Intermediate Spanish II-SPAN 216  
Prof. E. O'Connell-Inman

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Course Description

Intermediate Spanish II continues an intensive review of the basic structures of Spanish. Cultural and literary readings serve to expand vocabulary, stimulate discussion, and broaden understanding of the Hispanic world. Class is conducted in Spanish and activities are designed to practice all language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. In order to improve your skill levels, you should go beyond simple review and participate actively in all assigned tasks, whether they emphasize oral or written expression. If you intend to use Spanish to communicate--speaking or writing--practice is essential. You will quickly become aware of your own strengths and weaknesses, as well as your classmates' diverse language abilities. Work consistently toward gradual refinement, consulting your instructor when necessary.

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Course requirements

• **Regular Attendance:** Intermediate Spanish meets *four* times a week. Three meetings per week are with your instructor. The other class ("Practicum") is conducted by a Foreign Language Assistant (FLA) from Spain, Peru or Mexico. All four hours are mandatory. Remember: language learning is a cumulative process; therefore regular attendance is essential to your progress. Furthermore, repeated absences have a detrimental effect on the class as a whole. Unexcused absences will lower your final grade.

• **Participation:** Students are responsible for thorough preparation of daily assignments (as indicated on the syllabus) *before* class. This will enable you to respond quickly to questions, to participate fully in communication tasks, etc. Class time is more profitably dedicated to the practice of Spanish skills; preparation facilitates active participation. **Active class participation, both in terms of quantity and quality, is essential** to your success in this course. For each class meeting, you will receive a grade according to the following criteria:

  A = volunteers often, leads group discussions and shows an excellent preparation  
  B = volunteers often and shows sufficient preparation  
  C = participates but does not show sufficient preparation  
  D = does not participate much or at all  
  0 = absent without an excuse

Participate! It’s the best way to learn, and it’s more fun for all of us. **No question or comment is ‘stupid’ or irrelevant.** You are here to learn, and I’m here to help you.

• **Exams:** There will be four chapter exams over the course of the semester. They will focus on grammar, vocabulary, readings, writing, and oral comprehension. There also will be a Midterm and a Final Exam. The Midterm covers the material from the beginning of the semester and the Final Exam is cumulative from the Midterm. Each is worth 15% of your Final Grade. [See syllabus for dates.] The Midterm and the Final will cover grammar, vocabulary, readings, oral comprehension, etc. 

  **No make-up exams will be given without a written excuse** (e.g. Dean’s or doctor’s notice).

• **Assignments:** Please notice that your assignments are spelled out in detail. Because the review of grammatical structures is broad, we will focus on practicing the more difficult elements in class. You should study and preview/review the explanations on your own, working with the exercises at home and in the language laboratory, so that class time can be spent on communication. Your instructor is available during office hours to go over problems or questions; make use of this time.

• **Quia:** **Workbook:** Quia is an electronic workbook/lab manual which corresponds to your *En Contacto* textbook. It is self correcting and allows you to test your knowledge of the material covered in class. You must
create an account at the beginning of the semester and complete the exercises as stipulated on your Quia site. You are responsible for submitting the Results and Feedback page for each chapter, showing your scores and the dates when work was completed. These results pages are due on testing days.

**Writing:** You will write six essays over the course of the semester [dates indicated on the syllabus]. The first draft of your essay will be due on the same day as your chapter exam. You will receive your essay back, corrected with symbols from a correction key. You will then revise your essay and hand it in for a final grade. Your final essay grade will breakdown as follows: 60% for the first draft and 40% for the revised draft. You may receive help on your rewrite either from your professor or from the Spanish Honor Society Tutors.

**Under no circumstances are you to use an on-line translation site to help you write your compositions. In addition to producing unintelligible Spanish, this is a violation of the Academic Honesty policy and will result in a letter to your Dean.**

**Evaluation criteria (please consider the following categories when you are writing):**

- Content/Ideas
- Organization
- Grammar (sentence structure, verb conjugations, agreement, articles, pronouns...)
- Vocabulary (word choice--use your dictionary carefully; cross-reference your word choice)
- Mechanics (accents, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, typos...)

**Reading Activities:** For each chapter in the grammar textbook, you will do one reading from the corresponding chapter in Lecturas intermedias. Each reading is preceded by reading readiness activities [vocabulary building and other pre-reading strategies that will help you work your way through the reading]. These we will do together in class the day before the reading is due. You are responsible for completing the reading and corresponding comprehension activities for homework [to be gone over in class]. This will be collected on a regular basis. [See syllabus for dates.]

**Make-up work:** Because attendance is required and thorough preparation essential, students are responsible for all course work. For this reason the syllabus is detailed. If you are in doubt about what you might have missed, contact a classmate or your instructor. Work delayed because of an unexcused absence will not be rescheduled.

**Academic Honesty:** Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the policies of the college and those of their individual professors regarding academic honesty.

**Practicum:** As noted above, all Intermediate students must attend a practicum once a week (50 minutes). This practicum will be taught by foreign language assistants (FLAs). They will take attendance at each session. You may not alternate practicum sessions from week to week. You will receive a grade from your attendance and participation in this practica. But, above all, take advantage and enjoy this wonderful opportunity!

**Grade Distribution (approx.):**

15% Midterm Exam
15% Final Exam
30% Chapter Exams
10% Workbook/Reading Assignments
15% Writing Assignments
15% Participation and Preparedness (includes practica)