

**University of Kansas
SPANISH 216/217
INTERMEDIATE SPANISH II
Fall 2014**

Instructor:	Office:
Email:	Office phone:
Office Hours:	Section #

Department of Spanish and Portuguese	2650 Wescoe Hall
Contact the Course Coordinators, Nathan Presnell and Luis Rodriguez-Cortés, at <span216@ku.edu>	

Required Materials

- **MySpanishLab code for online grammar and vocabulary activities** (If you completed SPAN 212/213 using Acceso, you will NOT need to purchase a new code.)
- **Access to the Internet and a printer***
- A comprehensive bilingual *dictionary* (to bring to class daily).
- Some extra materials may be required, provided through Blackboard or in class.

*If you do not own a computer, there are abundant computer labs located conveniently across campus. A non-functioning personal computer will not be considered a valid excuse for failure to complete course assignments on time.

Course Objectives

1. Students will utilize Acceso to explore cultural aspects of Spanish in Central and South America. Students will work with authentic materials such as music, videos and articles to negotiate understanding and awareness of the target culture.
2. Continue to develop cultural awareness of individuals and groups that share Spanish as a common language and relate this awareness to their own understanding and experiences.
3. Students will utilize the latest classroom technologies to facilitate oral and written communication with other students, grammar and their understanding of course material. Through online homework, written compositions, online hybridized class sessions and classroom presentations, students will learn to utilize computational technologies in a Spanish language context.
4. Students will develop the necessary vocabulary, grammar and cultural awareness to understand Spanish in everyday as well as in more regionally specific aspects. These skills will prepare students to be effective participants in the international community in a wide range of functions and responsibilities.
5. Upon successful completion of SPAN 216/217, students will have oral and written proficiencies that align with the Intermediate High level on the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines. Students will be prepared to further explore the Spanish language and additional Spanish-speaking cultures throughout the rest of their professional and academic careers.

Important Dates

Last day to change levels

Midterm Exam

Oral Exam

Final exam

Make-ups allowed only in extreme situations

Wednesday, September 3rd

Tuesday, October 21 5:45-7:45 p.m. (Location TBA)

Thursday, November 20th

Monday, December 15, 4:30-7:00 p.m. (Location TBA)

- Read your syllabus carefully before making travel or personal plans. Make-up exams will not be arranged in order to accommodate students' *social events, such as weddings, family gatherings, and travel before a break.*
- Do not miss tests or deadlines. All work is due at the beginning of class.

*Spanish 216/217 is for students who have completed SPAN 212/213 at KU and in some instances, an equivalent course at another university, or who have taken the placement test and been advised by a trained advisor from the Dept of Spanish and Portuguese. If none of these descriptions applies to you, please talk to your instructor to make sure that you are in the appropriate level course as soon as possible. **If you feel you have enrolled in the wrong level of Spanish and would like to change levels, you have until Wednesday September 3 to address this issue with your instructor and one of the Course Coordinators.***

Expectations for Students and Instructors

The workload of this course reflects KU guidelines, which specify that over time, on average, students are expected to supplement each hour spent in the classroom with 2 hours of study outside the classroom. You will benefit most from your classroom experience if you keep up with daily preparation and study. Keep in mind that late assignments are not accepted for credit because the pedagogical point is for these assignments to help you at the appropriate point in your language-learning process. Your instructor will hold regular office hours and has e-mail to assist you with your coursework.

Evaluation Criteria:

Preparation in Acceso	10%
Participation in Class Activities	10%
MySpanishLab	10%
Midterm Exam	15%
Composition / Final Project	20%
1st=5%	
2nd + virtual presentation=15 %	
Oral Evaluation	10%
Hybrid day Activities	10%
Final Exam	15%

- Always keep your graded work in a folder in case it is necessary to verify the grade. Any question or complaint about a grade on an assignment or other work must be brought to attention of instructor or course coordinator within 1 week of receipt of that grade.
- Grading Scale:

A = 93 – 100%	B- = 80 – 82%	D+ = 67 – 69%
A- = 90 – 92%	C+ = 77 – 80%	D = 63 – 66%
B+ = 87 – 89%	C = 73 – 76%	D- = 60 – 62%
B = 83 – 86%	C- = 70 – 72%	F = 0 – 59%

We strongly recommend against the credit/no-credit option. Please contact one of the Co-Directors of Spanish Language Instruction if you have questions about this recommendation.

