



Department of Hispanic Studies

Info Flyer – Course Syllabus

GL/SP 3100 6.00 SP Section A Advanced Spanish – Summer Abroad

Course Description: This summer course offers a comprehensive overview of the intricacies of advanced Spanish grammar, and a socio-cultural placement in one of our partner institutions in Mexico or Spain.

Additional information to course description: During the on-campus half of the course (May), students consolidate their oral and written skills in preparation for the task-based approach the course will turn into during its immersion second half (June). This approach includes a range of activities such as regular classes, visits, volunteering and structured language partnering with local students.

Prerequisites: GL/SP 2000 6.00 and GL/SP 2100 6.00, or permission of the Department

Course Credit Exclusion: GL/SP 3000 6.00

Course Access Specification: Open to 2nd, 3rd and 4th year students

About SP 3100

SP 3100, as the last required language course, has been designed to help Glendon students develop the necessary linguistic precision (grammatical, lexical, phonetical, and especially pragmatic) while optimizing their strategies to effectively communicate in Spanish (oral and written language).

The course content is organized around functional, grammatical, lexico-semantic, sociocultural, pragmatic, and phonetic aspects of the language.

Students in this course learn Spanish with the communicative approach during the Glendon component of the course, and then, while in Taxco, they are also offered an opportunity to enhance their Spanish with the task-based approach while participating in a variety of activities designed the host institution.

About SP 3100 course prerequisites

(1) SP 2000 *Second Level Spanish Language* (= **B2**, according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages): *This intermediate level language course provides an in-depth treatment of the*

more complex aspects of grammar. By enhancing students' listening, speaking, reading and writing skills, this course enables them to continue training in advanced Spanish language and literature

In addition to learning vocabulary to be able to converse on a variety of topics (Sentir y vivir / Vivir en la ciudad / La influencia de los medios / Generaciones en movimiento / Las riquezas naturales / El valor de las ideas / Perspectivas laborales / Ciencia y tecnología / Escapar y divertirse / Herencia y destino), in this second-year Spanish course students focus in particular on verbal morphology and on the correct use of tenses, aspects, moods, and unconjugated verb forms.

SP 2000 offers a lexical and grammatical continuum of **SP 1000 Elementary Spanish**, an intensive Spanish course where students acquire the basic grammar and vocabulary to be able to take second year discipline courses already offered in Spanish td (= **A1-B1**, according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages)

(2) SP 2100 Introduction to Spanish Literary Texts: An introduction to literary texts written by Spanish and Latin American writers. Selected texts are analyzed for their literacy, linguistic and cultural content. This course also prepares students for analytical reading and writing of essays in the advanced-level courses.

Method of Evaluation:

Term 1 at Glendon:

1st Academic Essay (VP 4% and VF 8%): **12%**

In-class Midterm Exam: **20%**

Participation in class activities during the 1st term: **8%**

Term 2 in Taxco:

2nd Academic Essay (VP 4% and VF 8%): **12%**

Oral presentation: **13%**

Participation in all activities of the program abroad: **20%**

In-class Final Exam: **15%**

Academic Essays: As the last required language course in Hispanic Studies, **SP 3000** aims at preparing students for 3000/4000 level courses in Hispanic culture, literature and linguistics, and to write academic essays in these courses. During the time at Glendon, students will learn how to write an academic essay for courses in Hispanic Studies, and during the time at Taxco, they will discover how the academic essays are written at the Spanish-speaking universities. Each of the two essays will be written in two stages: first student will present a preliminary version (PV) of the essay and, once corrected by the instructor, students will then write a final version (FV) of it. In the preliminary version, students will first present the major argument of their essay, which will be then followed by the thesis, and by the essay plan (= outline). The preliminary version will also include information on the consulted works to support their line of argument. Once the PV has been approved, students will then write the final version of the essay, taking into account the comments made by the instructor. All works must be original and written without the help of other persons. [[See policies regarding academic honesty as set out by the Senate of York University](#)]

(Each essay: Preliminary Version 4% + Final Version 8% = **12%**)

In-class Midterm Exam: This first exam of the course, written during the last class at Glendon, is designed to assess students' knowledge of grammar, vocabulary and pragmatic use of the language acquired in the Glendon segment of the course (lessons 1 to 5). (20%)

Participation in class activities during the 1st Term: SP 3000 will be taught with communicative approach. Students are expected to be constantly engaged in the activities designed for each class. They are also expected to come to class well prepared, do their assignments and maintain productive interaction with the rest of the class to create an appropriate learning environment. Students will receive participation mark for each attended class. (8%)

Oral presentation: For this ten-minute individual presentation, students will choose a topic related to language, culture, literature, or arts of the host country (Mexico). Students will prepare for the presentation by consulting a variety of resources (books, articles, Internet sites, social media, persons of interest, etc.). The day of the presentation students will submit a one-page summary and a list of consulted resources. The mark for the presentation will be based on students' ability to use the Spanish language creatively and accurately, i.e. choice of vocabulary, pronunciation, use of well-formed grammatical structures, fluency, coherence and cohesion of the discourse, relevance and interest of the topic. *Please see the York Calendar regarding serious offences such as plagiarism.* (13%)

Participation in all activities of the program abroad: The Taxco component of the course offers students a wonderful opportunity to put their acquired knowledge of Spanish into practice by participating in a variety of activities designed by the host institution (cultural visits, engaging in voluntary work, language partnering with local students, in addition to participating in regular classes). Students will earn a participation mark for all these activities. (20%)

