The University of Texas at Austin
Department of Spanish and Portuguese

SPANISH 312L, FALL 2005 SYLLABUS

Instructor: **MARIPAZ GARCÍA**	Supervisor: Lucía Osa-Melero
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Office hours: **M, W, F, 12pm – 1pm** (or by appt.)	Office hours: MW 1-2pm, TH 2-3pm

The course will be entirely taught in Spanish. Your instructor will be glad to assist you. Please see her with any problems, questions, or suggestions you have relating to the class. If you have a problem with your instructor and have not been able to solve it with her, please see the Supervisor (info above).

REQUIRED:

1- Foerster, S. W., Lambright, A., & Alfonso-Pinto, F. (2003). ***Punto y Aparte*** (2nd ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.
2- Delacre, L. (1996). ***De oro y esmeraldas***. New York: Scholastic.
3- Four children's literary texts from different sources (more information will be provided).

SUGGESTED:

1- Foerster, S. W., Lambright, A., & Alfonso-Pinto, F. (2003). *Manual que acompaña Punto y Aparte.* New York: McGraw-Hill.
2- Bilingual dictionary.

DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE:

SPN 312L is the fourth course in UT's lower-division Spanish program. In this course, you will work toward perfecting what you have learned in the first three Spanish courses while improving your ability to speak, read, write, and understand Spanish.

In this course, we will focus more on using the language to communicate and less on rote grammar learning. Therefore, students are expected to review grammar on their own, preferably before class. Class time will be devoted primarily to applying the grammar rules in communicative situations, discussions of readings, oral practice, listening comprehension practice, and vocabulary acquisition. This class meets 3 times a week only, so the pace is faster than in the beginning courses.

The communicative goals for this course –also called 7 Puntos Clave— include: (D) describing and (C) comparing in detail; (P) narrating in the past and (F) future; (R/R) giving advice, expressing opinions and reacting to dramatic events and situations; (G) talking about likes and dislikes and explaining why; and (H) hypothesizing on both personal and impersonal topics. In both oral and written work, you will learn to support your opinions clearly and convincingly.

This course, unlike other sections of SPN312L, will also make use of children's literature as part of a research study. Your instruction will explain more about this subject during the first weeks of class. Students in this class will have neither more nor less work than students in other sections, and they will be evaluated basically for the same skills, even though the materials may be slightly different.

ATTENDANCE:
The Spanish Department has set a maximum of 3 absences for Spanish 312L. Ten points (out of 1,000) will be deducted from the final grade per every absence in excess of 3. If you miss the first two days of class (Wednesday and Friday), you will be automatically dropped. Holy days do not count.

GRADE BREAKDOWN:

Final Exam	(it covers all lessons; date to be announced in November or so)	200 points
2 Tests	(Test 1 covers chapters 1 and 2; Test 2 covers chapters 3 and 4)	300 points
5 Quizzes	(on vocabulary and grammar, drop the lowest grade, 20/each)	80 points
Written grade	2 compositions (on movies from a specific list), 50/each	100 points
	4 written tasks (on children's literature), 25/each	100 points
Oral grade	1-2 brief presentations (on children's literature), 30/each	60 points
	1 final oral interview (on children's literature)	60 points
Class grade	(attitude 20, participation 30, homework 50)	100 points
TOTAL		**1,000 POINTS**

Final Exam (200 points): It will be during the regular exam period but may not follow the day and time listed in the Course Schedule. Your instructor will let you know, ahead of time, when and where your Final Exam will take place. However, you are responsible for finding out the day, time, and location for your Final Exam by consulting the Spanish website, the Registrar's website, or Blackboard. All students are required to take the Final Exam. A make-up will be given to students who have obtained prior permission due to a conflict with an exam for another class (evidence must be presented). The final exam will have an oral and a written part and will cover chapters 1 through 5.

Tests (2 / 150 points each): The dates of these two tests will be announced in the Calendario, the daily syllabus. The first test will cover lessons 1 and 2 and the second test will cover lessons 3 and 4. These tests will have a written part and an oral part, will be done in class and will have different formats. If a student misses a test with a valid excuse[1], he/she will be able to make up the test on the next day of class.

