

Curso FS-02 CONVERSATION AND COMPOSITION IN SPANISH FOR AMERICAN STUDENTS

Lecturer Dr. Manuel Padilla Cruz (mpadillacruz@us.es)
Substitute Lecturer Dra. Teresa López Soto (teresals@us.es)

This course is taught in Spanish but is for students who have not taken Spanish before.

Objectives

This Course is geared toward students who speak American English and who have no prior knowledge of Spanish. Its overall objective is to develop students' capacity to express themselves orally and in written form, within routine sociolinguistic contexts, so that they can come to terms with them and cope adequately with them, the contrast with their mother tongue acting as a point of reference. Our endeavor is to enable students to initiate and keep up a conversation using limited vocabulary content, to produce phrases and basic conversational routines in a spontaneous way, to narrate and describe routine social situations, as well as to draft basic written forms, while keeping in mind orthographic, lexical and syntactic correctness, as well as pragmatic appositeness. Likewise, students will be provided with the chance to develop their comprehension skills in Spanish, becoming thereby adept at understanding real-life oral discourse adjusted to their level.

Methodology

This Course will have as its basis a communicative approach so as to favor the active participation of students, while encouraging the practical application of information and skills as they are being acquired in real time. With this in mind, class sessions will be structured in terms of lecturers' explanations which will be backed up by involvement in practical activities in pairs and groups (role-play, written drafts, games, debates, etc.).

Syllabus

1. Greeting and Bidding Farewell. Introducing Yourself and Introducing Others. Seeking and Providing Information about People (Name, Age, Profession, Nationality, etc.)
2. Describing Oneself and Others: Height, Complexion, Skin, Hair, and Eye Color, Ways of Dressing, Types of Person. Expressing Tastes and Preferences. Talking and Writing about Habits.
3. Requesting and Giving Basic Information about: Directions to Take and the Reaching of Places; Purchases (tickets, shopping zones); Accommodation; Markets. The Expression of Routine Temporal and Spatial Notions.
4. Expressing Gratitude and Excusing Oneself. Expressing Mood, State of Mind, and Physical Condition (pain, weariness, joy, sorrow, indifference, boredom, etc.).
5. Time: Dates, Clock Time, Specific Moments during the Day and the Week, etc. Recounting, in a basic way, events from the Past (childhood; bygone days, weeks,

and months) or with reference to the Future (the next day; days, weeks, months, and years ahead; future plans, etc.)

6. Making an Appointment and Getting the Details Clear. Clarifying Doubts and Explaining Hitches. Apologizing.

7. Getting By in Commercial Establishments (restaurants, cafeterias, markets, supermarkets, shops of different kinds, etc.). Requesting different kinds of Products or Ordering what to Eat and Drink. Making Payment.
8. Drafting an Informal Letter, or Message, to a Friend or Relative.
9. Giving Advice about What, or What Not, to Do.
10. Providing Information about Recipes and How to Cook specific Foods.
11. Obtaining Information about Renting Accommodation, about Lay-Outs, about Furnishings and Room Content.

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a) Manuals

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- BUITRAGO JIMÉNEZ, A. y J.A. TORIJANO PÉREZ. *Guía para escribir y hablar correctamente en español*. Madrid: Espasa-Calpe, 2000.
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- REYES, G. *Cómo escribir bien en español. Manual de redacción*. Madrid: Arco Libros, 2003.

b) Grammars

- BUTT, J. y C. BENJAMÍN. *A New Reference Grammar of Modern Spanish*. Londres: Edward Arnold, 1989.

GONZÁLEZ HERMOSO, *et al.* *Gramática de español lengua extranjera*. Madrid: Edelsa, 1994.

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SÁNCHEZ, A., E. MARTÍN y J.A. MATILLA. *Gramática práctica del español para extranjeros*. Madrid: SGEL, 1995.

c) Single-Language Dictionaries

DICCIONARIO de frases hechas de la lengua española. Barcelona: Larousse, 1999.

GUTIÉRREZ CUADRADO, J. *et al. Diccionario Salamanca de la lengua española*. Madrid: Santillana; Universidad de Salamanca, 1996.

REAL ACADEMIA ESPAÑOLA. *Diccionario de la lengua española*. Madrid: Espasa, 2001.

d) Books of Verbs

ALONSO MORO, J. *Verbos españoles*. Madrid: Difusión, 1998.

CONJUGACIÓN verbal de la lengua española. Barcelona: Larousse, 2000.

Assessment

A) Final Assessment:

Two oral and written examinations will be set, one mid-way through the Course and the other at its conclusion, their aim being to gauge oral and written skills.

B) On-going Assessment:

Account will be taken of written assignments – composition work and the production of texts of different kinds - which students will hand in on a weekly basis, while active participation in class sessions will also be valued positively.

C) Final Assessment and Grading Criteria

Final grades will be based on the total derived from both the following areas:

- The two oral and written examinations will cover 75% of the final grade.

- Regular attendance and active participation in oral activities during class sessions will cover the remaining 25% of the final grade.