

CROSS-LISTED COURSE. MAY BE TAKEN AS POLITICAL SCIENCE OR SPANISH:  
**Spanish 382/Political Science 382, "Spanish Language News"**  
THIS COURSE MAY BE REPEATED UP TO THREE TIMES  
CLASS:

Spanish Language News, Political Science 382, Section 1, Spanish 382, Section 1,  
Weds, 12:20 AM-1:10 PM Classroom: 233 Brackett Fall semester 2009

PROFESSOR: Dr. Michael Morris Office: Brackett Hall 232

Office Hours: Mon: 1:30-5:00 pm; TU: 1:30-5:00 pm; WED: 3:30-5:00 pm, FRI: 3:30-5:00  
pin. Other times by appointment.

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1. Cross listing of course:

#### COURSE SYLLABUS

Course materials and class discussions will all be in Spanish. The course is listed in the catalogue as Political Science 382, Section 1 (one credit) as well as Spanish 382, Section 1 (one credit), and may be taken either as a Political Science course or as a Spanish course.

II. Course incentives

While this is only a one-credit course, the course materials and class discussions are all in Spanish. So this is a good way to build on your existing level of Spanish without having to take a full blown three hour course. In particular, the grade will be based on class participation plus out of-class assignments with no exams given (no mid-term and no final).

The course focuses on analysis of current news, which can help position you well for any other Political Science (or Social Sciences) courses you may take. Exposure to foreign language news is also a good way to appreciate differences in cultures, which should be valuable for other courses including those in Spanish.

The course may be taken to satisfy either Humanities or Social Science requirements. Taken as a Spanish course it qualifies for a Humanities requirement, while taken as Political Science it qualifies as a Social Sciences requirement. This one hour course will be given every semester and **MAY BE TAKEN REPEATEDLY. FOR EXAMPLE, IF TAKEN THREE TIMES, THIS WOULD COUNT AS A REGULAR THREE HOUR CREDIT COURSE.** This would satisfy a three hour Humanities or Social Sciences requirement or part of each if the student desires to split the credits by taking the course on alternative occasions as either Political Science and Spanish.

No purchase of any materials is required. As indicated in the other class handout, Class Participation, you will need to access Spanish-language materials on the internet.

III. Course incentives for Spanish 202 students

It is expected that a number of students will take this one credit course who have only completed Spanish 202 while others will have studied the language more than this. This need not handicap either group of students. The grading method (see below) stresses class participation and a journal (see separate Class Participation handout). This allows students to be assessed in terms of materials they choose and assemble in consultation with the instructor depending on their language level. Moreover, class participation in Spanish by intermediate level language students is gradually phased into the course, while more advanced students begin immediately with class participation exercises in Spanish. **STUDENTS' GRADES WILL NOT BE DETERMINED ON THE BASIS OF THE LEVEL OF THEIR SPANISH IN COMPARISON TO OTHER STUDENTS. THE KEY CRITERION IS HOW WELL STUDENTS COMPLETE ASSIGNMENTS GEARED TO THEIR INDIVIDUAL LANGUAGE LEVELS.** Since intermediate level students will be phased into Spanish language assignments, their language capabilities should suffice for what is required and should not constitute a handicap.

This course, especially if repeated up to three times, can be a way to build a credible record of a vital marketable skill -- competency in Spanish -without having to take the additional step of fulfilling requirements for a Spanish minor or major. Those who do choose to add a specialization in Spanish can also add credibility to their linguistic background by having taken a cross-disciplinary course in Spanish.

#### IV. Basic course materials:

Without charge, the class may rely on:

(1) T'V videotapes of news in Spanish. See: [broadband-television.com](http://broadband-television.com)

Euronews.net

<http://mediahopper.com/portal.htm>

(2) Tapes of radio broadcasts in Spanish.

(3) Films about topics of contemporary relevance.

(4) Articles from the Spanish-language press accessed from the world-wide web. For example, the instructor has a list of Spanish-language newspapers available on the internet. Similarly, many Latin American governments as well as Spain have good web sites, which include speeches and documents mostly in Spanish but also some in English translation. For radio news on the internet, consult [BROADCAST.COM](http://BROADCAST.COM)

#### V. Supplementary materials

It is strongly recommended that students either have access to a good Spanish-English dictionary or otherwise purchase one. Also try and go regularly to the Spanish Club of Clemson University. Some audiovisual materials used in the course can be accessed by students in the Language Lab (Daniel Hall) for additional practice.

#### VI. Examinations and Grading

(1) 20% of total course grade for class exercises and participation. This includes reports, exercises and responses in class as well as general class participation. This portion of the course will lead to many separate grades for class activities. The instructor will determine an

overall trend of these separate grades. The instructor will rely on his discretion regarding overall class participation performance when an overall trend is not easily identifiable. Students are invited to consult with the instructor to determine class participation grades at that point.

