

**Northeastern Illinois University**  
**Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS: SPAN 250-L18**

**TERM:** Fall 2009

**COURSE:** Composition for the Spanish Speaking II

**CLASS SCHEDULE:** 6:10-8:50 p.m. Thursdays

**LOCATION:** El Centro, Room 105

**PREREQUISITE:** FL SPAN 228

**INSTRUCTOR:** Kathleen S. Petefish

**TELEPHONE:** El Centro- (773)-442-4080 (emergencies only)

**EMAIL:** k-petefish@neiu.edu

**OFFICE HOURS:** Thursdays 5:10-6:10 p.m.

**OFFICE LOCATION:** El Centro, Instructors' Office

**REQUIRED TEXT:** *La escritura paso a paso*

Paloma Lapuerta/Gustavo Mejía  
Pearson Prentice Hall, 2008

**RECOMMENDED PUBLICATION:**

MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (7<sup>th</sup> edition or higher)  
Joseph Gibaldi  
The Modern Language Association of American, 2009

**COURSE OBJECTIVE:** The primary objective of this course is to foster students' critical reflection and self-correction, thus increasing their independence in the craft of writing. Students will increase their proficiency through guided practice with argumentation and expository writing.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** The four functions of language (reading, writing, listening and speaking) will be used in the course, with most emphasis placed on writing (i.e. composition, with added focus on grammar, when necessary).

Classroom activities are intended to maximize opportunities to explore and develop ideas in preparation for writing, to build oral skills, and to teach specific writing skills while encouraging students to think critically about writing.

*Special note:* This course is intended for the Spanish-speaking student and is listed in the Academic Catalog as a required course for heritage learners of Spanish.

<b><u>EVALUATION:</u></b>	Attendance and In-class Performance	14%	(1 point per class session-14 sessions total)
	Chapter Assignments and Composition Exam	14%	
	Compositions	54%	(5 compositions and analyses will be assigned)
	Composition Analysis	18%	(students will be asked to complete 5 analyses)

**GRADING SCALE:** A = 86-100% B = 76-85% C = 60-75% D = 50-59% F = 0-49%

**Northeastern Illinois University**  
**Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS: SPAN 250-L18**

**ATTENDANCE/IN-CLASS PERFORMANCE:**

Students will receive full points if they are present and demonstrate a willingness and ability to work with other students in discussing ideas for writing compositions and in reviewing drafts of compositions. No points will be awarded if a student is absent.

**COMPOSITIONS:** Students will be asked to write five (5) compositions without the assistance of outside tutors, family members, friends, teachers, etc. Each composition will be awarded up to 60 points. Awarding of points will be based on criteria distributed to students for each type of writing assignment given during the course. **Fifteen (15 points)** will be deducted from the maximum award possible for each composition that is submitted late. Compositions may not be submitted later than one week beyond their due date.

Compositions will vary in length, from more than one (1) page to less than four (4) pages. The number of pages is less important than the quality of the composition. Compositions must be typed, with spacing of 1.5 and with appropriate margins, indentations, and paragraphs. Font size must be 12. The presentation of the hard copy composition must be clean and neat, with no pencil or pen markings. Compositions sent via email will not be accepted except under special conditions, authorized by the instructor. Students will need to bring two (2) copies of their compositions to class, one for themselves to use during class and one for peer review.

Topics for compositions will vary and will be assigned as the course progresses. Students are expected to keep back up copies of their compositions. In addition, students must submit a simple outline for each composition (a form will be provided for this). Handwritten outlines will not be permitted. Students will also be required to track conjunction/transition word usage with selected compositions.

Note: Because composition activities will take place during class time, students will be permitted to use their personal laptop computers, if they wish. A computer lab may or may not be available for student use during class.

**COMPOSITION ANALYSIS:**

Students will be asked to perform a composition analysis for five compositions they submit for evaluation. This analysis will take place after the instructor has evaluated the composition. Each analysis will be awarded up to ten (10) points. **Two (2) points will be deducted for each class period a composition analysis is submitted late.**

Students are required to keep a separate folder (portfolio) for compositions and analyses.

**SUPPORTING MATERIALS:** The main text, *La escritura paso a paso*, is sold with access to additional materials on the publisher's website. A workbook also accompanies the main text. The instructor will notify students if they need to purchase the workbook. Website and workbook materials are intended to support and facilitate student writing activities.

**DICTIONARY:**

Students are expected to use a high quality Spanish-English/English-Spanish dictionary. It is highly recommended that students make frequent use of the website [www.rae.es](http://www.rae.es), the official website of the Real Academia Española. This website offers an extensive, easy-to-use online dictionary and is a quick way to verify the spelling and meaning of words and conjugations of verbs.

**Northeastern Illinois University**  
**Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS: SPAN 250-L18**

**GENERAL NOTE ON ASSIGNMENTS:** Unless otherwise specified, assignments are due on the date listed in the course syllabus. Preparation for each class session is important as students will be asked to share the results of their homework assignments with the class.

**ATTENDANCE:** Attendance is part of the final grade (see **Evaluation** above). Punctuality to class is expected. Points for attendance will be deducted if a student arrives more than 30 minutes late to class or leaves early by more than 30 minutes.

**FINAL EXAM DATE AND TIME:** There is no final exam for this course, but one short T/F, Multiple Choice, Short Answer exam will be given towards the end of the semester.

**DROP DATES:** The last day to drop the course or completely withdraw from Fall 2009 is midnight, Friday, November 13, 2009 (no financial credit), 9:45 p.m. via <http://neiuport.neiu.edu>. Please consult your Fall 2009 Schedule of Classes booklet for additional information.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY:** All university policies regarding plagiarism, copying and cheating apply for this course. Students are expected to rely upon their own effort in completing assignments to the best of their abilities. Failure to comply with these standards can result in a failing grade.

**ELECTRONIC CLASSROOM CONDUCT:** Use of text messaging and MP3 devices is prohibited while the class is in session. Cell phone usage is restricted to answering incoming calls that are emergency related. Students are expected to turn off or silence their cell phones during class. Laptop computers are permitted during class as long as their use is restricted to assigned writing activities.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**Schedule**

**Textbook: LA ESCRITURA PASO A PASO**

**Week 1**      September 3    Introducción al curso  
El plan de estudio y el temario  
El bosquejo (el esquema)  
La puntuación  
La acentuación en español  
El teclado en español

**Técnicas de composición:** Las preguntas escondidas  
Encontrar y contestar las preguntas escondidas

- Actividad A    Identificar las preguntas escondidas
- Actividad B    Contestar las preguntas escondidas

Capítulo 5 (de *La escritura paso a paso*): La exposición

**TAREA:** Capítulo 5- TBA





