

**Northeastern Illinois University**  
**Department of World Languages and Cultures**  
**Spanish 224- Reading Comprehension**

**TERM: Spring 2013**

**COURSE: SPAN 224-L18**

**CRN: 25365**

**LOCATION: El Centro, Room 117**

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

**PREREQUISITE: SPAN 202**

**INSTRUCTOR: Kathleen S. Petefish**

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

**E-MAIL: k-petefish@neiu.edu**

**OFFICE HOURS: El Centro: Thursdays from 5:00-6:00 p.m.**

**OFFICE LOCATION: El Centro, Faculty Office**

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

1. Edward H. Friedman. El cuento: Arte y análisis  
Prentice Hall 2003

*Note: Additional reading material will be assigned.*

**CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Developing comprehension by increasing vocabulary and enhancing speed in reading Spanish. Conducted in Spanish.

**DETAILED COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The purpose of this course is twofold: **first**, to develop reading comprehension by increasing vocabulary, recognition and usage of grammatical structures already learned in SPAN 101-202, and enhancing speed in reading Spanish; **second**, to acquaint the student with Latin American and Spanish literature as well as nonfiction works in the form of essays and articles on contemporary topics.

This course is taught in Spanish and is intended for heritage and nonheritage learners. To do well in this course, students should have command of basic grammar and vocabulary and be able to communicate, in Spanish, their ideas, opinions and questions of the assigned readings. Exams will be written.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Students will:

- A. Expand the recognition and use of vocabulary and idiomatic expressions related to reading assignments.
- B. Read short works of Hispanic literature representing the short story and essays/articles on contemporary topics.
- C. Comprehend the details of the assigned readings, such as the who, what, where, when and why;
- D. Guess, with increasing accuracy, the meaning of unknown vocabulary words, according to the context in which they appear.
- E. Review and “fine-tune” past grammatical points and increase their accuracy in understand and usage.
- F. Respond orally to questions regarding assigned readings, and begin to relate the themes to everyday “real” life;

**Northeastern Illinois University**  
**Department of World Languages and Cultures**  
**Spanish 224- Reading Comprehension**

- G. Develop the ability to: gist, paraphrase, hypothesize and give opinions based on the assigned readings; comprehend meaning and discern implications; use the vocabulary presented.
- H. Progressively develop writing skills by writing short content summaries and reporting factual information.
- I. Develop a more in-depth awareness of cultural similarities and differences between peoples of the United States and those of Spanish speaking countries.
- J. Begin to understand and use very basic vocabulary and practices involved in literary analysis.  
For example: narrador, tema, punto decisivo, final abierto, ironía, metáfora, etc.

**EVALUATION**

Attendance 15% (Each of 15 class meetings counts 1 point; less than one point will be awarded if a student is late or leaves early (by 30 minutes). Students are expected to be punctual for class.

Course Work 25% This portion reflects student preparation for each class meeting. This means readiness to discuss assigned readings, share answers to assigned questions in class, and submit written assignments. Written assignments must be submitted on their due date by 6:30 p.m; no late submissions will be accepted.

Note: Students are expected to supplement their current vocabulary knowledge and the vocabulary section provided in the textbook by accessing the Real Academia Española website: [www.rae.es](http://www.rae.es). It provides definitions in Spanish and full conjugations of verbs.

Exams 60% Three (3) written exams will test for: 1. comprehension of reading assignments (themes and perspectives, meaning and implications); 2. accuracy in usage of selected grammatical structures and/or vocabulary and idiomatic expressions; 3. specified literary terms. These areas will be tested through a variety of methods such as: word associations, writing complete sentences, and short essay answers which evidence the student's understanding of topics read for homework and/or discussed in class.

One departmental reading comprehension exam will be administered.

**DEPARTMENTAL PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENT**

The Department of World Languages and Cultures requires declared majors in designated courses (including this one) to upload one or more assignments to an electronic portfolio. Portfolios will be used for program assessment and are routinely used by students entering the job market to showcase potential employers the work they have done in college. The university course management system Desire2Learn contains an online portfolio feature for this purpose. Students have automatic access via NEIUPort for each course for which they are enrolled. Internet based course materials and documents are posted by instructors in the D2L system and students can submit their assignments to the portfolio for assessment by instructors and evaluation by potential employers.

**Northeastern Illinois University**  
**Department of World Languages and Cultures**  
**Spanish 224- Reading Comprehension**

Special Note: All students, majors and non-majors, are required to complete the departmental reading comprehension assignment in this course. Only Spanish majors must upload the completed assignment to an electronic portfolio.

**GRADING SCALE:** A = 86-100% B = 75-85% C = 60-74% D = 50-59% F = 0-49%

**HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS:** Unless otherwise specified, assignments are due for the classroom meeting time indicated in the syllabus. Students will be asked to summarize (orally and in writing) assigned readings in class and to provide answers to written exercises. Because this is a reading class, students are expected to have fully read through the assigned readings before coming to class.

**Note:** Students who know they will be absent from class should submit their written assignments via email **on the day they are due.** Each written assignment will carry a weight of 10 points. **No late submissions will be accepted.**

**All written assignments** must be typed (please use both sides of the sheet). Students are encouraged to bring a second copy of their answers to class to use during discussions.

**FINAL EXAM DATE/TIME**

The third of three exams for the course will be given Thursday, May 2, 2013 from 6:10-8:50 p.m., in Room 117 at El Centro. The departmental required reading comprehension assignment will be given on Thursday, April 25. Students who fail to complete this activity will be given a grade of Incomplete.