In-class Final Exam: Scheduled for the last class in Taxco, this exam will cover all the materials studied during the Taxco component of the course (lessons 6 to 9). The exam is designed to assess students' knowledge of grammar, vocabulary and pragmatic use of the language acquired in the Taxco segment of the course. (15%)

Course texts:



Robles Ávila Sara, Salvador Peláez Santamaría,
et alli (2017)
Método 5: Libro del Alumno C1-C2
Madrid: Anaya ELE



Palencia del Burgo, Ramón and Luis Aragonés
Fernández (2014)
Gramática de uso del español: Teoría y práctica
C1-C2
Madrid: Ediciones SM

Course Objectives:

(1) Brief statement of the purpose

The purpose of this course is to enable students to express themselves fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions, to use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes, to produce clear, well-structured, detailed text on complex subjects, showing controlled use of organisational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices. This course also enables students to understand a wide range of demanding, longer texts and recognise implicit meaning.

(2) By the end of the course students should be able to:

- Speak and discuss your opinions with native speakers with a level of fluency and spontaneity that makes communication possible without strain.
- Listen to, and understand, much of what is said on radio and television, and written in newspapers, magazines, and on social media.
- Read and understand the main points of complex pieces of academic writing
- Understand, and write, clear formal academic text on a wide range of subjects, both concrete and abstract, including technical discussions in your field of specialisation.

Course Calendar

Term 1 (at Glendon)

Week 1

- (1) Introducción al curso
- (2) **Unidad 1** *Fiestas para no perderse*

Week 2

- (1) Introduction to the concept of Academic Essay: what it is and how it is written
 - (2) **Unidad 1** *Fiestas para no perderse*
 - (3) **Unidad 2** *Mil maneras de vivir*
- Announcement: topic for the 1st Academic Essay / Info Preliminary Version*

Week 3

- (1) Hand-in Preliminary version of the 1st Academic Essay
- (2) **Unidad 2** *Mil maneras de vivir*

Week 4

- (1) Instructor to give back corrected preliminary version of Academic Essay 1
- (2) **Unidad 3** *¡Qué arte!*

Week 5

- (1) Hand-in-in FV 1
- (2) **Unidad 4** *¡De cibercompras!*

Week 6

- (1) Instructor to give back corrected final version of Academic Essay 1
- (2) **Unidad 5** *¡Desconectamos!*
- (3) *Midterm*

Term 2 (in Taxco)

We need to include information about specific activities as proposed by the host institution in Taxco. For now, only pedagogical activities are included in this course calendar. These activities are based on a following course structure: two weeks of classes, five days a week, and three hours per class.

Week 1:

Meeting 1: Unidad 6 Ciudadanos del siglo XXI

Meeting 2: Unidad 6 Ciudadanos del siglo XXI

Introduction to Academic Essay at UNAM / what it is and how it is written
Announcement: topic for the 2nd Academic Essay / Info Preliminary Version

Meeting 3: Unidad 7 Historia e historias

*Meeting 4: **Unidad 7** Historia e historias*

Meeting 5: Hand-in Preliminary Version of Academic essay 2
Unidad 8 *De ciencia, medicina y salud*

Week 2:

Meeting 6: Instructor to give back corrected preliminary version of Academic Essay 2
Unidad 8 *De ciencia, medicina y salud*

Meeting 7: Oral Presentations

*Meeting 8: **Unidad 9** La comunicación en la era digital*

Meeting 9: Hand-in final version of Academic Essay 2
Unidad 9 *La comunicación en la era digital*

Meeting 10: Instructor to give back corrected final version of Academic Essay 2
Final Exam

While working on the grammar component for the course, it would be important to put a special focus on the new grammatical items for this course:

passive voice / indirect style / sequence of tenses a/ relative sentences

Grades and Grading Schemes at York University

All courses at Glendon/York are graded on the following system:

Grade	Grade Point	Per Cent Range	Description
A+	9	90-100	Exceptional
A	8	80-89	Excellent
B+	7	75-79	Very Good
B	6	70-74	Good
C+	5	65-69	Competent
C	4	60-64	Fairly Competent
D+	3	55-59	Passing
D	2	50-54	Barely Passing
E	1	40-49	Marginally Failing
F	0	0-39	Failing

Definitions of Grading Descriptions

A+ Exceptional: thorough knowledge of concepts and/or techniques and exceptional skill or great originality in the use of those concepts, techniques in satisfying the requirements of an assignment or course.

A Excellent: thorough knowledge of concepts and/or techniques together with a high degree of skill and/or some elements of originality in satisfying the requirements of an assignment or course.

B+ Very Good: thorough knowledge of concepts and/or techniques together with a fairly high degree of skill in the use of those concepts, techniques in satisfying the requirements of an assignment or course.

B Good: good level of knowledge of concepts and/or techniques together with considerable skill in using them to satisfy the requirements of an assignment or course.

C+ Competent: acceptable level of knowledge of concepts and/or techniques together with considerable skill in using them to satisfy requirements of an assignment or course.

C Fairly Competent: acceptable level of knowledge of concepts and/or techniques together with some skill in using them to satisfy the requirements of an assignment or course.

D+ Passing: slightly better than minimal knowledge of required concepts and/or techniques together with some ability to use them in satisfying the requirements of an assignment or course.

D Barely Passing: minimum knowledge of concepts and/or techniques needed to satisfy the requirements of an assignment or course.

E Marginally Failing

F Failing

For more information about this course, please communicate with:

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