Quizzes (5 / 20 points each, drop the lowest): These quizzes, announced in the Calendario, will focus on the vocabulary and grammar covered in the textbook (not in the children's books). Students can make up one (1) missed quiz if they have a valid excuse[1]. These short (20 minutes approx.) quizzes will have varied formats, as well as oral and written sections.

Compositions (2 / 50 points each): There will be 2 one-page, in-class compositions based on movies that have been selected by the Spanish department. Your instructor will post the list of movies on Blackboard ahead of time. You will receive up to 30 points per composition and up to 20 points per re-write. Students will be able to make up one (1) composition only, with a valid excuse[1].

Escritos Breves (4 / 25 points each): There will be 4 in-class, brief essays based on the children's literary texts that you selected from out of class. Your instruction will give you a topic and you will develop it in class using the language functions targeted at the time (description, hypothesis, etc) as well as the vocabulary from the textbook and the literary text needed to fulfill your assignment. Students will be able to make up one (1) missed escrito breve only if they have a valid excuse[1].

[1] A valid excuse must be a legitimate or official reason that can be verified with a third party. Examples: doctor's visit, jury duty, religious holy day (please announce in advance) funeral, sport competition (please announce in advance), etc.

Presentations (2 / 30 points each or 1 / 60 points): All students must present 1-2 of the texts that they selected from out of class. These presentations will be in Spanish and will last approximately 3-4 minutes. Several days throughout the semester will be available for these presentations. Your instructor will provide guidelines for these presentations in class. There is no make-up.

Oral Interviews (0 and 60 points): The beginning Oral Interview is not for grade. The final Oral Interview is set up to grade your Spanish speaking and listening skills. The subject will be about your favorite children's literary text and cultural issues related to it. Your instruction will give you more information on this assignment and how you will be graded. There is no make-up.

Class grade (100 points): Class grade is a compilation of different grades for attitude, participation and homework. Attitude (20 points) refers to the students' behavior in class (such as respect for other's opinions, good disposition, demeanor, etc). Participation (30 points) refers to the willingness to take part in class discussions, answer the instructor's questions, or volunteer information on relevant topics. Homework (50 points) refers to any assignment that the instructor provides to the student for grade purposes with a deadline for completion. Students must fill out a 'Ficha de Lectura' every time they finish reading an out-of-class text. The homework in the Calendario is from the Workbook and it is suggested, not obligatory. Homework can be accepted late or made-up only with a valid excuse[1].

GRADES:
The pre-requisite for 312L is a passing grade (C or better) in SPN 312K, equivalent credit transferred from another university, or credit by exam. If you do not have the prerequisite, please drop the course.

A = 100 – 89.5 B = 89.4 – 79.5 C = 79.5 – 69.5 D = 69.4 – 59.5 F = < 59.5

OFFICE HOURS:
It is your responsibility to seek help from the instructor during office hours promptly if you need further explanation of materials presented in class. Please note that office hours are an important resource and are provided for your benefit. If you cannot meet the instructor during her office hours, please contact her and arrange a different time to meet or some other type of help (e.g., via e-mail).

BLACKBOARD AND E-MAIL:
It is your responsibility to check your email regularly as handouts and assignments can be delivered to you electronically. Each e-assignment will have particular instructions as to the due date, and they will be announced in class.

HOW TO GET HELP:
If you need extra help, here are other options: CD ROM, Punto y Aparte, 2nd edition (CO-OP or language laboratory); Learning Skills Center, tutoring for Spanish at Jester; Intercambio: one hour/week conversational Spanish, organized by the Spanish Dept.; Pals Program, student exchange organized by the International Office; Undergrad Writing Center in FAC, to help with re-writes.

MISCELLANEOUS
-Students with disabilities must bring a letter from Services for Students with Disabilities, SSB 4.104, A5800, (512) 471-6259, so that accommodations can be arranged.
-Dishonesty and instances of sexual harassment will be promptly reported and acted on according to this university policies and procedures on these matters.
-Spanish Advisor, Liz Hastings, 232, 4506, eyhastings@mail.utexas.edu