to the professor on 3 occasions: **February 1st, March 1st, and March 29.** This is to be done on an individual basis.

Oral Exam (10% + 20%): The oral examinations will be with the professor, as a conversation. The first one will be done the second week after the beginning of the semester (5 minutes, 10%), the second one will take place towards the end of the semester (15 minutes, 20%). The first exam is to be done on an individual basis with the professor, the second will be done in pairs and will be on a topic covered during the semester (TBA).

Please note: Students have the right to record any oral assessment excluding course participation. They should notify the instructor and their peers prior to recording. The student needs to provide his or her own recording device.

The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures Policies which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Modern Languages and Literatures courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures website at <http://www.uwo.ca/modlang/undergraduate/policies.html>. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.

V. CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

TOPIC AND DATE	ACTIVITIES
January 9 1. Introduction and presentation	
January 11	
January 16 2. Tourism	Celebrity: News: Oral exam (with profesor)
January 18	Oral exam (with profesor)
January 23 3. Cooking	Celebrity: News:
January 25	Debate 1:
January 30 4. Visual Arts	Celebrity: News:
February 1 st	<u>Diary due</u>
February 6 5. Social Issues	Celebrity: News:
February 8	Debate 2:
February 13 6. Sports	Celebrity: News:
February 15	
February 20-24	Reading Week – No class
February 27 7. Economical issues	Celebrity: News:
March 1 st	Debate 3: <u>Diary due</u>
March 6 8. Music	Celebrity: News:
March 8	
March 13 9. Science and Technology	Celebrity: News:

March 15	Debate 4:
March 20 10. Political issues	Celebrity: News:
March 22	Debate 5:
March 27 11. Literature	Celebrity: News:
March 29	<u>Diary due</u>
April 3 12. Movie week	Viewing and discussion of movie: <i>Nosotros los Nobles</i> , 2013, 108 min, Gary Alazraki, director Oral exam (with profesor)
April 5	Discussion of movie and conclusion of course Oral exam (with profesor)