

Técnicas de expresión oral: el discurso formal, (Techniques of Oral Expression: Formal Speech), Advanced Level

3 credits (45 contact hours)

*This course is taught in Spanish. It is offered during the regular semester only and not as an intensive course.

Overview:

This seminar is designed for foreign university students who have an advanced or superior level of Spanish, who intend to improve their command of their spoken Spanish in academic or formal contexts.

Methodology:

This course follows a methodology that combines communication practice in situations where reflection and observation of the resources and linguistic phenomena is common.

Grading:

In order to follow the progress of the students and their accomplishment of the course's objectives, students will be graded throughout the term based on their performance and progress shown in class. In addition, at the end of the course, there will be a final exam. The final grade will take into consideration both the student's progress (60%) and the final exam (40%).

Materials

All the course material consists of a packet of required readings prepared by the professor.

Description:

1. Objectives

1.1. Communicative Skills

- Be able to participate in formal oral communication activities in different spheres of use—academic as well as professional.
- Be able to communicate with sufficient fluency and spontaneity, in such a way that communication becomes effortless on the part of the listener.
- Be able to intervene orally in diverse ways and scopes (presentation, description, argumentation, participation in debates), while adjusting the register to the situation and adopting the adequate tone.

1.2. Linguistic Skills

- Students will have enough linguistic elements in order to perform all the oral activities appropriate for this competence level, using complex sentences without needing to look up for words in order to construct the whole message.
- Students will have a wide vocabulary according to the academic sphere's use of the language (and of other professional spheres that students often use) from a generic point of view as well as issues related to more specific disciplines, while using the vocabulary at a precise, high level.
- Students will manifest good grammatical control, even if there are sporadic slip-ups, non-systematic mistakes, and small errors in the structure of the sentence, as these are infrequent and retrospectively corrected.
- Students will exhibit clear and natural pronunciation and intonation.

2. Content

2.1. Different Situations in Formal and Academic Oral Communication

- Presentation of a subject
- Public debate and commentaries on a subject
- Negotiation meeting and the assembly
- Interview with an authority or with someone that holds an important position
- The oral exam
- Work session in collaboration with others in equal position

2.2. Resources and Texts in Different Situations

- General structure of each text type
- Discursive strategies (argumentation, exemplification, clarification, reformulation, summary)
- Most common syntactic structures
- Most common lexical and phraseological resources
- Pronunciation and prosody
- Gestures and non-verbal communication
- Polite resources and socio-cultural conventions

2.3. Main Communication Tone and Mood Contrasts in Spanish

- Most frequent structures and lexis in oral Spanish as opposed to written Spanish.
- Most frequent structures and lexis in formal Spanish as opposed to colloquial Spanish.

2.4. Notio-functional and Grammatical Structures

The course will work on functions and grammatical structures that appear frequently in communicative situations and in the aforementioned texts, at a degree of difficulty and of active command equivalent to those of the Advanced/Superior level of Spanish language.