



Advanced Spanish

Universidad Nacional

Program Course

Course Description:

This course is directed toward students with an efficient handling of the Spanish language in the communication of daily, recurring situations. At this level, students will acquire the linguistic skills necessary to express themselves with fluidity and spontaneity, without having to look for the evident form of adequate expression. Also, students will be able to utilize the language with flexibility and effectiveness, with emphasis on argumentation and discussion of social character. This course carries 4 U.S. semester credit hours and is required for program participants.

General Objective:

At this level students will expand and diversify their capacity to express themselves with fluency and spontaneity, without making a big effort to find the right expression when getting involved in daily situations.

Specific Objectives by Skills:

Listening Comprehension

- Comprehend extended speeches, even when they are not clearly structured and when the relationships are only implied and not explicit.
- Understand TV shows and movies without much effort.

Reading Comprehension:

- Understand long and complex texts of literary genres or texts based in facts, appreciating different styles.
- Comprehend specialized articles or long technical instructions, even if they are not related to the students' field of study.

Oral Expression

- Give clear and detailed descriptions about complex themes that include other subjects, developing concrete ideas and finishing with an appropriate conclusion
- Argue with a degree of fluency and spontaneity about a conceptually simple subject.

Oral Interaction

- Engage in a conversation with fluency and spontaneity, without obvious searching for proper expressions.
- Actively take part in discussions with flexibility and efficiency for social and professional purposes.
- Accurately formulate ideas and opinions and skillfully relate interventions with those from other speakers.

Written Expression

- Write clear and well structured texts, giving points of view with elaboration.
- Write letters about complex subjects, texts or reports highlighting important aspects with the proper style to suit the audience of readers.

Objectives by Communicative Competences

- Express themselves with fluency and spontaneity
- Show an extensive and high lexical accuracy which allows students to overcome easily their deficiencies with circumlocutions, with small and sporadic slips, but without important vocabulary errors.
- Choose the proper form from a wide range of linguistic elements to express themselves clearly and without limiting what is going to be said.
- Show a high degree of grammar self monitoring consistently. Errors are rare and hardly noticed and generally, corrected immediately.
- Use the language with flexibility and efficiency for social and professional purposes.
- Formulate ideas and opinions accurately relating skillfully the interventions with the ones from other speakers.
- Use proper phrases among a series of available functions of discourse to introduce comments, in order to take or keep the word or to gain time and keep it while thinking.
- Produce a clear, fluid and well structured discourse that shows a controlled used of organized structures, connectors and mechanisms of cohesion.
- Comprehend with ease practically everything heard or read.
- Reconstruct information and arguments from different sources, either oral or written; and present a coherent summary of them.
- Express themselves spontaneously, very fluently and precisely; differentiating finer shades of meaning even in more complex situations.
- Present clear and detailed descriptions about complex subjects that include other topics, developing concrete ideas and ending up with an appropriate conclusion.
- Express themselves in well structured and clear texts, presenting a degree of extended points of view.
- Develop complex subjects in letters, texts or reports highlighting important aspects with the proper style to suit the audience of readers.
- Choose the proper form from a wide range of functions of discourse in order to present their comments, to take or keep the word and skillfully make interventions with the other speakers.
- Adapt what the student says and the means to express it according to the situation and the receptor, and also, to adopt an adequate formal level according to the circumstances.
- Adjust to the changes of direction, style and emphasis that are normally produced in a conversation. To vary the formulation of what is going to be said.

Contents by Linguistic Competences:

- **Grammar**
 - Use of the imperfect, past perfect and pluscuamperfecto of the subjunctive.
 - Conditional
 - Adverbial clauses that require subjunctive or indicative.
 - Adjective clauses that require subjunctive or indicative.
 - Relative pronouns after prepositions.
 - Review of the “voseo”: tenses, regular e irregular forms.

- **Lexicon**

- Fixed forms
- Expressions of beliefs, for instance, proverbs of weather (Ex. *en abril, aguas mil*).
- Attitudes: For instance, stereotypical phrases like: "*De todo hay en la viña del señor*".
- Values like: "*Eso no es juego limpio*."

