

**SPAN 3374**  
**Topics in Spanish-American Civilization:**  
*Issues Surrounding Spanish and Spanglish in the United States*

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***I Course Content:***

SPAN 3374 is a survey of Spanish-American culture and societies highlighting selected topics. The topic selected for this semester is *Issues Surrounding Spanish and Spanglish in the United States*. The course discusses the cultural, political, educational and linguistic aspects of Spanish and Spanglish in the U.S. and especially in Texas. The class is conducted in Spanish. The purpose of the course is twofold: (1) to broaden the students' understanding and perspective on topics such as bilingualism, linguistic variation, and attitudes toward language; and (2) to utilize these topics as a springboard for improving the students' overall competence in Spanish through class discussions and written assignments. This course counts toward the Spanish major and minor. Specific topics that will be covered in this course include:

- attitudes toward Spanish in the United States
- bilingualism in the United States versus bilingualism around the world
- bilingual education
- English-only laws
- the difference between heritage speakers and native speakers and the unique issues facing each group
- linguistic features of Spanglish and its acceptance / non-acceptance and the resulting consequences politically, culturally and educationally
- the linguistic status of Spanglish (language, dialect, neither?)
- Spanish / Spanglish literature, songs and dictionaries

Prerequisite: C- or better in SPAN 3358 (Advanced Spanish) or 4358

***II Learning Outcomes:***

Upon completion of the semester, a successful student:

- will have developed an awareness and appreciation of issues related to Hispanic language and culture in the United States.
- will be able to discuss and evaluate controversial issues surrounding the use of Spanish in the United States.
- will have developed an awareness of the varieties of the Spanish language, especially as used in the United States, and will have an understanding of how language variation impacts cultural, political and social issues.

- will have acquired a more diverse and elaborate vocabulary in Spanish pertaining to the topics discussed.
- will have improved his/her skills in listening comprehension, speaking ability, reading and writing in Spanish.
- will have improved his/her grammar skills in Spanish.

**III Course Materials:**

The primary material for the course will be posted on Blackboard &/or distributed in class. Students should also have a Spanish-English dictionary of their choice and a grammar reference of their choice (for use in writing and correcting essay exams)

**IV Course Structure:**

Class meets daily from January 7 through January 16 (excluding Saturday and Sunday). Class meets for six hours per day, from 9:00am to 12:00pm and from 1:00pm to 4:00pm. Class time will be used primarily to discuss the topic for the day. The class is intended to have a relaxed friendly atmosphere in which students feel comfortable expressing their views on the topic at hand. Students are encouraged to view the topics from multiple perspectives. In addition to these discussions, some class time will be devoted to reviewing and practicing grammar concepts that tend to cause difficulty for students at this level.

**V Course Assessment:**

Attendance, participation, preparation & miscellaneous.....	10%	(100 pts)
Essay exam #1 (open-book).....	20%	(200 pts)
Essay exam #2 (open-book).....	20%	(200 pts)
Grammar quizzes (closed book) (3).....	30%	(100 pts each = 300 pts)
Presentation or Final paper.....	20%	(200 pts)
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(1000 pts)</b>

**Grading Scale:**

Outstanding work receives an A; outstanding work far exceeds what is expected (superior).

A = 93-100%                      A- = 90-92%

Excellent work receives a B; excellent work exceeds what is expected (above average).

B+ = 87-89%                      B = 83-86%                      B- = 80-82%

Good work receives a C; good work basically meets expectations (average).

C+ = 77-79%                      C = 73-76%                      C- = 70-72%

Acceptable work receives a D; acceptable work is not particularly good, but is not failing (below average).

D+ = 67-69%                      D = 63-66%                      D- = 60-62%

Unacceptable work receives an F; unacceptable work demonstrates poor effort and/or understanding (failing).

F = 59% and below

## ***VI Description of Course Components:***

### **a) Attendance, Participation, Preparation, and Miscellaneous:**

*Attendance* refers to the expectation that all students will attend, arrive on time, arrive prepared and participate. Students are expected to be respectful of the classmates, the instructor and the learning process in general. Cell phones and improper mannerisms interfere with that principle as do tardies, early departures and regularly leaving and re-entering the classroom while class is in session.

*Participation* means that the student will actively contribute to class and group discussions. It also means that s/he will willingly engage in class activities and that s/he will use the language of the course, i.e. Spanish. Active, thoughtful and informed participation is expected at each class meeting.

*Preparation* implies that the student will come to class with any assigned material completed. Preparation will typically involve a short reading assignment &/or a worksheet or handout to complete. Students should expect to spend about an hour outside of class each day preparing for the following class.