Preparation in Acceso (10%)

Daily preparation in Acceso is absolutely critical to your personal success in this course and to the productive use of class time. All in-class activities are designed with the assumption that you have prepared thoroughly ahead of time. Preparation in Acceso consists of completing readings and comprehension activities with care, noting when you have doubts for later clarification in class, and conducting research (when specified) in order to contribute to class activities. We cannot stress strongly enough the role that preparation plays in the successful implementation of Acceso. While you are preparing, you are exposing yourself to and processing a great deal of content information and Spanish language input. An extensive body of research into the acquisition of second languages demonstrates that learners improve their language skills by engaging texts and working to comprehend spoken language. Acceso offers you a unique opportunity for exposure to authentic Spanish language input that will serve to enhance your vocabulary and grammar learning while at the same time introducing you to the thematic concepts that are explored in the course. Your instructor will assess your preparation for class weekly by taking online preparation quizzes, taking up and evaluating assigned written work, confirming that printed materials are brought to class when indicated, and assigning credit when students ask questions about the preparatory work that demonstrate engagement and effort. *A successful student will dedicate at least 1 hour of focused preparation time in Acceso for each class meeting.*

Participation in Class Activities (10%)

Learning a language involves making the effort to use one's developing language skills often. You should participate actively in class activities and strive to communicate in Spanish in class to the best of your ability on a daily basis in order to have a successful learning experience in this course. We emphasize again that engaged participation is essential to both your personal success in learning Spanish and to everyone's success in having a rewarding classroom experience. Each week, you will assess your participation (using the prescribed criteria and worksheet) and then hand it in to your instructor. Your instructor will accept your assessment as is and record it or alter it and offer his/her rationale. If you disagree with your instructor's evaluation, resolve the disagreement with him/her BEFORE handing in the following week's assessment. Any participation grades left unresolved by that deadline will stand. As you become familiar with the criteria, you will see that your absences must negatively affect your self-assessed participation score. You cannot participate if you are not in class. Your instructor will also consider class activities/group work to evaluate your participation in class. You will also note that participation points are deducted for any conduct that distracts your instructor or classmates, such as arriving late, texting or using a smart phone, wearing ear phones, having a cell phone ring in class, or using a laptop for anything other than participating actively in class. Your instructor reserves the right to assign a grade of 0 in participation for inappropriate classroom etiquette or disrespectful or disruptive behavior. *Please refrain from chewing gum, drinking or eating in class as this will negatively affect your ability to speak and also poses a distraction.*

***Note:**

MySpanishLab (10%)

Active vocabulary lists that include definitions, parts of speech, related words and pronunciation can be found in the VOCABULARIO section of Acceso. A successful student will study these lists carefully before completing the practice activities in

MySpanishLab. Detailed explanations of each unit's grammar points are found in the GRAMATICA section of Acceso. You should read these explanations (as indicated on your Programa de Clases) before completing practice activities in MySpanishLab.

MySpanishLab was designed specifically for the Acceso program to provide opportunities for focused practice using active vocabulary and grammar points. Additionally, the MSL platform includes interactive grammar tutorials to supplement the explanations in Acceso, Verb Charts, and a Spanish/English Glossary to help you as you complete the assigned activities. For each Unit (*Unidad*) there are vocabulary practice activities and grammar practice activities. These activities were carefully designed to reinforce the concepts presented in Acceso. They are NOT gratuitous "busy work", but rather an integral component of the methodology of the course. In addition, these activities are similar to those that will appear on your exams and quizzes. Successful students will complete MSL assignments BEFORE attending class on the due date, and in order to receive credit, these assignments must be submitted BEFORE midnight on the specified due date. In many instances you will receive instant feedback after completing an activity. For other, open-ended activities, your instructor will provide you with feedback in a timely fashion, and you are encouraged to consult with your instructor should you have any problems or questions about how to complete these.

As part of the hybrid day activities (explained later), you will have that write a reflection journal that includes reactions to your instructor's feedback in MSL. You will be expected to examine your instructor's comments and make thoughtful observations and goals of how you can continue to improve your language proficiency.