(2) 80% of total course grade for class journal. SEE SEPARATE CLASS PARTICIPATION HAND-OUT FOR DETAILS ABOUT CLASS PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES AND THE JOURNAL.

**CLASS ATTENDANCE:** A tardiness or early departure may count as an absence. There is a 15-minute waiting period in the event the instructor is late for class. More than 2 (two) unexcused absences may significantly lower the overall course grade at the discretion of the instructor. Since the class only meets once a week, all students are expected to provide a valid excuse whenever a class session will be missed. Excuses for absences must be approved by the instructor in advance of the class to be missed.

**VII. Course objectives:** To provide an introduction to the contemporary reality of the Spanish-speaking world through analysis of "authentic" materials (in the original Spanish language version). An interdisciplinary approach emphasizes the humanities (i.e., the historical and cultural legacy of Spanish-speaking countries) as well as social sciences (i.e., contemporary social problems and strengths of Spanish-speaking countries). Reading comprehension and materials emphasizing speaking proficiency will be stressed. Grammar will NOT be emphasized.

**VIII. Office Hours.** My office is in Brackett Hall 232 and office hours and phone are listed above. Always schedule an appointment in advance, so that no other student overlaps your assigned time. If you call and I am not in the office, let the phone continue ringing and you can leave a message with the secretary.

**IX. Purpose of Assigned Materials** Three different and complementary kinds of materials may be used. (1) Newspaper articles from a selected Spanish-speaking country accessed through the world-wide web help create general cross-cultural awareness as well as appreciation of the specific context of a foreign country. (2) Spanish language radio broadcasts are very good for language-learning and understanding of current issues. (3) TV videos of current news in Spanish with visual images provide an Hispanic view as well as oral practice.

## DAILY SCHEDULE

Preparation of assignments for the days indicated is strongly recommended. This should facilitate the language learning process as well as boost performance in the class participation and journal portions of the class grade.

Wednesday, August 19, 2009

Get copy of Class Syllabus and Class Participation handout. Elaborate on class handouts relating to methods and rationale for analyzing contemporary news. Indicate format for class exercises and class journal.

Write and hand in a self description of your previous background in Spanish. Include how many and which Spanish courses you have taken as well as any residence/study in Spanish-speaking countries.

ALL STUDENTS SHOULD CHOSE A HISPANIC COUNTRY TO TRACK DURING THE SEMESTER. Compile a list of student choices of Hispanic countries.

Assign reports to selected students on Spanish language newspaper articles for subsequent class sessions about their specified countries.

Listen to Spanish language news on the internet. ASSIGN a student to report next week on the lead story of [broadband-television.com](http://broadband-television.com) (also EURONEWS.NET)

FOR NEXT WEEK: ALL STUDENTS SHOULD HAND IN ONE JOURNAL ENTRY DEALING WITH A SPANISH-LANGUAGE NEWS ARTICLE ON THEIR SELECTED COUNTRY (FOR MORE DETAILS SEE IMMEDIATELY BELOW FOR AUG. 29 ENTRY).

Wednesday, August 26

TV presentations and discussion of Spanish language news. Report by student on lead story of the day.

Student reports on Spanish-language newspaper articles from selected countries. INDIVIDUAL CONSULTATION WITH STUDENTS WHO HAVE ONLY TAKEN SPANISH 202 TO DETERMINE WHEN THEY WILL BEGIN TO MOVE FROM SHORT TO LONGER SPANISH-LANGUAGE ARTICLES ON THE INTERNET INCLUDING INCREASE RELIANCE ON A NEWSPAPER FROM A SPANISH-SPEAKING COUNTRY ACCESSIBLE ON THE INTERNET.

ALL STUDENTS SHOULD HAND IN ONE JOURNAL ENTRY DEALING WITH A SPANISH-LANGUAGE NEWS ARTICLE ON THEIR SELECTED COUNTRY. INTERMEDIATE LEVEL STUDENTS MAY DO THEIR COMMENTARY OF THE SPANISH-LANGUAGE ARTICLE IN ENGLISH AND MORE ADVANCED ONES SHOULD DO THIS IN SPANISH. THIS INITIAL JOURNAL ENTRY WILL NOT BE GRADED, BUT RATHER ASSESSED TO VERIFY THAT THE FORMAT AND ANALYSIS ARE ON TARGET. IF NOT, CORRECTIONS SHOULD BE MADE AT THIS POINT. (See Class Participation handout for specified format for journal entries.)

Continue elaboration from last class relating to class handouts on methods and rationale for analyzing contemporary news.

Wednesday, September 2

TV presentations and discussion of Spanish-language news. Report by student on lead story of the day.

