

SPA 231
READING AND COMPOSITION

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Prerequisite: ENG 090 or satisfactory score on placement test, SPA 212, or permission of the program director

Corequisite: None

This course provides an opportunity for intensive reading and composition in Spanish. Emphasis is on the use of literary and cultural materials to enhance and expand reading and writing skills. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate in writing an in-depth understanding of assigned readings. *This course has been approved to satisfy the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement for transferability as a premajor and/or elective course requirement.* Course Hours Per Week: Class, 3. Semester Hours Credit, 3.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon completion of the course, the students will be able to:

- a. Enhance their reading skills by reading, analyzing, and performing activities centered on authentic passages.
- b. Improve their speaking skills by using more sophisticated Spanish grammar and lexicon.
- c. Refine skills in order to communicate effectively in writing. Students will first read authentic passages, interpret and discuss the passages in class, and use those as references for their own writings.
- d. Learn to present and back arguments.
- e. Communicate their thoughts clearly, both orally and in writing.

OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION:

- I. Descriptive Texts
 - A. Definition of the basic elements of a composition.
 - B. Identification of descriptive elements in assigned (authentic) reading passages.
 - C. Description of people, places, and situations.
 - D. Discussion of the vantage point in each reading.
 - E. Writing of a well-structured composition that will include the basic elements of a composition.
- II. Narrative Texts
 - A. Definition of the basic elements of a narrative text.
 - B. Identification of the basic elements of a narrative text.
 - C. Identification of the elements used to organize a narrative text

- D. Interpretation of the vantage point of an assigned reading, followed by a discussion of how effectively this point of view is conveyed.
- E. Use of verb moods in narrative texts.

III. Informative texts

- A. Recognition and appreciation of objectivity in news reporting.
- B. Identification and application of various principles in news reporting.
- C. Writing of a news report containing the various elements of a report.
- D. Recognition and use of different pronouns and their functions.
- E. Use of complex subordinate clauses.
- F. Use of direct and indirect discourse.

IV. Argumentative Texts

- A. Expression of a point of view based on values and logic.
- B. Recognition of basic elements of a convincing argumentative text.
- C. Writing of a composition including basic elements of an argumentative text.
- D. Writing of a formal letter.
- E. Recognition and use of the subjunctive.

V. Expository Texts

- A. Recognition of the essential elements of an expository essay.
- B. Analysis of an essay according to its generic characteristics.
- C. Writing of an expository essay that will show the techniques used to express the “main idea” or thesis.
- D. Recognition and use of the subjunctive.
- E. Identification of cohesive elements within a text: different types of pronouns, and conjunctive expressions.
- F. Identification of idioms and various useful expressions.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS:

To be selected by the Instructor/Discipline Chair.

STATEMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students who require academic accommodations due to any physical, psychological, or learning disability are encouraged to request assistance from a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Likewise, students who potentially require emergency medical attention due to any chronic health condition are encouraged to disclose this information to a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Counselors can be contacted by calling 686-3652 or by visiting the Student Development Office in the Phail Wynn Jr. Student Services Center, room 1309.