SPN 312: Advanced Grammar and Composition II (3 credits)
Humanities Center 306
MWF 2:30-3:20pm
FALL 2008

Course Credits: 3 (counting toward Major or Minor)
Professor: Dr. Frédéric Conrod
Office: HC #222
Office Hours: MWF- 1:30pm - 2:30pm
Phone: 420-280-3701
E-mail: conrod@creighton.edu

Mission Statement: True to the Jesuit tradition of preparing leaders, there is a focus on developing critical thinking, reflective decision-making and service orientation to promote the general welfare of individuals in the local and global communities. Creighton students participate in a liberal arts program that provides a broad knowledge base, establishes values, and instills an appreciation of cultures all of which aid in the development of competence, wisdom, and compassion in future work and endeavors. Guided by the desire for excellence, the department has a commitment to a continuous examination of the curriculum and a commitment to exemplifying the best methodologies for preparing professionals for positions of leadership in the community.

Spanish/English Dictionary

Course Description: This course is designed to give you practice at the advanced level in reading and writing but also in speaking and listening. The readings from the book will present a starting point for class discussions and written assignments. The films and videos will provide listening practice as well as discussion topics about themes in the Hispanic World. A series of compositions will sharpen your written skills. A grammar review and acquisition of new vocabulary, fundamental to the successful development of language skills, will be an essential part of this course.

Course Objectives: This course focuses on solidifying and deepening reading, writing, speaking and oral comprehension skills in order to achieve a better fluency in written communication as well as enhancing his/her oral skills. These objectives will be achieved through:

1. Close readings of a variety of non-literary and literary texts.
2. Development of reading strategies for approaching different genres.
3. In-depth review of target grammar and vocabulary points.
4. Focused, academic style essays.
5. In-class discussions of reading, films and videos.
Course Requirements

- **Attendance:** Perfect attendance is expected and only 3 absences are permitted. More than 3 absences will adversely affect a portion of your class participation and it will constitute in a lowering of the grade by five points.

- **Participation:** A regular and active participation is required of every student. Students will systematically prepare the assigned chapter of the textbook PRIOR to class meetings. Students should cover all the material contained in the textbook even though it won’t always be covered in class. The use of cell phones, text messaging devices, iPods or other portable music players, and laptop computers will result in a significant 5-point drop in the final grade for each use.

- **Individual Project:** Each student will work on an individual project that will eventually turn into a 6/8-page paper. Student will have to think about a topic at the beginning of the semester so they can start working on a first version before Fall Break. Topics can include research on immigration, language use, artistic movements in the Hispanic world, history of Hispanic countries, as well as medical, legal or business issues. Students should choose a topic that is significant, relevant and useful for their career goals. Students should use office hours to discuss problems with individual projects.

- **Homework:** Completion of all assigned work (oral and written). Late work will not be accepted, unless justified by documented emergency.

- **Class Cancellation Procedure:** The instructor will notify students of a cancelled class via email or there will be a notice of the cancellation on the classroom door, together with the assignment for the next class meeting. This notice will be signed either by the instructor or the departmental administrative assistant. If the university closes due to bad weather, students should prepare for the next class what they would have prepared for that snow day.

- **Honesty:** Any evidence of plagiarism or academic dishonesty is unacceptable and will be dealt with in accordance with Creighton policy regarding this issue. See: [http://puffin.creighton.edu/ccas/Students/students/html](http://puffin.creighton.edu/ccas/Students/students/html). When making citations in any assignments to be handed in for a grade, students must consult *MLA Style Manual*. Unless otherwise stipulated, all work turned in by the student must be his/her own.

- **Language Lab Component:** A state of art language laboratory is open on the second floor of the Humanities Center #215. Times when it is available for students use are posted. The used of the language lab will enhance speaking, reading, writing, and listening abilities.
CLASS THEMES

Cap. #6 [Actualidades]
- Enriqueciendo el vocabulario de las actualidades y de los números
- Hablando de los tiempos verbales: más casos de subjuntivo
  Usos de ojalá
  Secuencias de tiempos
- Mirando expresiones problemáticas
- Leyendo una selección literaria

Cap. #7 [La vida profesional]
- Enriqueciendo el vocabulario de la vida profesional
- Gramática:
  Pronombres y clíticos
- Mirando expresiones problemáticas
- Leyendo una selección literaria
- Haciendo su composición. Una carta en español

Cap. #8 [La comida]
- Enriqueciendo el vocabulario de la comida
- Siguiendo el estudio de los pronombres y los clíticos
- Verbos como gustar
- Usos del “Se”
- Mirando expresiones problemáticas
- Leyendo una selección literaria
- Haciendo su composición. Película: Como agua para chocolate

Cap. #9 [Almacenes, tiendas y ropa]
- Enriqueciendo el vocabulario de los almacenes, las tiendas y la ropa
- Verbos reflexivos y recíprocos
- Usos del “Si”
- “Se” de casualidad
- Mirando expresiones problemáticas
- Leyendo una selección literaria

Cap. #10 [La universidad]
- Enriqueciendo el vocabulario de la universidad
- Preposiciones y conectores
- Mirando expresiones problemáticas
- Leyendo una selección literaria
- Haciendo su composición
Grading Scale:
A (100-93)    B+ (92-89)    B (88-83)    C+ (82-77)    C (76-73)    D (72-67)    F (66+)

Grading criteria:
1 Mid-term exam: 20%    1 Final exam: 15%
3 Versions Individual Project: 30%    3 Quizzes: 15%
Attendance, preparation, and participation: 20%

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CALENDARIO DEL CURSO
(Ajustable dependiendo del progreso de la clase)

Semana #1  W-F (27-29 agosto)
W- Introducción al curso. Presentaciones.
F - Capítulo 6

Semana #2  W-F (3-5 septiembre)
WF - Capítulo 6

Semana #3  MWF (8-12 septiembre)
MW- Capítulo 6
F- Prueba #1

Semana #4  MWF (15-19 septiembre)
MWF- Capítulo 7
F- Presentación del proyecto

Semana #5  (22-26 septiembre)
MWF- Capítulo 7
F- Proyecto Individual. Versión #1

Semana #6  MWF (29 septiembre – 1 octubre)
M- Examen Midterm
WF- Capítulo 8

Semana #7  MW (6-8 octubre)
M- Capítulo 8
W- Película: Como agua para chocolate (DOS HORAS)
Semana # 8  MWF (13-17 octubre)
   MWF- Capítulo 8
   F- Prueba #2

Vacaciones de otoño. No hay clase (18 al 27 de octubre)

Semana # 9  MWF (27-31 octubre)
   MWF- Capítulo 9

Semana # 10  MW (3-5 noviembre)
   M- Capítulo 9
   W – Película: Sin Noticias de Dios (DOS HORAS)

Semana # 11  MWF (10-14 noviembre)
   MW- Capítulo 9
   F- MIDTERM SOBRE CAPITULOS 6,7,8,9 y PELICULAS

Semana # 12  MWF (17-21 noviembre)
   MWF-Capítulo 10
   F- Proyecto Individual – Versión #2

Semana #13  M (24 noviembre)
   M – Capítulo 10
   Vacaciones de Thanksgiving del 25 de noviembre al 1 de diciembre

Semana #14  MWF (1-5 diciembre)
   MW- Capítulo 10
   F – Prueba #3

Semana #15  MW (8-10)
   MW- Repaso para el examen final
   W- Proyecto Individual – Versión #3

FINAL EXAM: WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 17TH FROM 1:00PM TO 2:40 PM