Your instructor is able to see the date and time that you submit your assignments to confirm that assignments are being completed on time. Your instructor will be more than happy to clarify any doubts that you may have during office hours. Your work will be graded for both completeness and correctness. You will be able to track your progress by viewing the grade book in MSL.

Midterm Exam (15%)

The midterm exam will take place on **Tuesday, October 21st, from 5:45-7:45 p.m.** This is a common exam and make-ups will be available only in the most extreme circumstances and in consultation with the Course Coordinators and the Co-directors of Spanish Language Instruction. Necessary documentation will be rigorously verified. Class attendance (at your regularly scheduled time) on the day of the Midterm Exam is optional.

Compositions (20%)

In order to continue the development of your ability to express yourself effectively in writing and to begin to develop the skill of editing your written work to promote accuracy, we will be writing two compositions throughout the semester. Because we view effective writing as a process rather than an isolated event, there will be multiple drafts and self-editing activities that will be evaluated and scored as an important part of your overall Composition grade. Information about specific assignments will be provided on Blackboard. In order to receive course credit, all final drafts of written compositions must be submitted to SafeAssign through Blackboard.

Please see the Academic Integrity section of this document for a description of the purpose and functionality of SafeAssign.

Oral Assessment (10%)

Twice during the semester you will join other students to engage in a conversation in which your listening and speaking skills as well as your developing understanding of the course content will be evaluated. One of these will be a self-evaluation of Oral Proficiency with instructor feedback and will consist of a recording of group interaction. The other will be an instructor graded Oral Examination. Detailed information regarding the format, content and evaluation of these oral assessments will be available in Blackboard.

Composition Presentation (5% of the 15% dedicated to Composition 2)

Composition 2 includes an oral presentation to allow you to share your research and original analysis of your chosen topic with your classmates. Your final grade will be based on the originality and creativity of your presentation, your use of visual aids, and your use of Spanish. Detailed information about requirements and evaluation will be available on Blackboard under the Compositions section.

Hybrid Day Activities (10%)

The third session of each week will take place online in the form of collaborative task-based activities. These activities are an opportunity to have more focused practice in individual reading, writing and speaking production. In these sessions there will be multiple steps/activities to complete and turn in before specific times during the end of the week. Hybrid sessions will include content that supports learning and discussion in face-to-face meetings, as well as the opportunity to collaborate with your classmates in a blog format and with your instructor in a weekly online journal. Detailed information and grading rubrics will be available on Blackboard for each week's hybrid activities. Deadlines on these activities will be strictly enforced.

Hybrid Day Learning Objectives:

1. Students will build community and reflect on their learning in a social/interactive format in both Spanish and English
2. Students will communicate with their instructor regularly, have opportunities to express concerns, and identify areas of learning that require support/more practice.
3. Students will explore historical events and themes to better understand the social realities of the regions covered. (Sucesos)
4. Students will demonstrate deeper learning of 3 through structured writing activities (in Spanish and English) and speaking activities (Spanish)
5. Students will participate in peer editing activities to support the development of the content and form of the compositions

Final Exam (15%)

The final exam, a comprehensive exam of the course, will take place on **Monday, December 15, from 4:30-7:00 p.m.** The room assigned for this exam will be given to you later in the semester. It is advisable that you get to the assigned classroom at least 15 minutes before the exam process begins.

Arrangements for a make-up for the final exam for an individual student will be made only in the event that one of these situations applies: *Conflicting Examinations* or *Three or more Finals*.

Conflicting Examinations

In case a student is subjected to conflicting examinations as listed in the Fall 2014 Final Examination Schedule, the last mentioned arranges an examination for the affected student at a different time.

1. When the conflicting examinations are between French and Italian and Spanish, an examination for the affected student is arranged at a different time by French and Italian for spring semesters and by Spanish for fall semesters.
2. If one of the conflicting examination times is a Common Examination (e.g., all sections of Humanities & Western Civilization 204), the non-Common Examination final instructor will arrange an alternate time.

Three or more Finals

Except for those excused in advance by the instructor, all students are required to take final examinations when prescribed. **However, in the event that a student has (3) three or more final examinations scheduled on the same day, no student shall be obligated to take more than two exams on that day.** No later than two weeks before Stop Day, the student shall notify the instructor(s) from the highest numbered course(s) not having a common final exam of the need to provide a make-up examination to be administered at a mutually acceptable time.

