Spanish 260
Advanced Conversation
Spring 2005

Professor: Dr. Carmen Ferrero  Telephone: (610) 861-1397
E-mail: mecfp01@moravian.edu  Office: Comenius 405
Office hours: Mon. 1:45-3:45 pm, Wed. 3:15-3:45 pm, Fri. 11:00-11:30 am,
and by appointment.

Textbooks:

Course description: An intensive Spanish conversational practice to develop an advanced level of proficiency. Special attention will be paid to functional communication in educated native-like situations, and expressing opinions on daily life and current issues. It is expected at the end of the semester that students will be able to:
• Describe and narrate in major time frames
• Get through complicated tasks or social situations
• Participate actively in conversations on concrete topics, in most informal and some formal settings
• Sustain communication by using connected discourse of paragraph length and substance with suitable accuracy and some confidence
• Satisfy the demands of work and/or schools situations
• Develop an extensive vocabulary appropriate to the formal discourse

Course procedure: Given that this is a conversation class, it is expected that students speak in Spanish as frequently as possible in class and out of the classroom. A most effective way to improve your language skills is through intensive practice on speaking and reading. Therefore, the preparation for the conversations in the classroom students will require the careful reading of materials in Spanish on the issues at hand, taking special care of specialized vocabulary and lower frequency words. The assigned materials from the textbooks, as well as other sources from the media and the internet, will enrich the vocabulary and stimulate some ideas for conversation. Lack of preparation will be immediately noticeable. As a rule for this class no English will be accepted. If a student cannot express an idea, he/she can paraphrase or try again in Spanish only. Dictionaries are accepted, but at no time (even in whispers) should students use English. This practice will help them to find ways to express themselves in Spanish.

Besides the readings, it is expected that students speak Spanish out of class. It is recommended that students spend at least 2 hours per week out of class in conversation on issues associated with the materials under discussion in class, and with a variety of projects for the class. The best recommendation is to find a Spanish native speaker for practice, but a classmate is also acceptable.
Films: Students can watch films related to the topics discussed in class. They may choose films they already know or watch the movies suggested by the professor and other students in class. Students may get together to watch the movies and use them to discuss the topics before coming to class.
Class attendance: Faithful attendance is expected, since continuous practice is needed in order to learn a language.

- Every student will be allowed to miss up to **three (3) classes** without losing points off their final grade; however, remember that your class participation grade will suffer beginning with the first absence (regardless of the reason for it) and class participation makes up a large percentage of the final grade in this class.

- Every absence beyond three will result in a **deduction of 1 point off the final grade**. It is the responsibility of the student to reserve his/her 3 absences for those circumstances when missing class is unavoidable (i.e. illnesses, field trips, participation in sporting events, etc.) and to inform the professor as soon as possible about the reason for the absence.

- In case of extended absences the student should talk to Students Services or the Academic Dean who will contact the professor. **Only if the Dean justifies the absences, they will be excused (and points will not be taken off).**

- **Remember:** Requests to excuse absences at the end of the semester will not be considered. Students have the responsibility of keeping track of their own absences. No reminders will be given.

- **Three (3) late arrivals** to class (10 minutes or more) will be the equivalent of one absence and students will lose 1 point off their final grade. Please, be respectful to other students and the professor, late arrivals are disrupting.

Las faltas de asistencia no son excusa para no hacer el trabajo asignado. **Es responsabilidad del estudiante que falta un día a clase hablar con la profesora o con otros alumnos de la clase para asegurarse que sabe lo que tiene que hacer para la siguiente clase.**

Extra credit: Students without a single absence throughout the semester will receive two extra points in their final grade.

**Academic integrity:** academic dishonesty, that is, **cheating** on exams, and **plagiarism** (using another person’s words and passing them off as your own) is a serious offense and will be handled according to the Moravian policy on Academic Honesty (please, see the Student Handbook). Make sure you cite ALL the sources you use for your work. It is your responsibility to avoid dishonest behavior.

EVALUATION:

1. **Daily class preparation and participation (40%):** Students are expected to come to class having prepared the readings and exercises assigned by the professor (see “Calendario del curso”). In class, students must participate **actively** speaking in group activities and class general discussions. Monthly, the professor will assign a grade according to the level of preparation and participation of each student.

2. **Dossier (10%):** Throughout the semester, students will develop a dossier of the materials collected during the semester regarding the topics of discussion and their presentations. The collection must also include their personal **Spanish-Spanish dictionary** in which they will collect all the words they have learned during the semester. The dictionary can include low frequency words, prepositions, and other useful words that will contribute to their improvement in their oral expression as educated speakers in Spanish. The dossier will be handed in on the last day of class.
For every late day the grade for the dossier will be reduced by one letter grade. Dossiers will not be accepted after May 2.

3. **Mid-term oral exam (15%)**: The oral exam recorded on tape will concentrate on developing orally one topic (chosen by the student) taken from the book "Conversación y controversia". This exam will consist on a 10-15 minute recorded presentation in which the student will express his/her opinion. On the designated date, the student will hand in his/her cassette which the professor will evaluate according to the rubrics provided in advance.

