

SPAN 1000 Advanced Spanish

The purpose of this course is twofold: (a) to develop students' communicative abilities in Spanish, that is, speaking, listening, reading and writing, and (b) to increase their awareness and understanding of Hispanic cultures and societies. Homework and classroom activities are designed to help students build their oral proficiency, expand and perfect their knowledge of vocabulary and grammatical structures, improve their reading and writing skills, and develop their critical thinking abilities. The material for this class includes short stories, newspaper articles, poems, songs, cartoons, video clips and a novel. At the completion of this course, students will feel confident discussing and debating a variety of contemporary issues (cultural and religious practices, family relationships, gender stereotypes, political events, immigration to the USA, etc.). Any questions about placement should be addressed to the Director of the Spanish Language Program or the Course coordinator.

The course is graded as follows: Quizzes make up 40% of the final grade, with 12 quizzes testing grammar, vocabulary, and reading comprehension (the two lowest scores are dropped). Weekly notes, which involve connecting course materials with other content, account for 30%. Text comments on a novel and a final group video presentation make up the remaining 20% of the grade (10% each).