A Common Final Exam is defined as one approved for a particular multi-section course by the Calendar Committee in accordance with USRR 1.3.1, and published in the Timetable. Lecture classes with various discussion or laboratory sections are not "Common Finals" for the purpose of this regulation.

Do not assume that SPAN 216/217 has to make such arrangements. You are responsible for checking the finals schedule and consulting the policies regarding exam conflicts outlined by the Registrar to determine if such a conflict exists according to university policy. If one of these situations arises and if SPAN 216/217 is the course that is obligated to make alternate arrangements, you should contact the course coordinator and provide documentation of the conflicting exam as soon as possible in the semester. The University requires requests to be made no later than *2 weeks before* Stop Day, so you must make your request by **Friday, November 29** at the latest.

MIDTERM EXAM: Tuesday, October 21, from 5:45-7:45 p.m.

FINAL EXAM: Monday, December 15, from 4:30-7:00 p.m.

UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT & COURSE POLICIES (in alphabetical order)

➤ Academic Integrity

All written work you turn in **must be your own**. Your instructor must be able to assess **your** language learning, because you are in the process of acquiring skills, and no one can acquire them for you. For example, the following are not allowed for doing any of the work in this course: copying (from someone else's assignments or from another source [a reading in a textbook, the Internet, etc.]) without clear attribution of the source; having another student, a tutor, or a friend suggest changes or correct the work you are to turn in; completing assignments in consultation with other students ("working together") unless specified by your instructor; translating directly from another source; or using electronic translation programs. These restrictions apply to any written work turned in for credit in this course – even daily homework assignments. Representing as your own work someone else's work or work where you received unauthorized or unacknowledged assistance is an act of academic misconduct and as such may result in serious academic sanctions, **such as a grade of "F" for the course**. The issue of digital plagiarism has raised concerns about ethics, student writing experiences, and academic integrity. KU subscribes to a digital plagiarism detection program called **SafeAssign**, which may be used to check written work submitted in this course. You may be asked to submit your papers in a digital format (e-mail attachment, BlackBoard™ digital drop box or on disk) so that your paper can be checked against web pages and databases of existing papers. Although you may never have engaged in intentional plagiarism, many students do incorporate sources without citations; this program can alert your instructor to your academic needs. Please consider the use of the program as a learning tool for all of us.

If you have questions about what constitutes "your own" work, consult the Course coordinator for SPAN 216/217. The instructor may assign an automatic 0 to any work s/he suspects is not your own. In addition, the instructor and the Faculty Course Supervisor will enforce all rules pertaining to Academic Misconduct as outlined by the Rules and Regulations of the University Senate. (See Student Handbook www.studenthandbook.ku.edu).

➤ **Attendance & absences**

Daily attendance is essential for successful completion of this course. It also gives you the opportunity for maximum points in your Participation grade. See the above Course Evaluation Criteria section on Participation. Your instructor is expected to begin class on time and you are expected to be in class on time. Failure to arrive on time will affect your participation grade.

You should notify your instructor and contact the Course Coordinator immediately (in the first full week of the semester) if you will be absent for a mandated religious observance. Only if you take these steps can you be assured that that absence can be excused.

Absences for reasons other than mandated religious observances are not designated as excused or unexcused. Instead you are allowed 2 absences from in-class sessions during the semester for any reason (including illness), before any subsequent absence will be counted against your grade at the end of the semester. You will additionally have your lowest hybrid day grade dropped as an allowance for any needed reason. **You may NOT exchange your one dropped hybrid day grade for a classroom absence.** This 2 in-class session absence and one dropped hybrid grade allowance is equal to a full week of class. **After the two in-class absences, 1 percentage point will be subtracted from your overall final grade for each day of class that you miss. Please understand that these 2 allotted absences should not be viewed as "free" days, but rather as necessary absences for illness or personal obligations. Any additional low hybrid day scores beyond the one dropped allowance will count in the gradebook in full.**

NOTE: An on-going situation (medical or personal) that affects your attendance will necessarily affect your participation grade, and will most likely affect your performance in other aspects of coursework. Students with more than 5 absences in a 200-level course should consider withdrawing from the course and taking it during a semester when they are able to attend class regularly.