4. **Power point oral presentation in class (10%)**: This presentation will be a 10 minute presentation to discuss and develop a specific issue not related to the topics discussed in class. The selection of each topic should be consulted with and approved by the professor at least one week in advance of the presentation date. This can be done by e-mail. At the end of each presentation, the student will elicit the general discussion of the topic from the class by proposing a set of three questions regarding the topic he/she discussed.

5. **Debate en pareja (10%)**: In pairs, students will prepare a class debate on one short story from the book "El cuento hispánico" (from the "segundo" or "tercer paso"). Each pair of students will choose one story, will introduce the author, help other students with their questions on the plot and vocabulary, and finally lead the discussion elicited by the post reading exercises ("Después de leer"). In short, the students will "take over" the role of the professor during that class. It is important that the students prepare well, with the help of the professor.

6. **Final oral interview (15%)**: in which the student must demonstrate progress in his/her language skills from the beginning of the semester.

*Taped oral exams and oral presentations must be handed in or done on the assigned date (see "Programa del curso"). **Important note**: For every late day that a taped oral exam is handed in, one letter grade will be deducted from the grade; for example, an exam due on a Monday that would receive a B if handed in on time, will automatically receive a D if handed in on Wednesday. Saturday and Sunday count as two days.

**Electronic devices**: When preparing work for a grade, you are prohibited from using electronic translation devices. Electronic dictionaries, used for single word inquiries or for short idiomatic expressions are acceptable. If ever you are unsure about how you are using an electronic source, please contact your professor.

The final course grade will be calculated as follows:

- Daily class participation -------------------------- 40%
- 1 taped (mid term) oral exam ---------------------- 15%
- 1 class power point presentation ----------------- 10%
- 1 debate (lead discussion) ------------------------ 10%
- Dossier ------------------------------------------ 10%
- Final oral interview ----------------------------- 15%
PROGRAMA DEL CURSO

L= lunes  M= miércoles  V= viernes

LIBROS: Conversación y Controversia CyC  El Cuento Hispánico CH

Enero
L 10  Presentación del curso
M 12  CyC Cap. 1  Científico y artista
V 14  CyC Cap. 2  El año 2100
L 17  No hay clase
M 19  CH "El loco de Sevilla" and "Lo que sucedió..." (3-16)
V 21  CyC Cap. 3  El matrimonio
L 24  CyC Cap. 4  La popularidad: hombres y mujeres.
M 26  CH "Apocalipsis" and "El eclipse" (17-27)
V 28  CyC Cap. 5  El terrorismo
L 31  CH "La casa de Mango Street" (28-32). Prese. Oral: _______________

Febrero
M 2  CyC Cap. 6  El Ser supremo. Prese. Oral: _______________
V 4  CH Visiones de España: "El árbol de oro" y "Rafael" (35-49)
L 7  CyC Cap. 7  Pasado, presente y futuro. Prese. Oral: _______________
M 9  CyC Cap. 8  El aborto. Prese. Oral: _______________
V 11  CH "El ausente" y "Los buques suicidantes" (50-65)
L 14  CyC Cap. 9  La eutanasia. Prese. Oral: _______________
M 16  CH "El almohadón de plumas" y "A la deriva" (66-81)
V 18  CyC Cap. 10  La migración. Prese. Oral: _______________
L 21  CyC Cap. 11  La salud y la medicina. Prese. Oral: _______________
M 23  Oral Exam: Tape Due. Película
V 25  Película
L 28  Debate de la película

Marzo
M 2  CyC Cap. 12  La censura. Prese. Oral: _______________
V 4  Presentaciones orales: _______________________________

Vacaciones de Primavera
M 16  Presentaciones orales: _______________________________
V 18  CH Más allá de la realidad: "Continuidad..." "Casa tomada" (82-98)
L 21  Preparar preguntas. Entrevista con Julio Cortázar
M 23  CH El mundo de los espejos: "Emma Zunz" (109-117) Debate(2): _______________

Vacaciones de Semana Santa
M 30  CH "El sur" (126-134). Debate(2): _______________

Abril
V 1  CH "Las ruinas circulares" (118-125). Debate(2): _______________
L 4  Película de Borges
M 6  CyC Cap. 14  Las armas de fuego
V 8  CH La droga: "La indiferencia de Eva" (137-151). Debate (2): _______________
L 11  CyC Cap. 15  Las naciones unidas
M 13  CH "El recado" (152-156). Debate (2): _______________
V 15  CyC Cap. 16  La pena capital... muerte
L 18  CH "El ahogado más hermoso...", (157-166) Debate (2): _______________
M 20  Preparar preguntas. Entrevista con Gabriel García Márquez.
V 22  CyC Cap. 20  El espanglish
L 25  Repaso para examen oral final (Días 27 y 29: examen oral final)