

HISP 303: Conversation and Communication in Spanish

MWF 11 -11:50 a.m. • Peters 302 • Spring 2015

Instructor: Barbara Sawhill, XXXXXX XXXXXXX Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:00-4:00 p.m. and by appt	Teaching Assistants: XXXXX XXXXX Office hours: Azariah's Sundays 8-9 p.m.
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Course description:

HISP 303 helps students improve their listening, speaking and conversation skills in the Spanish language. Working with a variety of media, students will develop their ability to communicate ideas & opinions verbally on a variety of topics. In addition to collaborative group projects, students will define a set of personal learning goals to be accomplished via an independent project. Highly recommended for students returning from or preparing to study abroad.

Prerequisites:

HISP 202 and 203, an equivalent score on the Oberlin placement test, or a score of 5 on the Advanced Placement Spanish Exam.

Course goals:

This course is designed to improve your ability to improve your conversational skills in Spanish (i.e. your ability to speak about a variety of topics with increasing levels of complexity and with a variety of Spanish-speaking individuals). This course will also help you develop strategies and skills to improve your listening in Spanish. Finally, you will be expected to define, refine and approximate a set of personal language learning goals as part of a semester-long project as a way to develop real-world communicative competence in Spanish.

Materials, Tools Needed:

A small notebook or journal to track your out-of-class listening and speaking activities

A username on CILC Blogs (<http://languages.oberlin.edu/blogs>)

Active Skype account

Digital recording device (if you do not have one, it can be provided)

Knowledge of Audacity: technical support will be provided through the [OCMC](#)

Access to a Netflix streaming account is suggested

Communication:

- ❖ I will send periodic updates about the class to your oberlin.edu email account. Please check your email daily.
- ❖ Generally speaking, email messages sent to me after 7 p.m. will not receive a reply until the next morning. Please plan accordingly.

Assignments:

In class:

You are expected to come to class on time, with your assignments completed, properly caffeinated, and ready to converse actively with your classmates in the target language. There will be ample opportunities for small group work, pair work, larger group work, presentations, and debates about a variety of topics throughout the semester. Active, thoughtful, supportive participation is expected. There will be guest speakers both in person and via Skype. There will be at least 1 required on-campus

field trip during class.

Outside of class:

Weekly WOBC Radio Show: 1 recording/week & produce 2+ shows/semester

As a class we will produce weekly radio shows in Spanish. WOBC training will be provided.

- Students will take turns as DJs and show producers. As a producer you will create a theme for your show, solicit audio contributions from the class, and combine live and prerecorded content on the air.
- In anticipation of the shows, students will contribute brief news stories, Public Service Announcements, Station IDs or Bumpers, or other content for Spanish language radio shows. The length of these recordings will be between 45 seconds and 2 minutes. Revisions are possible.

Weekly audio assignments: 1 recording /week

- Designed to develop speaking skills, these short weekly audio assignments will cover a variety of topics with increasing level of complexity. The length of these recordings will be between 45 seconds and 5 minutes. Revisions are possible.

Weekly Tertulias with the TAs: 30 minutes / week

- Students will meet with the HISP 303 TAs for informal conversation once a week. Topics to be discussed will be suggested by the students. Your work in these sessions should be recorded in your listening/speaking log.

Your listening/speaking notebook: minimum 5 entries / week

- Intended to make students more aware of their listening and speaking practices, students will be expected to keep a journal to reflect upon the listening assignments for this class, as well as listening as a part of the Proyecto Personal or listening in general.
- The journal will not be shared with the teacher, but you will be expected to paraphrase some of your journal entries in your midterm and final self reflections

El Proyecto Personal: 1-3 hours/ week

- You will plan, develop, implement and assess your own work in a personal project that is intended to answer some (if not all) of the following questions:
 - Why are you in this class?
 - What should success in listening/speaking in Spanish look like for you by May 1st 2015?
 - Why do you want/need to do to improve your speaking and listening skills in Spanish?
 - What are topics you want to be able to talk about, speak with others about that you cannot to your satisfaction now?
 - Are there places you want to go and if so, where and why?
 - What are the specific tasks, activities, challenges you need to set for yourself (and accomplish) to approximate these goals?

Required:

- ❖ your project must feature regular conversations in Spanish with individuals (approved by the instructor) who possess native or near-native fluency in the language (in person or online).
- ❖ your project must show evidence of you pushing yourself out of your comfort zone in order to learn and grow as a Spanish speaker

Examples of successful projects will be shared.

Additional practice: 5+hours/ week

- Students in HISP 303 are *required* to practice speaking and listening in Spanish for a minimum of **5 hours per week outside of class and beyond class assignments. All activities should be**

recorded in the listening/speaking notebook with a brief commentary about the experience. Suggested activities include, but are not limited to, what is listed below. Need more ideas? Just ask!

- El Rincón en Stevie (lunches M-F) Barbara will be there on Tuesdays :-)
- Activities at La Casa Hispánica in Spanish
- Telenovelas and tertulias with the TAs
- Listening to Spanish language radio, watching films, etc.
- Using the Mixer to talk with others

Oberlin Honor Code:

Students in HISP 303 will complete a variety of assignment types. Over the semester, we will discuss how the [The Oberlin Honor Code](#) applies to these assignments. In general, the spirit of the Honor Code is to do your own work, cite others when you use their ideas / images / words/ etc., and to be honest when you self-report the work you have done on your individual project. As always, if you are unsure how the Honor Code applies to a specific assignment or your specific situation, please ask the TAs or the instructor.

HISP 303 Attendance Policy:

If you are sick, please **do not** come to class. Email the instructor, submit any assignments due before class and keep your germs at home. Contact a classmate for what you missed.

Extended absences or emergencies that result in missing more than two classes will be considered unexcused unless the instructor is notified by your Class Dean.

Departmental Attendance Policy:

More than **3** absences for any reason (and at any time during the semester) may jeopardize your final grade in this class.

Assessment: (and % of the final course grade)

- I will give you periodic assessments of your in-class work (10%)
- I will give you written assessments of each of your oral recorded assignments (10%)
- Your attendance and participation in the weekly *tertulias* will be informally evaluated by the TAs and formally assessed by the instructor (10%),
- At the midterm and final evaluation periods, you will be asked to choose a number (TBD) of recordings you created for this class, as well as reflections from your journal, and create a 5-10 minute “radio show/recording” in English in which you analyze and reflect upon your progress to date (30%)
- At the midterm and final evaluation periods, you will write a one page self-assessment in English about your learning in your *proyecto final* and assign yourself a grade based upon that learning (40%)