

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
INDEPENDENT STUDY PROGRAM
LEXINGTON, KY. 40506-0054

SPA 242

28 Assignments

Intermediate Spanish IV

3 Semester Hours

(Reading Approach)

This is a course prepared by Dr. Susan de Carvalho, Asst. Professor in the Department of Spanish and Italian, University of Kentucky.

Textbooks

Seymour Resnick, William Giuliano, and Phyllis M. Golding, *En Breve: A Concise Review of Spanish Grammar*, 5th edition. Thomson, Heinle, 2002.

Mary Lee Bretz, Trisha Dvorak, and Carl Kirschner, *Pasajes: Cultura*, 4th edition. Random House, 1997

Donald A. Yates and John B. Dalbor, *Imaginación y fantasía*, 6th edition. Holt, Rinehart, & Winston, 1999.

OPTIONAL: SpanishEnglish, EnglishSpanish dictionary. This will depend on your present level and knowledge of Spanish vocabulary. If the vocabulary lists in the back of the textbooks, combined with the aids in this manual, are not sufficient, you should purchase a dictionary, such as the Bantam Dictionary, the University of Chicago Dictionary, etc. This may be a paperback book, available in any bookstore.

Introduction

Spanish 242 will help you to read Spanish fluently, and as such, will stress several types of reading skills and strategies, translation skills, vocabulary exercises, etc. Although grammar review is also an integral part of this course, it is addressed only as it pertains to translation (from Spanish to English), so you will not be called on to write any Spanish, but only to recognize and translate accurately.

The pages for each lesson will be given at the beginning of the lesson. Read the directions carefully, because different reading and translation strategies will be required in different assignments.

Two important reading strategies will be stressed in SPI 242: reading for content (summarizing) and reading for exact detail (translation).

Summarizing: When you are asked to read and summarize, you need to understand what the material is about, but in general, you will not be responsible for fine points, details, correct tenses, etc. You are not responsible for understanding every word; rather, you are looking for enough information and facts to enable you to grasp what the material is about. Your summary may be in your own words rather than an exact parallel of the words in the text.

Translating: You are expected to look up all of the words that you cannot determine by context, to understand the verb tenses, to understand grammatical relationships (for example, to know which adjective modifies a noun). The end result should be a smooth translation of the assigned material. When asked to express the Spanish construction in English, it is necessary to convey it in good English. For example, take the sentence “El padre de Juan está en casa.” The literal translation is “The father of John is in house.” That translation is unacceptable. The correct way to translate that sentence is “John’s father is at home.”

Whether you are reading for translation or for summary, whenever you begin to prepare an unfamiliar passage, the following procedure will help to prepare you to do the assignment, and will also increase your reading and translation skills:

1. Taking approximately one paragraph at a time, read over the selection without looking up any words. Try to get the overall meaning of the paragraph (this will build up your comprehension skills and your ability to understand the broad thrust of a piece without exact translation). Try to guess at words, using roots you know, obvious translations (cognates), surrounding words (context clues), etc. This “prereading” technique will give you clues about the content of the selection.
2. Now that you have some idea about the content, re-read the selection for more detail. If you are asked to prepare it for translation, look up the words you do not know or cannot infer from the context. If you are reading for content (for summarizing), you may only have to look up enough vocabulary to enable you to understand the subject.

Make sure that you are familiar with how to use a SpanishEnglish dictionary, whether it is your own or the ones provided in the texts. Remember that the Spanish alphabet has more letters than the English; the ch combination is a separate letter, and will come after all of the c's; ll after all l's; and rr after all r's. Check over all possibilities in translating the word, and select the most appropriate choice.

Constructions made up of several words will generally be listed in the vocabulary or dictionary under the most important word (either the noun or the verb). However, if it is not there, continue searching under other words in the phrase.

If you recognize all of the words individually, but the phrase or sentence still does not make sense, check the verb tenses and word order. Appendix E in the grammar text (En breve) contains a list of regular and irregular verbs, in all of their possible tenses. In terms of word order, check for agreement between the verb and the word you think is the subject; if they don't agree (if one is singular and the other plural), then you have identified the wrong word as the subject.

The same rule applies for adjectives and nouns; they share both gender and number. Remember that frequently the subject follows the verb, and that adjectives (whether one word or a phrase) generally follow the nouns they modify.

Complete the assignment exactly as requested. Some assignments will call for summaries, others will ask for exact translations. If you are translating directly into English, look up the words you do not know or cannot infer from the context. You are responsible for recognizing the words in the readings by whatever method is required. If a grammar lesson is given, you should be able to translate the construction into good, natural-sounding English no matter where you find it; if special idioms or vocabulary words are given, you will be expected to be able to recognize them as they appear.

There will be several selftests to allow you to measure your progress. An answer key will follow each exercise, and these assignments do not need to be turned in. After Assignment 15, there is also a “practice” midterm exam, which your instructor will correct for you, but which will not count as part of your final grade.

