

Departamento de Español y Portugués, UCSB

SPAN 25: Advanced Grammar and Composition

Programa del curso: ver [calendario a tiempo real](#)

Required material

1. TALLER DE ESCRITORES, libro de texto + *SuperSite* access key (online activities and resources)

If you buy the textbook from a bookstore, you will need two components (textbook and *SuperSite* access key) in the same package. Do not buy a used book; you will still have to buy *SuperSite* access online separately and it will end up being more expensive. **We highly recommend that you buy the book online through the following link; we have negotiated a substantially reduced price for UCSB.** Go to Vistas Higher Learning store site at <http://vistahigherlearning.com/store/ucsb.htm/> and choose our book *Taller de escritores* (ISBN 978-1-54333-147-9 is the online version).

2. Eli Review registration (free; course code: **evince231shrub)**

You should immediately become familiar with the GauchoSpace and SuperSite sites for this course. In GauchoSpace you will find the syllabus, homework assignments, quizzes, GauchoCasts and links to upload your written assignments, and other activities. You should log in to GauchoSpace regularly throughout the week as important announcements and other information is updated continuously.

Course Description

THIS COURSE SATISFIES THE WRITING REQUIREMENT AT UCSB.

SPAN 25 is an intensive course designed to help develop their Spanish proficiency towards the advanced level. Students learn and practice the fundamental principles of expository, narrative and argumentative writing as they apply to Spanish, through exercises, readings, and intensive practice of various prose techniques and styles. The course reviews some of the materials presented in Intermediate Spanish language courses, and introduces additional vocabulary, grammar structures and writing mechanics with an emphasis on extensive and intensive reading and academic writing. The course is taught entirely in Spanish while the textbook contains explanations and instructions in English. Grammar is not taught explicitly, but students are expected to study the material before coming to class. Please read all assigned grammar explanations and complete all assigned exercises. If you feel that you need additional help with grammar, see your instructor during office hours.

Upon successfully completing the course students will be able to:

- use complex structures of the Spanish grammar, both orally and in writing, at the advanced-low level.
- use academic and sophisticated vocabulary extensively.
- demonstrate their ability to develop, organize, and write academic papers in Spanish where they can articulate original ideas and support them with textual evidence.
- use conventions of organization, style, coherence, structure, syntax, and mechanics (punctuation rules and accent marks placement) appropriate to academic Spanish texts.
- read and critically discuss literary and non-literary authentic texts in Spanish and demonstrate their understanding in oral discussions in class and by written commentary of the text in question.
- use strategies for independent reading of long, authentic texts written for native Spanish speakers.
- use citational style MLA or APA.

Course policies

Communications

The instructor will respond to inquiries submitted within 24 hours on business days. Weekend inquiries will be answered on Monday in the order that they were received. Students are expected to use their UCSB email. It is expected that students respond within 24 hours to any individual email sent by the instructor. If you need additional help in the form of office hours, send an email to the instructor in order to schedule a Zoom meeting. Delays or failure to respond to emails will affect students' course performance.

Late work policy

This course requires regular, almost daily work. It is expected that you complete assignments on time. Completing assignments late will make you fall behind very quickly.

- Online activities on SuperSite no late submissions are accepted, unless in serious case of illness.
- Writing assignments: late submissions are accepted up to one day after the due date, but late submissions will receive -10% penalty.
- No other work or assignments will be accepted late.

Extra Credit

No extra credit will be given under any circumstances. There are NO EXCEPTIONS!

Attendance

Due to the nature of language learning in general, class attendance is mandatory since it is absolutely critical for developing communicative abilities in Spanish. At the same time, it is understood that circumstances and events such as illnesses, weddings, funerals, job interviews, family emergencies, observance of religious holidays, etc. may prevent your attendance. Therefore, you will be allowed **a total of two absences** during the quarter for the Zoom class meetings. These are not free days, so plan accordingly. Starting with the **third** absence, and regardless of the reasons for the first two, **ONE percentage point will be subtracted from the final calculated course grade** for each additional absence. Late arrivals and early departures may also count as absences. BE PROMPT! If health or personal issues will prevent your regular attendance, **you should not take this class** since your final grade will be severely affected. Each week, students will attend two classes:

1. Monday lecture for all students
2. Wednesday or Friday group class - depending on your group. Check Gaucho Space to see into which group you have been placed.

Evaluation criteria and grade breakdown

<i>GachoSpace</i> and <i>SuperSite</i> activities	14%
Essays (3@10%)	30%
Eli Review assignments	6%
Midterm exam	20%
Active participation in Zoom class meetings	5%
Final Exam	25%

The course evaluation criteria follow. It is important to remember that no grade is “given”. Instead the student earns points, which will be objectively calculated on a 100-point scale. **There is no extra credit.** The following are the cutoff points for each grade:

A+ 98	B+ 88	C+ 78	D+ 68
A 93	B 83	C 73	D 63
A- 90	B- 80	C- 70	D- 60

Pass/No Pass option: Students fulfilling the language requirement are strongly discouraged from taking Spanish classes Pass/No Pass. A grade of C or better is required to pass with this option and no student with a final percentage lower than 73 will be assigned a grade of Pass.

