

## Reading Comprehension and Written Expression, Superior Level

This course will consist of reading and linguistic commentary on various colloquial, literary and scientific texts that reflect aspect of Spanish life and culture. Special attention will be paid to the composition of texts and increasing students' vocabulary. The content will help students with their reading comprehension and written expression, parts of speech, vocabulary cohesion (synonyms, antonyms), and the organization of information to present arguments using the following rhetorical characters: generalization, definition, and classificaion.

### Vamos de compras

Text: "Aprovecha las rebajas, pero no bajas la guardia."

1. Vocabulary: commerce. Synonyms and antonyms.
2. Functional vocabulary. Comment on the difference between rebajas, saldos, and liquidaciones. Dates when they are held.
3. Cultural vocabulary. Know the customs and schedules of commerce.
4. Written expression in the classroom.

### Sin tópicos: una imagen de España

Text: "Malas costumbres" taken from "Guía de malas costumbres españolas" by F. Cavilán.

1. Vocabulary: identification of adjectives and their antonyms.
2. Functional vocabulary: argue using generalizations.
3. Cultural vocabulary: Defects and virtues of Spaniards.
4. Written expression: Students will write about, "Lo que más me molesta y lo que más me gusta de Madrid."

### Cuéntame un cuento

Text: "La otra (cuento incompleto)." Rosa Montero.

1. Vocabulary: identification of adjectives, synonyms, and antonyms. Colloquial language.
2. Functional vocabulary: give and request information about characters.
3. Written expression: Write an end to the story. Two or three will be read aloud in class.

### ¡Política!

Text: "La nueva resistencia." Fernando Savater (editorial)

1. Vocabulary: political language. Synonyms and antonyms.
2. Functional vocabulary: summarize essential information and organization information to present arguments.
3. Cultural vocabulary: political changes in Spain.
4. Written expression: comment on the last paragraph, giving your opinion.

### Suite 347

Text: "Biografía de Picasso"

1. Vocabulary: artistic language.

2. Functional vocabulary: commit oneself to accomplish something.
3. Cultural vocabulary: an approximation of Pablo Ruíz Picasso.
4. Written expression: Visit the Suite 347 exposition and make a brief commentary.

#### La importancia de traducir bien

Text: “Corazón tan blanco.” Javier Marías (Madrid, 1951)

1. Vocabulary: Synonyms and antonyms
2. Functional vocabulary: guarantee the veracity of something
3. Cultural vocabulary: approximation of a modern Spanish novel.

#### Historietas

Text: “Historietas de Quino”

1. Vocabulary: colloquial.
2. Functional vocabulary: to tone down by adding of modifying information.
3. Cultural vocabulary: the dialogue in the vignettes of Quino.
4. Written expression: elaboration of dialogues for vignettes.

#### Malos tiempos para la lírica

Text: “Ergo Sum,” Blas de Otero and/or “Romance de la pena negra,” F. García Lorca.

1. Vocabulary: lyrical and metaphorical language
2. Cultural vocabulary: approximation of poetry.
3. Written expression: continue the poem “Ergo Sum,” writing 5 verses

#### Molinos de viento

Text: *Don Quijote de la Mancha* (Fragment with notes by F. Rico, ed. 1988)

1. Vocabulary: learned or cultured language.
2. Cultural vocabulary: approximation of el Quijote. Become familiar with Alcalá de Henares.

#### La feria de San Isidro

Text: “Los niños y los toros.” Joaquín Vidal (editorial)

1. Vocabulary: synonyms and antonyms.
2. Functional vocabulary: talk about changes and transformations.
3. Cultural vocabulary: get to know the problems that break out regarding bullfighting festivals.
4. Written expression: write a few lines giving your opinion.

#### España y Bruselas

Text: “Análisis de la comisión europea para España.”

1. Vocabulary: political language.
2. Functional vocabulary: argue organizing the information through definitions.
3. Cultural vocabulary: become familiar with some aspects of international relations.
4. Written expression: make a contrast with the situation in your own country.

#### Días de ocio

Text: “Página de ocio” *El País*.

1. Vocabulary: leisure and culture.
2. Functional vocabulary: express preferences.
3. Cultural vocabulary: la Feria del Libro de Madrid.

#### Delincuencia juvenil

Text: “Condenado a aprender castellano”

1. Vocabulary: legal vocabulary
2. Functional vocabulary: show comprehension and incomprehension.
3. Cultural vocabulary: a vision of the modern-day judicial situation in Spain.
4. Written expression: write example sentences for different crimes.

#### La despedida

Text: “Nada.” Chapter XXV. Carmen Laforet.

1. Vocabulary: synonyms and antonyms. Suffixes: -ento, -áceo, -uzco-izo, -usco.
2. Functional vocabulary: comprehend the main information of a story.[
3. Cultural vocabulary: approximation of a Spanish post-war novel
4. Written expression: Summarize the chapter.

#### ¡Salud!

Text: “La donación de sangre.” J. Siles, J. Sánchez.

1. Vocabulary: synonyms and antonyms.
2. Functional vocabulary: value the experiences and impressions of yourself and others
3. Cultural vocabulary: become familiar with the campaigns related to the prevention of disease.

#### Vivir mejor

Text: “El poder del sol.” J. Siles, J. Sánchez Maza.

1. Vocabulary: technical language.
2. Functional vocabulary: forming hypotheses
3. Cultural vocabulary: the program Expandido de Inmunización (OMS)
4. Written expression: Write about the advantages and inconveniences of solar energy.

#### Montparnasse

Text: “Luis Buñuel.” José Pla

1. Vocabulary: synonyms and antonyms.
2. Functional vocabulary: moral and physical description of a person
3. Cultural vocabulary: surrealist film. Buñuel and Dalí
4. Written expression: Autobiography. Moral and physical description of a person you know. Description of the “typical” representative of your country.

#### Todo tiene su fin

Text: “Morir bien. Luis Rojas Marcos (editorial)

1. Vocabulary expansion.

2. Functional vocabulary: reacting to difficult situations. Expressing condolences.
3. Cultural vocabulary: become familiar with the problem related to euthanasia in Europe.

¿Vamos al cine?

Text: “El ultimo sueño.” Pedro Almodóvar. (Interview from 9/14/99)

1. Vocabulary: synonyms and antonyms.
2. Functional vocabulary: familiar situations and conditions of life in a small town in Extremadura.
3. Cultural vocabulary: approximation of Spanish film.
4. Written expression: briefly summarize the way of life in a small town in your country.

Turismo

Text: Turismo rural

1. Vocabulary: language of tourism.
2. Functional vocabulary: make a speech adding or modifying information.
3. Cultural vocabulary: information related to tourism in Spain.
4. Written expression: tell about a trip you have taken in Spain.