



## **Introduction to Medical Spanish**

### **Medical Spanish and Public Health in the Yucatán**

Introduction to Medical Spanish is specially designed for all IFSA-Butler students on the Medical Spanish and Public Health in the Yucatán program. It is taught in Spanish. The class is awarded 3 U.S. semester credit hours and meets for 45 hours during the summer.

Medical Terminology is the term used to communicate information about illnesses and medical conditions in the health care system. It is a universal language based on Latin and Greek roots and etymologies that refer to the language utilized daily in the medical field. While medical terminology is the study of the vocabulary that belongs to the medical field, in this course we will also study the usage of the Spanish language utilized by the professionals of this field.

#### **Materials Needed:**

- Text: An Introduction to Spanish for Health Care Workers, 3rd edition. Robert O. Chase and Clarisa B. Medina de Chase. Yale University Press © 2009 (ancillaries)
- Repase y Escriba Canteli Dominicus, María y Reynolds, John J.: Repase y escriba. Curso avanzado de gramática y composición. USA, John Wiley and Sons, 1998.
- Supplemental course pack of materials and worksheets
- Etimologías grecolatinas de la lengua española. Editorial Purrúa 2005
- A good comprehensive Spanish-English and English-Spanish dictionary (Larousse, Oxford, Vox, Langenscheidt, or Harper Collins are all good brands)
- A notebook for taking notes of information written on the blackboard or discussed in class

#### **Objectives:**

1. Students will learn the main Latin and Greek roots used in the terminology of life sciences and how to deduct the meaning of biomedical concepts and technicalities.
2. Students will be able to discuss the following topics on a general level:
  - a. Take patient information and medical history
  - b. Make appointments and referrals
  - c. Take patient histories
  - d. Engage in diagnostic conversations
  - e. Give recommendations and instructions for patient care
3. On a specific level students will be able to:
  - a. Analyze single elements of a medical term and define these as a whole;
  - b. Build medical terms with prefixes, roots and suffixes;
  - c. Use textbooks and other sources to identify definitions, proper pronunciation and the plural/singular of different terms;
  - d. Distinguish appropriate medical terminology;
  - e. Recognize and write standard abbreviations used in medical terminology;
  - f. Identify common terminology related to medications, laboratory tests, and radiology;
  - g. Interpret meanings of medical terms according to their context.

**Methodology:**

This theoretical-practical course will follow a constructivist approach based on competencies, where students will participate actively in establishing the direction of their learning. This approach will allow them to develop skills and aptitudes to understand and apply the appropriate etymologies. They will also learn how to relate these to the meanings and most common concepts in the medical and life sciences.

**Learning Tools:**

Since the purpose of this course is also to continue to develop their communicative abilities in Spanish, students are expected to:

- Orally present cases using audiovisual materials. Students will develop a field notebook of evidences and a journal, which will be updated and turned in to the professor weekly.
- Come to class prepared and engaged. Please prepare class lessons for the day and complete any homework assigned the night before. Most of our class time will be spent using what you studied the night before in conversational activities and some in-class writing assignments. You must also be engaged in the course by preparing and being willing to converse and participate in class discussions, ask questions when you don't understand something, and, of course, speak Spanish. You should also have a notebook with you each day to jot down vocabulary or information discussed in class – information discussed in class outside of the textbook may appear in quizzes and exams too.
- To continue to improve your speaking abilities, oral expressions will be emphasized in class activities to increase your oral skills and achieve a sentence and multi-sentence level discourse. Spanish will be the language of instruction and interaction in the class.
- To continue to develop your writing abilities, you will be asked to write effectively in Spanish, focusing on writing instructions for patients.
- To continue to develop the skills of reading in Spanish, you will be asked to read selected texts that will present health-related topics related to chapter vocabulary and themes.
- To continue to build your vocabulary, we will start from a base and further develop a repertoire to be able to discuss both general and health-specific topics, as well as to build the skills to promote the acquisition of new and technical vocabulary.
- To continue to broaden your knowledge of Hispanic cultures, we will use readings and view films in Spanish and class discussions.

**Structure:**

In addition to class time, you will also have oral presentations, team and individual work, homework and journal keeping.

**Evaluation:**

The grading system for the course is as follows:

- 30% Quizzes
- 40% Four reaction papers
- 20% Journal entries
- 10% Participation

The final course grade will be assigned according to the IFSA-Butler grading scale.

**Course Policies:**

Many of the assignments are outlined in the attached daily schedule, though they may be added, changed or eliminated. Any changes will be announced in class. Homework is assigned for the purpose of allowing you to maintain contact with the language outside class and practice grammar structures and vocabulary. You will be assigned practice assignments prior to discussing the lessons in class so that you have a chance to work with the material before applying it to conversational activities in class.

Quizzes: You will take a quiz each Monday, or as indicated in the schedule below. You will receive clear indication of the content and will have time to prepare accordingly.

Journal entries: You will write journal entries which will combine your understanding of the setting and the progression of your writing/editing skills. Although some errors are to be expected in regards to new and unknown structures and these will be taken into account when assigning a grade, these assignments are designed in part to gauge your proficiency and will be evaluated for accuracy.

Reaction Papers: There will be four reaction papers required following each rural visit and the field excursion to Cuba. The topics will be assigned in class. You are required to read on the topic chosen, gather information, write a one-page paper in Spanish and present your findings to the other students in the class.

Participation: you are expected to contribute and be an active participant in class.

**Study Hints:**

The key to success in this course is to attend class daily and devote time to study outside of class. If you miss class, you are missing out on valuable practice and explanation. This must be reinforced by making time to study before/after class. Text activities and workbook assignments are designed to keep you in contact with the language outside of class – do them and your grade will benefit far beyond the point values of the homework assignments.

Learning a second language is a cumulative activity. Studying a little bit every day is much more effective than marathon study sessions the night before an exam. Each unit of study builds upon the previous units. What you learn and review early in the course is the basis for later material. Failing to master one unit foreshadows subsequent failures. Review previous lessons frequently. Learn the concepts you missed on the exam.

Study with at least one other person at times. Language requires a sender and a receiver.

When in doubt, feel free to ask.

**Disclaimer:** *The policies, assignments and schedule outlined in this syllabus are subject to change if a) both students and instructor mutually agree to modification of the above policies, or b) extenuating circumstances arise that require special consideration.*