Homework and *SuperSite* assignments (14%, always due by 11:45pm)

SuperSite offers additional practice with vocabulary, grammar, listening comprehension, and writing, to be done by students outside of class. Some activities will be done as daily homework (see detailed calendar), and others will be done at your own pace, but always before the due date stated on the syllabus. However, you will best reinforce what you learn in class by completing the corresponding activities for the topic of the day immediately after each class. In addition, other activities are assigned and due through *GachoSpace* or *EliReview*.

Midterm (20%) and Final exam (25%, comprehensive)

Students will take a midterm and a final exam. All exam dates are included in the syllabus. The final exam will be cumulative but will mostly focus on the last part of the course content. There are NO makeup exams except under extraordinary circumstances that must be approved by the course coordinator. Work schedules, travel plans, and personal events such as weddings, graduations, interviews, etc. do not constitute exceptions.

Writing assignments and Eli Review assignments (3x12% each)

This is an advanced composition class, which focuses on academic writing. Students will turn in three essays, with three drafts each. Two drafts will be graded. One draft will be reviewed by your peers via *Eli Review*. This means that almost every week you will be working on an essay draft. The drafts and the final version cannot be exactly alike. Students are expected to do new revisions with every draft. For the two first essays, you will receive a grade for one draft and the final version. The first graded draft will be worth 60% of the total grade. For this reason you are strongly encouraged to get help from CLAS before turning it in. The third essay should include a revision plan and should be a polished paper that will reflect your writing development through the quarter. Only the final version will be graded. No help may be obtained outside of class from friends, more proficient speakers or former instructors for writing your essays. However, you are encouraged to receive feedback on your writing assignments, either from the [Campus Learning Assistance Services \(CLAS\)](#), from class peers or from your instructor. Essays are due the day indicated on the syllabus. Eli Review assignments will be

graded on thorough, useful and reflective feedback. Accent marks and Spanish special characters must be typed, and the Spanish spell-checker should be used. Compositions that do not meet these requirements will not be graded. No essays will be accepted late.

Active participation (5%)

Your active participation during online class meetings involves a number of variables, including, but not limited to, the following:

- your use of Spanish in all class meetings,
- your participation in all class activities,
- your cooperation during group and pair-work,
- your respect and attitude toward the instructor and your peers.

To ensure that all students can benefit from online class sessions in an environment that is courteous, nondisruptive and conducive to learning, please observe the following guidelines during online meetings:

- Arrive on camera fully clothed and alert (NO rolling out of bed last minute).
- Choose a quiet, private space.
- Be ready to join Zoom at the very start of the class time or even a few minutes early. Allow a few minutes to connect to Zoom before the actual start of the class.
- Wear a headset.
- Come with specific questions from the online work you have been doing during the previous week.
- Stay as attentive to the instructor's communications as you would for a traditional face-to-face class and contribute to all class activities.
- If you share your space, it is recommended that you choose a virtual background.

Legal issues

Cheating and Plagiarism

All instructors in the Spanish and Portuguese language program will follow University policy concerning cheating and plagiarism, including when evaluating compositions. The following practices, among others, are considered instances of plagiarism:

- copying and pasting from outside references or electronic sources
- paraphrasing or translating without acknowledging the source
- using online translators in any capacity (e.g. not even as dictionaries)
- getting revising/rewriting help from more advanced speakers other than the tutors at CLAS or your instructor

All instructors in the Spanish and Portuguese department are professionals trained in language teaching and linguistic competence. They can EASILY recognize work that is not your own. Know what plagiarism is: ignorance will not excuse the offense. If you have any questions about plagiarism, please ask your instructor and consult the [Academic Conduct guidelines by Judicial Affairs](#). You are allowed to use an online dictionary (not online translators) such as [wordreference.com](#). The only acceptable revision help is the Campus Learning Assistance Services (CLAS.) Please take a moment to see when composition drafts are due so that you can schedule to meet with a CLAS tutor for revising help.

In the event that a student is found to have committed plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty, he/she will receive a ZERO on the assignment. Furthermore, under University policy, the instructor is obligated to report the incident to the Office of the Dean of Students, whose office will investigate the incident and decide what additional sanctions will be applied.

“Homework help” sites

All course materials and the intellectual content of the course are protected by United States Federal Copyright Law. No student (and all other persons) shall give, sell, or otherwise distribute to others, or publish any electronically available course materials or recordings made during any course presentation without the written consent of the instructor. For example, you are not allowed to copy quiz/exam questions or writing assignments and post them in public or private websites.

Course materials and the intellectual content of the course itself are protected by United States Federal Copyright Law, the California Civil Code. The UC Policy 102.23 expressly prohibits students (and all other persons) from recording lectures or discussions and from distributing or selling lectures notes and all other course materials without the prior written permission of the instructor.

Education Abroad

This course is designed to present the tools necessary for learning Spanish as a foreign language, and it presents materials at the intermediate level. However, taking this class or even completing the Spanish major does not necessarily mean that you will become fluent or highly proficient in Spanish, since language acquisition occurs through intense exposure and interaction beyond the contact time that any course or program of studies allows. Students hoping to become proficient and/or major/minor in Spanish are strongly encouraged to participate in UC EAP immersion programs, such as the ones at the [Universidad de Barcelona](#), the [Universidad Complutense de Madrid](#), the [Carlos III University of Madrid](#) (Spain), the Universidad Católica or the Universidad de Chile ([Chilean universities programs](#)) or the [Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México](#). For more information on UC EAP programs, contact the UCSB EAP Office in South Hall, <https://eap.ucsb.edu/>