

Northeastern Illinois University
Department of World Languages and Cultures
COURSE SYLLABUS: SPAN 253-1

TERM: Fall 2014

COURSE: Composition II

CRN: 20183

CLASS SCHEDULE: 4:15-6:55 p.m. Tuesdays

LOCATION: LWH, Room 3005

PREREQUISITE: SPAN 225 (or 212/228)-Composition I

INSTRUCTOR: Kathleen S. Petefish

TELEPHONE: TBA

EMAIL: k-petefish@neiu.edu

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays 3:00-4:00 p.m. and 7:15-8:00 p.m.

OFFICE LOCATION: LWH Office 2048

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Taller de escritores: Grammar and Composition for Advanced Spanish
Guillermo Bleichmar/Paula Cañon
VISTA Higher Learning 2012

The main text, *Taller de escritores*, is sold in package form with an **access code** to supporting materials and activities on the publisher's website (i.e. VHL Supersite). Students will be required to access this website and complete assignments. Purchasing the access code and the textbook in package form will result in lower costs. Visit www.vistahigherlearning.com for more information.

2. MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (7th edition or higher)
The Modern Language Association of America, 2009

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL REFERENCE SOURCES (Paper and Online)

1. ONLINE: www.rae.es (Real Academia Española)
2. PAPER: Collins Dictionary Español-Inglés/English-Spanish (6th Edition or later)
3. PAPER: Diccionario de sinónimos y antónimos (Example: Editorial El Ateneo)

SPECIAL NOTE:

The Department of World Languages and Cultures requires declared majors in designated courses (including this one) to upload one or more assignments to a personal account of an electronic portfolio such as Desire2Learn. 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. For this course, declared majors will be uploading an essay on a predetermined topic. Declared majors who fail to complete this assignment will receive a grade of Incomplete.

COURSE OBJECTIVE: The primary objective of this course is twofold: 1) to foster students' critical reflection and self-correction in the craft of writing in Spanish; and 2) to increase student understanding of and experience with basic types of writing. Students will increase their proficiency through guided practice with description, narrative, exposition and argumentation. The textbook selected for the course is designed to help learners develop skills to move from the intermediate mid to intermediate high and low-mid advanced levels as defined in the writing guidelines developed by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL).

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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, orthography (including the use of the accent marks), punctuation and reference citation.

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.

EVALUATION:

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| • Attendance and in-class performance
(1 point per class session-15 sessions total) | 15% |
| • Textbook/Supersite assignments | 15% |
| • Compositions (5) | 55% |
| • Composition Exam | 15% |

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

ATTENDANCE/IN-CLASS PERFORMANCE

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.

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.

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 and the instructor. No points will be awarded if a student is absent from class. **Preparing a full or complete rough draft for each writing assignment is a requirement of the course.**

CHAPTER ASSIGNMENTS

As the semester progresses, students will be asked to complete some (but not all) of the exercises included in the assigned chapters of the main text and workbook. In some cases, answers to the exercises may be written directly into the textbook or workbook; in other cases, students will be asked to submit a printed copy to the instructor. The instructor expects each student to come to class prepared to discuss and show their work to other students. Failure to come prepared will have a negative impact on the student's ability to keep pace with the coursework, to learn the required subject content and to obtain a grade of A or B.

COMPOSITION ASSIGNMENTS: Students will be asked to write five (5) compositions without the assistance of outside tutors, family members, friends, teachers, etc. **Two versions of the composition are required and must be submitted for review: a rough draft and a final version for evaluation.**

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. Ten (10 points) will be deducted

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from the maximum award possible for each composition that is submitted late. This includes rough and final versions. **Compositions may not be submitted later than one week beyond the initial due date.**

If a student knows he or she will be absent from class the day the composition is due, he/she should submit the composition via email on the day it is due. In general, compositions sent via email will not be accepted except under special conditions, authorized by the instructor.

Compositions will vary in length, from one and one half (1.5) pages to four (4) pages. In general, 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, Times New Roman.** The presentation of the hard copy composition must be clean and neat, with no pencil or pen markings. Students will need to bring two (2) copies of their compositions to class, one for themselves to use during class and one for the instructor.

Topics and length of compositions will vary and will be assigned as the course progresses. Students are expected to keep back up copies of their work.

Note: Because some writing activities will take place during class time, students may/should use their personal laptop computers during class. Moreover, some classroom activities will require students to work in pairs and it may be faster and easier to complete the activities if a laptop computer is available for this purpose.