Intermediate level Spanish students (generally those having completed only Spanish 202) should begin phasing journal entries from English toward Spanish. CONSULT INDIVIDUALLY WITH INSTRUCTOR TO DETERMINE HOW RAPIDLY AND QUICKLY THIS TRANSITION WILL BE DONE AND ALSO WHEN A SAMPLE SPANISH LANGUAGE JOURNAL ENTRY WILL BE HANDED IN FOR INSPECTION (BUT NOT FOR GRADING).

Student discussions on Spanish language newspaper articles on selected countries. Begin discussion of first category of contemporary news articles: (1) military strategic issues

**HAND IN SECOND SAMPLE ENTRY FROM JOURNAL. Procedure same as that indicated in above description.**

Wednesday, September 9

Student reports on Spanish-language newspaper articles on selected countries.

TV presentations and discussion of Spanish-language news. Report by student on lead story of the day.

Continue discussion of first category of contemporary news articles: (1) military-strategic issues

Wednesday, September 16

Student reports on Spanish-language newspaper articles on selected countries.

TV presentations and discussion of Spanish-language news. Student report on lead story of the day.

Begin discussion of second category of contemporary news articles: (2) economic issues

Wednesday, September 23

Student reports on Spanish-language newspaper articles on selected countries. TV presentations and discussion of Spanish-language news. Student report on lead article of the day. Continue discussion of second category of contemporary news articles: (2) economic issues

Wednesday, September 30

**HAND IN YOUR ENTIRE JOURNAL FOR COMMENTS AND MID-TERM GRADE**

TV presentations and discussion of Spanish language news. Student report on lead article of the day.

Begin discussion of third category of contemporary news articles: (3) socio-cultural issues.

Wednesday, October 7

**COMMENT ON MID-TERM JOURNALS HANDED IN LAST WEEK**

Continue discussion of third category of contemporary news articles (3) socio-cultural issues

Continue with same assignments as last week

Wednesday, October 14

Student reports on Spanish language newspaper articles on selected countries.

TV presentations and discussion of Spanish-language news. Student report on lead article of the day.

Begin discussion of fourth category of contemporary news articles: (4) political issues

Wednesday, October 21

Student reports on Spanish-language newspaper articles from selected country (**FOCUS ON TOP FOREIGN POLICY ISSUE OF SELECTED COUNTRY AND JUSTIFICATION FOR THIS**).

Continue discussion of fourth category of contemporary news articles: (4) political issues

TV presentations and discussion of Spanish-language news. Student report on lead article of the day.

Wednesday, October 28

Student reports on Spanish-language newspaper articles on selected countries.

TV presentations and discussion of Spanish-language news. Student report on lead article of the day.

Student reports on Spanish-language newspaper articles from selected country (**FOCUS ON TOP FOREIGN POLICY ISSUE OF SELECTED COUNTRY AND JUSTIFICATION FOR THIS**).

Begin discussion of fifth category of contemporary news articles: (5) environmental issues and development

Wednesday, November 4 and 11

Finish student reports on Spanish-language newspaper articles on selected countries (**FOCUS ON TOP FOREIGN POLICY ISSUE OF SELECTED COUNTRY AND JUSTIFICATION FOR THIS**).

Start student reports on Spanish-language newspaper articles on selected countries (**FOCUS ON TOP DOMESTIC ISSUE OF SELECTED COUNTRY AND JUSTIFICATION FOR THIS**).

TV presentations and discussion of Spanish-language news. Student report on lead article of the day.

Finish discussion of fifth category of contemporary news articles: (5) environmental issues and development

Wednesday, November 18 and December 2 (Weds. November 25 is the start of Thanksgiving vacation)

TV presentations and discussion of Spanish-language news. Student report on lead article of the day.

Finish student reports on Spanish- language newspaper articles from selected country (FOCUS ON TOP *DOMESTIC* ISSUE OF SELECTED COUNTRY AND JUSTIFICATION FOR THIS). TV presentations and discussion of Spanish-language news. Student report on lead article of the day.

Have wrap-up discussion about the five categories of contemporary news articles. This includes overlaps between the five categories, interpretations regarding their relative priority, how the historical legacy in each area affects contemporary issues, etc.

Review requirements for final journal *including a section on conclusions* (see Class Participation handout for details).

FINAL EXAM: hand in your journals by last day of class of fall semester (Friday, December 4). Leave your journals in mailbox of Michael Morris in Brackett Hall 232 (to the right of my name). Make sure and keep an electronic copy of your journal.

ACCESSING FINAL COURSE GRADE Once the instructor enters the grades on-line, students can immediately learn their grades using their computer user ID and password and a touch-tone telephone (864) 656-2255, PC connected to the mainframe computer, or ClemWeb [<http://www.clemson.edu/clemweb/>]

N.B. The professor reserves the right to make changes in the course.