

SEVI 300 Advanced Grammar and Composition

The principal purpose of this course is to improve your confidence and skills in writing in Spanish. Writing well is not easy. Learning to write requires time, effort, a deep knowledge of the basic structures of a language, as well as a wide range of vocabulary. During this course, you will gain significant practice writing, while having the opportunity to revise your own written creations individually and in group settings. This process of writing and revision will allow you to develop the capacity to narrate, describe, persuade and express your ideas in a clear and concise manner in Spanish. You will also review grammatical structures studied in previous courses, while working with others that are more complex and advanced. In addition, you will not only improve your linguistic and pragmatic abilities in the language, but also your discursive and stylistic competence.

Required Text: *Repase y escriba*. Maria Canteli Dominicis. 7th Edition. Wiley.

Criteria of Evaluation:

In-class assignments, attendance and participation	10%
4 Quizzes	20%
Mini-quizzes and compositions in class	10%
4 Compositions and corrections	20%
Final Exam	20%
Final Essay	20%
Participation	10%

Quizzes: Students must take four important quizzes, which will be based on topics covered before the date of the quiz. In general, these quizzes will be completed between 30-40 minutes. The topics covered on the quizzes are the following:

Quiz 1: The parts of a sentence, different past tenses and ser vs. estar.

Quiz 2: Object pronouns, transition words, the subjunctive in simple sentences and subordinate noun clauses.

Quiz 3: The subjunctive in relative subordinate sentences, relative pronouns and subordinate adverbs.

Quiz 4: The use of articles, and the use of prepositions (position, formation) and placement of adjectives.

Homeworks and mini-quizzes: The homeworks are varied: exercises from the book, writing of paragraphs (individually or in group), vocabulary exercises or readings. The mini-quizzes will also be varied: reading comprehension, vocabulary, or a particular grammar structure. The instructor will announce the dates of the mini-quizzes ahead of time; however, the instructor also has the right to give mini-quizzes unannounced if students do not prepare well for class.

Compositions: Each student will write 4 compositions in class that will be between 300-350 words. The dates for the composition are listed on the syllabus. Each composition will have specific instructions that the instructor will provide with sufficient time before the due date. The compositions must be typed and double spaced.

The compositions will be corrected according to the correction code that the instructor will provide the first day of class. Each composition will be revised by the student who will turn in the final version on the date listed on the syllabus. The final grade will be 50% for the first draft and 50% for the final version.

Any help from your host family, friend or any type of translator is considered plagiarism.

Participation and Attendance: Your participation grade will take into account your preparation of the readings, active volunteering, group work, completion of homeworks and attendance. Attendance is obligatory in any case. After your third unexcused absence, one point will be deducted from the final grade.

No late work is accepted after the due dates listed on the syllabus.

With respect to the volunteer work, only one unexcused absence is allowed.

Schedule:

Day 1: Introduction. Grammatical Section: Definitions of the parts of a sentence (noun, article, adjective, pronoun, verb, adverb, preposition, conjunction, interjection)

Day 2: Reading: La latina. Mini-quiz on reading. Structure of narration. Grammatical section: Analysis of the different past tenses in Spanish. Time markers. Imperfect and indefinite. Compound tenses. Pgs. 7-13, 68-70
Practice exercises: Pgs. 14-15, 69-70.

Day 3: Grammatical section: Ser vs. estar. Pgs. 32-45. Practice Exercises: Pgs. 38, 41, 42.

Turn in first composition. Narration in the past.

Day 4: Improving your writing. Accentuation. Pg. 49. Practice Exercises Pgs. 49-52.

Day 5: Reading. "Nuestros semejantes," Munoz Molina. Pgs. 28-30. Mini-quiz on reading. In class activities on reading. Pgs. 30-31. Brief composition. Comparison with other argumentative texts: Dia de Perros by Julio Llamazares. Lexical Section: Gender of animals. Pg. 45

Day 6: In class: Error correction of first composition. Lexical section: Problematic verbs:

Saber vs. conocer (Pg. 21)

Pedir vs. preguntar (Pgs. 47-48)

Day 7: Quiz 1. Turn in corrected composition.

Day 8: Grammatical section: Personal Pronouns Complement. Verbs with a special construction. The neutral. Pgs. 59-70. Practice Exercises Pgs. 64, 65, 67

Day 9: The role of women in society. Reading: "Águeda," Pio Baroja. Pgs. 54-56, y "Requiem con tostadas," Mario Bendetti. Pgs. 84-87. Mini-quiz on reading. Activities on reading in class. Pgs. 57, 87-88. Brief Composition.

Day 10: Lexical Section: Textual connectors: Pgs. 78-81

Day 11: Grammatical section: Introduction to the subjunctive. Correlation of tenses. The subjunctive in simple sentences. Pgs. 90-106. Practice Exercises: pgs. 93, 97, 98.

Day 12: Quiz 2.

Day 13: Grammatical section: The subjunctive in adjectival sentences. Pgs. 126-127. Practice exercises: 127-128. Grammatical section: Relative Pronouns. Pgs. 375-387. Practice Exercises: 379, 380, 381.

Turn in composition 2: Comparison and contrast

Day 14: Reading: "El amor en los tiempos de Skype," Pgs. 118-120. Mini-quiz on reading. Activities on reading in class. Pgs. 120-122. Brief composition. Lexical section: The influence of English on Hispanic countries. Computer vocabulary. Pgs. 133-135. Grammatical Section: The subjunctive in adverbial sentences. Pgs. 148-158.

Day 15: In class: Error correction of composition 2. Lexical session: Problematic verbs: *ver/ mirar/ parecer*. Pgs. 75-77.

Day 16: Quiz 3. Turn in corrected composition.

Day 17: Grammatical Section: The subjunctive in adverbial sentences. Pgs. 148-158. Practice exercises. Pgs. 151-152, 154, 157.

Day 18: Lexical Section: the verb *to become* Pg. 160

Day 19: Grammatical Section: Articles. Pgs. 175-183. Practice Exercises: Pgs. 178, 182. Turn in Composition 3. Argumentative Essay.

Day 20: Grammatical Section: Prepositions. Pgs. 184-190, 207-210, 213-216, 248-249. Practice Exercises: 185, 190-191, 216-217. *Por* vs. *para*. Pgs. 235-245. Practice exercises 245-247.

Day 21: Grammatical Content: Position of adjective and formation. Adjective placement. Pgs. 265-275. Practice exercises: 268-269, 271-272.

Day 22: In class error correction of Composition 3

Day 23: Quiz 4. Turn in corrected composition.

Day 24: The drama of immigration. Reading: "La bestia," Jon Sistiaga, Pgs. 168-171 and "La factura," Elena Garro, Pgs. 259-262. Mini-quiz on reading. Activities on reading. Pgs. 172-173, 263-264. Brief composition.

Day 25: Uses of future and conditional. Pgs. 288-294. Practice exercises: 293-294. Turn in Composition 4. Descriptive Essay.

Day 26: In class: Error Correction of Composition 4. Lexical section: Problematic Verbs: *ir/venir, traer/llevar*, Pg. 253.

Day 27: Grammatical content: Reflexive Verbs and Impersonal se. Pgs. 319-322, 323-324, 327-328. Practice Exercises: Pgs. 322, 329-340.
Turn in corrected composition.