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. **Five (5) points will be deducted (from the total of 60 possible points) for each analysis that is submitted late or is incomplete. Fifteen (15) points will be deducted (from the total of 60 possible points) if the analysis is not submitted at all. No composition analysis may be submitted later than one week beyond the initial due date.**

SUPPORTING MATERIALS: The main text, *Taller de escritores*, is sold in package form with an access code to additional materials on the publisher's website (i.e. VHL Supersite). Supersite activities and information 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, 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.

Additionally, students will need to use a thesaurus (i.e. diccionario de sinónimos y antónimos) so that they can improve the quality of their writing by avoiding excessive repetition of the same verbs, nouns, adjectives, transition words or markers, connectors, and so forth.

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FINAL EXAM DATE AND TIME: One exam (or final exam) will be given during this course. The exam will take place on Tuesday, December 9 from 4:00 to 5:50 p.m. in the same classroom used throughout the semester. It will consist of T/F, Multiple Choice, Matching and/or Short Answer questions on the basic types of writing practiced during the course.

DROP DATES: The last day to drop the course or completely withdraw from Fall 2013 is midnight, Friday, November 7, 2014 (no financial credit) via <http://neiuport.neiu.edu>. Please consult the online Fall 2014 Schedule of Classes 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 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 silence or turn off their cell phones (ring tones) during class. As a courtesy to others, students are asked to step out of the classroom if they must make or receive a call. Laptop computers, tablets and cell phones with Internet access are permitted and recommended during class as long as their use is restricted to assigned writing activities.

CAMPUS SAFETY

It is recognized that a safe university environment is a shared responsibility of faculty, staff, and students, all of whom are expected to familiarize themselves with and cooperate with emergency procedures. Web links to Campus Safety: Emergency Procedures and Safety Information can be found on NEIUport on the MyNEIU tab or as follows:

For the Main Campus:

http://www.neiu.edu/~neiuTEMP/Emergency_Procedures/MainCampus/

Notes: The following **COURSE CALENDAR** is the instructor's best estimate of how the class will progress. Changes may be made based on student performance and other factors. As the course progresses, the instructor will announce assignments in class and on the VHL SUPERSITE under the section **Announcements**. **Due Dates** for compositions are indicated below. Activities to be completed on the VHL Supersite must be completed by the due date indicated on the site.

<u>WEEK</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPICS</u>	<u>SUBMIT</u>
Week 1	August 26	Introducción al curso Capítulo 1: La descripción	
Week 2	September 2	Capítulo 1: La descripción	Párrafo(s) + Supersite
Week 3	September 9	Capítulo 1: La descripción Capítulo 2: La narración	Borrador: Descripción

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Week 4	September 16	Capítulo 2: La narración	Párrafo(s) + Supersite
Week 5	September 23	Capítulo 1: La descripción Capítulo 2: La narración Capítulo 4: La exposición	Versión final: Descripción Borrador: Narración
Week 6	September 30	Capítulo 1: La descripción Capítulo 4: La exposición	Análisis #1 (in class) Párrafo(s) + Supersite
Week 7	October 7	Capítulo 2: La narración Capítulo 4: La exposición Capítulo 5: La argumentación	Versión final: Narración Borrador: Exposición
Week 8	October 14	Capítulo 2: La narración Capítulo 5: La argumentación	Análisis #2 (in class) Párrafo(s) + Supersite
Week 9	October 21	Capítulo 4: La exposición Capítulo 5: La argumentación Capítulo 3: El ensayo narrativo	Versión final: Exposición Borrador: Argumentación
Week 10	October 28	Capítulo 4: La exposición Capítulo 3: El ensayo narrativo	Análisis #3: (in class) Párrafo(s) + Supersite
Week 11	November 4	Capítulo 5: La argumentación Capítulo 3: El ensayo narrativo	Versión final: Argumentación Borrador: Ensayo narrativo
Week 12	November 11	Capítulo 5: La argumentación	Análisis #4 (in class)
Week 13	November 18	Capítulo 3: El ensayo narrativo Spanish Majors: Preparation of Portfolio Assignment	Versión final: Ensayo narrativo
Week 14	November 25	Capítulo 3: El ensayo narrativo	Análisis #5 (in class)
Week 15	December 2	Review for Final Exam <u>Spanish Majors:</u> Submit Essay for Desire2Learn Portfolio	
Week 16	December 9	EXAM	