

# THE CENTER FOR CROSS-CULTURAL STUDY

Calle Harinas, 16 & 18, Seville, Spain

**SPAN 314 ADVANCED COMPOSITION**

**SPRING**

Professor: Ernesto Sarrias Rodríguez

## OBJECTIVES

As its name indicates, this course is intended to familiarize the student with the principal ways of writing in Spanish. To this end, we will use a variety of writing techniques and their different styles. We will pay special attention to the more useful and significant techniques and resources, while increasing our vocabulary and reviewing some aspects of grammar. At all times, the creative ability of the student will be improved, bearing in mind that this class is not a creative writing workshop. This class will be the foundation of the students academic activity, as well as any activity that implies a relationship among the students, and with the professor in class.

## STRUCTURE

The first session of each week will be a workshop. In groups, students will discuss relevant aspects of the compositions of fellow members, using an overhead projector to illustrate them to the whole class. The purpose of the session is to encourage group communication, and to learn from each other.

In the second class session of each week we will focus on the theoretical base of the week's composition. We will study vocabulary useful for the type of composition we will be writing, and we will discuss grammar topics of special importance to clear, precise writing in Spanish. Compositions will be distributed to instructor and other class members. Homework will consist of the critical analysis of two compositions (the student's and a classmate's).

We will address issues of point of view, tone, and writing strategies which will allow us to improve our performance as writers. If possible we will also begin to discuss the next composition. We will also review some of those words that so deceive us: the "false friends."

## TEXTBOOK

\*Fernández de la Torriente, G. (1975). *Cómo escribir correctamente*. Madrid, Ed. Playor, 1975.

Additional material from:

\*Valdés, G., Dvorak, T., y Hannum, P. (1984). *Composición: Proceso y síntesis*. New York: Random House, 1998.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

*Diccionario Moderno Español-Inglés, English-Spanish*. Ediciones Larousse.

*Diccionario de sinónimos y antónimos*. Sopena.

*Diccionario de retórica, crítica y terminología literaria*. Ariel.

*Diccionario de dudas de la lengua española*. Aguilar.

*Diccionario de la lengua española de la R.A.E.* (Real Academia Española). Madrid: Espasa-Calpe, 1992.

Eco, U. *La obra abierta*. Lumen, 1987.

Moliner, M. *Diccionario de usos del español*. Madrid: Gredos, 1987.

Real Academia Española. *Esbozo de una nueva gramática de la lengua española*. Madrid: Espasa-Calpe, 1989.

Reyes, G. *La pragmática lingüística*. Montesinos, 1990.

Vázquez, Graciela. *Guía didáctica del discurso académico escrito. ¿Cómo se escribe una monografía?* Editorial Edinumen. Madrid 2001.

<b>EVALUATION:</b>	Participation .....	25%
	Compositions.....	35%
	Final paper... ..	25%
	Oral presentation .....	15%

\*Note: English will not be spoken in class.

## TOPICS

Description.

Narration.

Dialogue.

Exposition: a) Analysis and classification. b) Comparison and contrast; cause and effect.

Argumentation.

Essay.

Journalism and investigative techniques: information, reporting, feature, article.

Business letter.  
Internal communications: memorandum, circular, minutes, resumé.  
Report.  
Summary, review, translation.  
Research paper: thesis, scientific article.

## **SCHEDULE**

### First week

Introduction.  
Explanation of the course, classroom dynamic and structure of the text.  
Description with detail and examples (Composition 1).

Writing Strategies: Identifying the reader.  
Thinking about the reader: How to establish a credible voice. Tone.

### Second week

Hand in Composition 1: Description with details or examples.  
Narration (Composition 2).  
Grammar: preterit/imperfect.  
Thinking about the reader: Guidelines and rhetorical signals (choosing a title).

### Third week

Workshop and Narration.  
Thinking about the reader: Language and the selection of details

### Fourth week

Hand in Composition 2: Narration  
Dialogue (3<sup>rd</sup> composition).  
Workshop on Composition 2.  
Thinking about the reader: Organization of writing  
Writing strategies: How to deal with the difficulty of expressing oneself

### Fifth week

Hand in Composition 3: Dialogue  
Workshop on Composition 3.  
Exposition: Definition, analysis, classification, comparison vs contrast/cause and effect  
(4<sup>th</sup> composition)  
Expressing indetermination and impersonality

### Sixth week

Summary, review, translation(4<sup>th</sup> composition)

### Seventh week

Hand in Composition 4: the Review  
Argumentation (Composition 6)  
Writing Strategy: The writer and the topic. Elaborating the thesis, selection of details.  
Thinking about the reader: Characterizing the reader  
Writing strategies: Technique to get to the heart of the message.

### Eighth week

Hand in Composition 5: Definition or analysis and classification.  
Workshop Composition 4

### Ninth week

Hand in Composition 6: Argumentation  
Continuation  
Workshop on Composition 5.  
The business letter

### Tenth week

The Essay (7<sup>th</sup> composition).  
Thinking about the reader: Guides and rhetorical signals

### Eleventh week

Hand in Composition 7: Essay.  
Continuation.

### Twelfth week

Journalism and its investigative technique: information, reporting, feature, article  
Workshop on Composition 7.

### Thirteenth week

Hand in Composition 8: Journalism.  
The report; research paper, scientific article.  
Internal communications: memorandum, circular, minutes, resumé, and external  
communications: the business letter (9<sup>th</sup> composition).  
Hand in first draft of Final Research Paper.

### Fourteenth week

Reflections on course.  
Presentations on research papers.

The schedule may be changed at the discretion of the instructor.

Note1- throughout the course we will work with a list of rhetorical forms and topics that will help to give us a richer style of writing.

Note2- at all times we will endeavor to get the most out of the course content, and to obtain the best efforts of the students.