*Miscellaneous* may include any homework assignments collected or graded in-class work that does not fall into the other categories.

b) **Essay exams:** Two open-book essay exams will be given on the dates indicated on the calendar. On the exams, students will be asked to discuss and critically evaluate the topics covered in class. The grade will be based primarily on content, although some consideration will be given to grammatical accuracy as well. Following exams #1 and #2, you will be required to revise your essays, correcting your grammatical errors.

c) **Grammar quizzes:** There will be three closed-book grammar quizzes based on the grammar topics reviewed and practiced on the indicated “Repaso de gramática” days.

d) **Presentation / Final Paper:** You will have the option of choosing a final presentation or writing a final paper. Presentations will be given during the last day of class. The presentation will be 20 minutes, followed by a question & answer session. The topic will be chosen in conjunction with the professor. You may want to go into more depth on a topic that we covered; or you may want to present a new topic that is related to one or more of the topics we covered. You will also prepare handouts for the class to accompany your presentation. Your handout must be approved by the professor in advance. The presentation must be done entirely in Spanish.

If you choose to do a final paper in lieu of a presentation, the final paper will be due on January 23, one week after the class ends. The paper should be 8 pages long and must be typed double-spaced, 12-point standard font (such as Times or Times New Roman), with one-inch margins. The paper must be written entirely in Spanish.

***VII Academic Dishonesty:*** According to University regulations and the SMU Honor Code, dishonesty in connection with any university activity constitutes misconduct for which students may be subject to administrative action or disciplinary penalties. Cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information are examples of dishonesty.

Instances of cheating include, but are not limited to: handing in work done by someone else as your own (in paper or electronic form), handing in writing samples in Spanish that have been translated by someone else or processed through a language translator, copying from websites, assisting others in cheating, failing to cite sources, etc.

**VIII Disability Accommodations:** Students needing academic accommodations for a disability must first be registered with Disability Accommodations & Success Strategies (DASS) to verify the disability and to establish eligibility for accommodations. The student may call 214-768-1470 or visit <http://www.smu.edu/alec/dass> to begin the process. Once registered, the student should then schedule an appointment with the instructor to make appropriate arrangements.

### ***IX Miscellanea:***

a) **Make-ups and Late Work:** Make-up exams and quizzes will be allowed only in the event of documented excused absences. Written proof of an excused absence must be submitted immediately upon return to class in the event of an illness or prior to a class missed due to religious observance or extracurricular activity. If you must be absent due to illness or emergency, please notify the professor by email as soon as possible.

#### **b) Excused Absences:**

*Health:* Verification of medical illness and request for an excused absence from class will be handled in one of two ways. A physician or staff member from health/counseling and testing will provide either (1) a hand-written note on a Health Center prescription form, or (2) a signed letter written on Health Center stationery. Excused medical absences should have specific dates or time periods indicated.

*Religious Observance:* Religiously observant students wishing to be absent on holidays that require missing class should notify their instructors in writing at the beginning of the semester, and should discuss with them, in advance, acceptable ways of making up any work missed because of the absence.

*University Extracurricular Activities:* Absences related to an officially sanctioned, scheduled University extracurricular activity need to be verified by an Academic Compliance form signed by your coach or activity sponsor. You will be given the opportunity to make up class assignments or other graded assignments missed as a result of your participation, but it is your responsibility to make arrangements with your instructor prior to any missed scheduled examination or other missed assignment for making up the work.

### ***X Course Calendar***

Reading assignments &/or grammar handouts corresponding to each day's topic will be posted on Blackboard. Some classes will require a required reading assignment; others will not. Students should expect to spend about one hour outside of class preparing for the next day's class. If you want copies of the readings prior to their availability on Blackboard, please send an email requesting them ([jsaunders@smu.edu](mailto:jsaunders@smu.edu)).

**Monday, January 7:**

AM session: Introducción al curso. Spanglish: ¿Qué es? ¿quién lo habla? ¿por qué? ¿Es un dialecto del español?

PM session: Actitudes hacia el español en los Estados Unidos

**Tuesday, January 8:**

AM session: La educación bilingüe; Las leyes de “English Only”

PM session: Repaso de gramática

**Wednesday, January 9:**

AM session: Prueba de gramática #1; Características lingüísticas del español y el spanglish en los EEUU

PM session: Más características lingüísticas del español y el spanglish en los Estados Unidos

**Thursday, January 10:**

AM session: Repaso y Examen #1 (open-book essay exam).

PM session: Repaso de gramática.

**Friday, January 11:**

AM session: Prueba de gramática #2; Hispanohablantes: “Heritage speakers” vs. “Native speakers”

PM session: Corrección de los exámenes.

**Monday, January 14:**

AM session: La interacción entre un hispanohablante y un hablante de español como segunda lengua

PM session: Literatura, canciones y diccionarios de Spanglish

**Tuesday, January 15:**

AM session: Repaso y Examen #2 (open-book essay exam). Bring your computer.

PM session: Preparación para la presentación / el trabajo escrito. Repaso de gramática.

**Wednesday, January 16:**

AM session: Presentaciones.

PM session: Prueba de gramática #3. Correcciones del examen #2.

**Wednesday, January 23:** Final paper due (if you choose to write a final paper in lieu of the presentation).