

**Centro Norteamericano de Estudios Interculturales**  
C/ Harinas 16-18, Sevilla. España

**SPAN 326: Digital Storytelling**

**Professor: Dr. Diego Ross.** *diego.scott.ross@gmail.com*

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**OBJECTIVES:** The course's goal is focused on the publication of a virtual magazine related to Spain, the city of Seville and the study abroad experience. Though the professor will guide the project along, offering recommendations, urging the highest quality of work while making sure that the final product stays within pre-established frameworks, the magazine will be student generated, student organized and approach information from a student-centric perspective. Written and audiovisual texts (creative or purely journalistic), including blogs, podcasts, digital video and photography, produced by students interested in participating in the project, organized and edited by members of the course, and published online. Throughout the semester, example texts will be explored and analyzed through open conversation: photography, video, print and digital media, documentary film. In other words, the official "bibliography" will in most cases be digital, taken from a variety of examples that are readily available online. Students will also be encouraged to break away from cultural and classroom boundaries in order to interact with the world as they see it and explore it during their time abroad, actively searching out stories in the city, the country, additional travels, friends and acquaintances. Once again, the goal is to create a space where students can express and/or document the experiences that define their time abroad.

**STRUCTURE:** Since the course is designed around the ideals of open, radically democratic dialogue and the development of hands-on, experiential projects, the classroom experience will be non-traditional. Students will be assigned projects based

on individual interests, knowledge and talents— video, photography, written word, etc.—, though always from within the overall, collectively established framework that the group will quickly define in the first days of class. In addition, students will be asked to look for possible contributions from fellow students, whether from the United States, Spain or elsewhere. Once again, though centered on the creation of a collectively agreed upon product, each individual will be afforded the opportunity to express personal experiences in the way that coincides most closely with her or his interests, knowledge and talents. In effect, each individual will have the right and the responsibility to participate freely and openly in the abundant conversations that will, in turn, enrich the experience for all involved, expanding, amplifying or morphing singular experience into collective resonance, cultural comprehension, solidarity of thought.

## **PROJECTS and GRADING.**

*Participation.* Following Center-wide policy, students are required to attend all classroom meetings. As for daily conversations, it will be nearly impossible to avoid participation. Constant, inclusive dialogue is the cornerstone of the course, which also means that daily preparation and attendance are of central importance. Without open, free-flowing conversation, critical thought, agreements and dissent, the course would lose its urgency, its motor, the one mechanism that is designed to drive it forward and validate its existence. 25% of the final grade.

*Diary.* A Moleskine notebook (13x21 cm., 96 sheets). Daily entries of 300-600 words. Goal: explore and document the study abroad experience, sharing stories, anecdotes, photos, ideas, poems. A kind of travel journal, where students are encouraged to search for dialogical inroads to a deepened exploration of alterity, otherness. Creative and “journalistic” exercises, though mostly unguided, freely chosen entries. 25% of the grade.

*Conversations, minor projects and collective result.* Though each individual will be asked to design and produce a personal project, the collective result will also be evaluated... 25% of the grade... Also to be considered here:

*Conversations.* All students will be asked to meet with the professor on an individual basis. These individualized conversations will be focused on idea sharing, project planning and development, etc.

*Other contributions.* Though each student will plan out and produce one major project, other smaller, minor contributions will be evaluated. Obviously, this will depend on the overall route that the group chooses to follow, and the needs that are identified during collective conversation. Examples: recording a short podcast, photographing an event, blog entries, brief interviews, etc.

*Individual Projects.* Students will design and develop a “major” project that coincides with collective need, as well as individual interests, knowledge and talents. Writing will be unavoidable— thanks to the Diary—, but purely audiovisual projects will also be encouraged. 25% of the grade.

## **EVALUATION**

Participation .....	25%
Diary .....	25%
Conversations .....	25%
Individual Project .....	25%