Finally, a word of advice: the readings may seem difficult at first. This is to be expected and you shouldn't be discouraged. Each author writes with a special style and unique vocabulary choices, but you should be more and more familiar with reading techniques as you progress. Once you get the knack, the selections should be quite easy, except for new vocabulary words. Therefore, expect to work hard at first, and then you will be able to ease up somewhat during later lessons.

General Instructions

Study each lesson carefully; make sure you understand the principles of one lesson before proceeding to the next. Each lesson assumes thorough knowledge of the previous ones, and patterns and words from earlier lessons will always be present in later assignments.

It is advisable to send in only one assignment at a time, in order to profit from the corrections made.

All assignments are to be written on your own paper. Use only one side, double space, and leave ample margins so your instructor has enough room to write comments. Use ink or ballpoint pen for your answers.

Proofread your work before submission, and feel free to ask questions.

Assignments and Final Grade

All assignments will count equally. The grades for these assignments will contribute 50% of the grade (they will be averaged at the end of the course); the final examination will count 50%.

All assignments must be submitted and a passing grade received on the final examination in order to receive credit for this course.

SUGGESTIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL COURSE COMPLETION

This page, designed to assist you in successfully completing your Independent Study course, provides information that may prove valuable should you experience difficulties in completing your course. The following provides additional clarification of **Independent Study Program Regulations** printed on the inside front cover of your study guide. Please read the information in your study guide as well as this sheet carefully. The Independent Study Program staff stands ready to assist you, but clear lines of communication between you and the Independent Study staff are essential. Major areas of concern are:

- 1. Submission of assignments:** Regulations printed on the inside cover of your study guide stipulate that no more than four (4) assignments may be submitted per week. You are expected to adhere to this requirement unless you are enrolled in one of the few courses that requires the submission of assignments in designated groups. Requests to submit from 5 to 7 lessons per week require the approval of the ISP College Program Coordinator and/or the course instructor. Requests to submit more than (7) per week *must* be made in *writing*, clearly stating serious reasons that can be substantiated. These requests must be approved by the ISP Director and the Dean, University Extension prior to acceptance of these lessons. Approval of these requests are not automatic. Approval to submit additional assignments may not be used to reduce the minimum time permitted for course completion.
- 2. Minimum time to complete a course:** If you need to finish a course in less time than the minimum seven (7) weeks required by *Program Regulations*, you must make that request in writing and secure approval from the ISP Program Coordinator, your instructor, and the Dean, University Extension before you take the examination. Your written appeal must state clearly the reason why you need to complete the course in less than the minimum time. In no instances will any individual be allowed to complete a three semester hour course in less than a calendar month from date of enrollment.
- 3. Final Examinations:** Examinations will be *mailed* only to approved testing centers or appropriate approved university officials. In only very rare instances will exams be sent by FAX. Approval to FAX an examination must requested in writing and approved by the Dean, University Extension through the Director, Independent Study. Please be aware that this approval process is absolutely necessary and, at certain times of the year, may be subject to extended delays. ***Plan ahead.*** Do not let yourself into a situation where faxing is necessary.
- 4. Final Grade Reporting:** Please be sure that the address (including the name of the person to whom the transcript will be sent, if possible) is clear and complete on the transcript request form provided with your exam. If your grade must meet a deadline, report that need to the ISP testing clerk or the ISP College Program Coordinator and write that information clearly on the exam cover sheet for your instructor to read. When a grade is needed to meet a deadline, the ISP coordinator will, in emergencies, telephone an appropriately designated official at another university to report the grade. You must furnish the name, title and telephone number of the person to be called. If required by the receiving institution, ISP will FAX a grade report to an appropriate official.

5. **Course Cancellation:** ISP will *not* notify you in advance of the impending cancellation date of your enrollment. *Cancellation will take place one year from your course enrollment date* listed on your enrollment receipt. Cancellation notices will be sent to the address you provided at the time of your registration. It is your responsibility to provide ISP with updated telephone and address changes. After a cancellation has been entered on your record in the University Registrar's Office, changes will not be made.

6. **If You Need Help:** In the event that you encounter problems at any time during your enrollment, the ISP staff is available and willing to provide assistance but you must communicate your needs. It is best and often necessary to provide requests in writing but ISP provides a toll free telephone number (1800 4320963) for your convenience. *Call or write* us regarding any problem that may affect your timely and successful course completion.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Susan E. de Carvalho

Assistant Professor

Department of Spanish and Italian

EDUCATION

B.A., University of Notre Dame (1984)

M.A., University of Virginia (1986)

Ph.D., University of Virginia (1989)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Virginia

University of Kentucky

PUBLICATIONS

Articles and book reviews on modern SpanishAmerican literature; papers read at professional meetings

AWARDS

Phi Beta Kappa

Sigma Delta Pi

Medalla Rafael Barrett

At the University of Kentucky, Dr. Carvalho is an Assistant Professor of contemporary SpanishAmerican literature in the Department of Spanish and Italian. She teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in Spanish, and serves on various doctoral committees, as well as university and departmental committees. She has also served as supervisor of the undergraduate Spanish language courses.

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