➤ **Blackboard & E-mail**

Make sure you have an active e-mail account that is registered with the University and you check your e-mail and Blackboard website daily. Important announcements, updates to the electronic *Programa de clases* and other assignments will be posted frequently on Blackboard. If you need information about Blackboard, see <http://courseware.ku.edu>. You are responsible for assuring that your personal information on the Blackboard course site is accurate.

➤ **Extra Credit**

No extra credit will be offered on an individual basis under any circumstance. However, on occasion there will be opportunities extended to all students to earn extra credit for participation in cultural events and/or participation in research projects. Check Blackboard for the most up to date information on these opportunities.

➤ **Course Coordinator / Co-directors of Spanish Language Instruction**

The Course Coordinators, Nathan Presnell and Luis Rodriguez-Cortés, can be contacted by emailing span216@ku.edu

The Director of Spanish Language Instruction is:

Prof. Amy Rossomondo (arossomo@ku.edu)

The Assistant Director of Spanish Language Instruction is:

Julia K. Murray (jkmurray@ku.edu)

➤ **Intellectual Property (Instructor's and Student's)**

Course materials prepared by the instructor (electronic or otherwise), together with the content of course assessment materials (quizzes, blog topics, exams, etc.) are the property of the instructor. Video and audio recording of class interactions without the consent of the instructor is prohibited. On request, the instructor will usually grant permission for students to audio record presentation, on the condition that these recordings only used as a study aid by the individual making the recording. Unless explicit permission is obtained from the instructor, the above mentioned may not be modified and must not be transferred or transmitted to any other person, whether or not that individual is enrolled in the course.

Occasionally, student work may be used anonymously in class for instructional purposes. Student work may also be used for in-class group activities assigned by the instructor, including quizzes, workbook/textbook homework and other assignments, for the purpose of team grading, peer editing and team handing-out of homework materials (excluding graded paragraphs, tests, midterm and final exams). If you object to your written work being used in this manner, please notify your instructor in writing.

➤ **Late Work**

No work is accepted late for credit under any circumstances. A student may ask for feedback on late work, however, to assist him/her in learning the material. The instructor is not obligated to offer make-ups of quizzes specific to his/her section(s) of the course.

➤ **Make-up Exams**

Make-ups for exams are at the discretion and direction of the Course Coordinator in consultation with the Co-directors of Spanish Language Instruction.

Pre-arranged make-ups for exams scheduled during class time will only be considered in the event of a conflict with a mandated religious observance. Make-up requests must be initiated by the student via e-mail message to the Course Coordinator at least two weeks before the date of the exam. Make-ups will NOT be arranged in order to accommodate students' social events, family gatherings (including weddings), and travel

(including before or after a break). Students are responsible for checking the academic course calendar and planning travel or social events around exams. Travel arrangements made by parents or other parties without the knowledge of the student do not constitute sufficient justification for a make-up exam.

Arrangements for a make-up for the final exam for an individual student will be made only in the event that the SPAN 216/217 exam conflicts with another officially scheduled final exam, and if SPAN 216/217 is the course obligated to make arrangements. **Do not assume that SPAN 216/217 has to make such arrangements, even if someone you know tells you so.** You are responsible for checking the finals schedule and consulting the policies regarding exam conflicts outlined by the Registrar to determine if such a conflict exists according to university policy. If one of these situations arises and if SPAN 216/217 is the course that is obligated to make alternate arrangements, you should contact the course coordinator and provide documentation of the conflicting exam as soon as possible in the semester. The University requires requests to be made no later than *2 weeks before Stop Day*, so you must make your request by **Friday, November 28th** at the latest.

➤ **Student Access Services**

The Academic Achievement and Access Center in Strong Hall includes the office of Student Access Services (SAS). The staff coordinates accommodations and services in KU courses for all students who are eligible. If you have a disability for which you wish to request accommodations and have not contacted SAS, please do so as soon as possible. Disability accommodations cannot be made retroactively. SAS is located in 22 Strong Hall, 785-864-2620 (V/TTY), <achieve@ku.edu>. See www.achievement.ku.edu. Please also contact your instructor privately in regard to your needs in this course within the first week of classes, after you have consulted with SAS. Students identified by SAS as requiring accommodation with respect to absence from class will be permitted 4 absences (instead of 2) with no penalty to their final grade in the course. Weekly participation grades will still be affected negatively because it is impossible for a student to participate in class activities when he or she is not in class.