- **Spelling and Orthography**

- The accent mark ("tilde") as a prosodic accent in some words.
- Correct spelling of words.
- Use of punctuation marks.
- Capacity to solve ambiguity (homonyms, syntactic ambiguity) in context.

Sociolinguistic Competences:

- Recognize a wide variety of idiomatic and colloquial expressions, and appreciate changes of linguistic register.
- Understand movies that use a considerable degree of slang and idiomatic expressions.
- Use the language with flexibility and efficacy for social purposes, even emotional, allusive and comic uses.

Pragmatic Competences:

- Discourse
 - Make descriptions and detailed narrations that integrate several subjects, develop concrete aspects and end up with a proper conclusion.
 - Produce a clear, fluid and well structured discourse that shows a controlled use of organized structures, connectors and mechanisms of cohesion.
- Functional
 - Offer and search for factual information in order to present a report and to correct it.
 - Express and discover attitudes: knowledge (remember/forget, doubt/certainty); modes (necessity, capacity) and volition (intentions and preferences).
 - Talk about perceptions, circumstantial conditions and desires in the past tense.
 - Form a work group and establish relationships among the participants.

Subjects:

1. Individualism and society
2. Environment
3. Public health problems in the Hispanic world
4. Art and culture
5. Spanish language in today's world
6. Science and technology
7. Changes in society
8. The role of women in the 21st century
9. Environmental contamination and global warming
10. Generalities about foreign policy
11. Sustainable human development
12. Globalization of the economy

Note:

Contents by Communicative Competences :

Linguistic Competences

- **Grammar**
 - Use of past tenses: Pretérito perfecto simple, Pretérito perfecto compuesto, pretérito imperfecto y pretérito pluscuamperfecto
 - Morphology and use of the verb tenses of the subjunctive
 - Circumstantial subordinating clauses: concessive, conditionals, temporary, and others that require the subjunctive.
 - Passive voice and active voice.
 - Pronouns: Relative, direct and indirect complement.
 - Use of SE.
 - Prepositional phrases.
- **Lexicon**
 - Fixed forms
 - Proverbs and sayings
 - Residual archaism (present in the oral and written studied texts)
 - Idioms
 - Lexical metaphors, for instance: *"Estirar la pata," "Patear el balde,"* etc.
 - References and connotations
 - Assumptions and implications
- **Spelling and Orthography**
 - The accent mark ("tilde") as a prosodic accent in some words.
 - Correct spelling of words.
 - Use of punctuation marks.
 - Capacity to solve ambiguity (homonyms, syntactic ambiguity) in context.

Sociolinguistic Competences

- Relation forms: Vos, tu, and usted.
- Conventions for turn of words.
- Use and selection of interjections and exclamation phrases to express gratitude, wishes, and others.
- Regional and national origin markers (lexicon, phonology, grammar, etc).

Pragmatic Competences

- Discourse
 - Organization of sentences in function of the topics and perspectives.
 - Organization of sentences in a coherent form and with cohesion.
- Functional
 - Microfunctions:
 - Expressions of attitudes: facts, knowledge, mode, emotion and moral.
 - Expressions of persuasion: suggestions, ads, advice, etc.
 - Macrofunctions:
 - Description, narration, comment, explanation, demonstration, instruction, argumentation, and persuasion.
 - Models of verbal interchange.
 - Fluency
 - Accuracy

Contents by Sociocultural Competences

1. Relationships of race and community: Immigration
2. Soap operas: Their influence in Costa Rican people.
3. Radio and music: Which do you prefer: salsa, merengue, reguetón o romantic?
4. Religion: Practice and religious ceremonies present in literature.
5. Costa Rica: Natural paradise
6. Latin American Cinema: Search of identity

Bibliography

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Levy-Konesky, Nancy. *Fronteras: Gramática y Conversación*. New York: Harcourt Brace College Publishers, 1995.

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