**DROP DATES:** The last day to drop the course or completely withdraw from Spring 2013 via TTRS is midnight, Friday, March 29, 2013 (no financial credit) via <http://neiuport.neiu.edu>. Please consult your Spring 2013 Schedule of Classes booklet for additional information

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

Students are expected to rely upon their own knowledge and performance for all exams. Students are also 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.

Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline, per NEIU policies. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

**ELECTRONIC CLASSROOM CONDUCT:** Sending or responding to text messages or emails is prohibited while the class is in session. Students are expected to turn off or silence their cell phones during class. If it is necessary to make or receive a telephone call, students are expected to step out of the classroom to make/take the call. Connecting to the Internet via a laptop, tablet or cell phone is permitted only when doing so is directly related to a topic under discussion during class. Please be attentive and courteous during class discussions.

**CAMPUS SAFETY**



**Northeastern Illinois University**  
**Department of World Languages and Cultures**  
**Spanish 224- Reading Comprehension**

Submit written answers to: *Mientras leemos # 2*

Handout p. 63

**Week 4. January 31**

- **“Zoo Island”** Tomás Rivera (U.S.) Text p. 69-77  
Identify answers to questions #1-20, Section II. *Siguiendo el hilo* Text p. 78-79  
Submit written summary of the short story.
  
- **Relaciones de poder: individuo, sociedad y estado:** Intoduccion al tema Handout p. 107-108  
Submit written answers to: *Para comenzar Preguntas #1* Handout p. 108
  
- El mundo en que vivimos: **La violencia de género** Handout p. 117-118  
Submit written answers to: *Mientras leemos Preguntas #1* Handout p. 117  
*Para contestar Preguntas #1-6* Handout p. 118

**Week 5. February 7**

- **“La madre, el hijo y el pintor”** Francisco Bryce Echenique (Peru) Text p. 91-99  
Identify answers to questions #1-12, Section II *Siguiendo el hilo* Text p. 101  
Submit written summary of the short story.
  
- **“María, public relations”** Francisco García Pavón (Spain) Text p. 103-108  
Identify answers to questions #1-10, Section II *Siguiendo el hilo* Text p. 109  
Submit written summary of the short story.

**Week 6. February 14**

**Examen #1**

**Week 7. February 21**

- **“El asco”** Silvina Ocampo (Argentina) Text p. 212-128  
Identify answers to questions #1-18, Section II *Siguiendo el hilo* Text p. 129  
Submit written summary of the short story.
  
- **Un mundo de emigrantes:** Introducción al tema Handout p. 163  
Submit written answers to: *Para comenzar Pregunta #2* Handout p. 164
  
- Primera Lectura: **El viaje, IV. Historia de Equis** Cristina Peri Rossi (Uruguay) Handout p. 165-169  
Submit written answers to: *Para contestar Preguntas #1-9* Handout p. 169-170

**Week 8. February 28**

- **“Corazonada”** Mario Benedetti (Uruguay) Text p. 131-139  
Identify answers to questions #1-20, Section II. *Siguiendo el hilo* Text p. 140  
Submit written summary of the short story
  
- **Un mundo de emigrantes:** Testimonio- **Pasé mi trabajito** Handout p. 173-175  
Submit written answers to: *Mientras leemos Pregunta #2* Handout p. 174  
*Para contestar Preguntas #2-8* Handout p. 175

**Week 9. March 7**

**Northeastern Illinois University**  
**Department of World Languages and Cultures**  
**Spanish 224- Reading Comprehension**

- **“Libertad condicionada”** Guido Rodriguez Alcalá (Paraguay) Text p. 143-149  
Identify answers to questions #1-15, Section II *Siguiendo el hilo* Text p. 151  
Submit written summary of the short story
  
- **Ecología y pobreza:** Introducción al tema Handout p. 189
  
- **Primera lectura: Ocre, el quirquincho** Libertad Demitrópulos (Argentina) Handout p. 190-193  
Submit written answers to: *Para contestar* Preguntas #1-10 Handout p. 194

**Week 10. March 14**

- **“El piano viejo”** Rómulo Gallegos (Venezuela) Text p. 165-172  
Identify answers to questions # 1-15, Section II *Siguiendo el hilo* Text p. 173-174  
Submit written summary of the short story
  
- **“Un pacto con el Diablo”** Juan José Arreola (Mexico) Text p. 177-186  
Identify answers to questions #1-12, Section II *Siguiendo el hilo* Text p. 188  
Submit written summary of the short story

**SPRING BREAK MARCH 18-24**

**Week 11 March 28**

**Examen #2**

**Week 12 April 4**

- **Película**

**Week 13 April 11**

- **“Emma Zunz”** Jorge Luis Borges (Argentina) Text p. 225-232  
Identify answers to questions #1-20, Section II *Siguiendo el hilo* Text p. 234  
Submit written summary of the short story
  
- **La paradoja de la coca** (artículo) Américas (revista) Handout

**Week 14 April 18**

- **“La muñeca menor”** Rosario Ferré (Puerto Rico) Text p. 239-246  
Identify answers to questions #1-15, Section II *Siguiendo el hilo* Text p. 248-249  
Submit written summary of the short story
  
- **“El reportaje”** Carme Riera (España) Handout p. 159-164  
Submit written answers to: Después de Leer A. Cuestionario #1-12 Handout p. 164-165

**Week 15 April 25**

- **Actividad de comprensión de lectura: requisito de la facultad de idiomas**

**Week 16 May 2**

**Examen #3**