



Study Center in Lima, Peru

Course name:	Advanced Spanish: Writing Workshop
Course number:	SPAN 3003 LMLA
Programs offering course:	Lima Liberal Arts
Language of instruction:	Spanish
U.S. Semester Credits:	3
Contact Hours:	45
Term:	Fall 2018
Course meeting times:	Wednesdays 1:00-4:00pm
Course meeting place:	TBA
Professor:	Dr. Sonia Maruenda
Contact Information:	Office phone 626-2162, maruends@gmail.com
Office address:	CIEE Office
Office hours:	Wednesdays, 10:00-12:00

Course Description

Writing an academic paper in Spanish in the Peruvian higher academic setting requires expertise that most students have not mastered completely at the intermediate or early advanced levels of language instruction. This course is designed specifically for students directly enrolling in PUCP courses to facilitate their understanding of the Peruvian academic teaching style, to learn how to get the best out of their classes and to communicate abstract ideas in written academic Spanish. Through intensive writing practice, students will learn how to write an academic paper, called a “monografía” or “trabajo”, required in most university courses.

Learning Objectives

By the completion of this course, students ideally will:

- Improve their grasp of Spanish grammar and syntax in order to make their written language closely resemble that of a native.
- Be able to quickly organize and draft grammatically and rhetorically sound answers to written questions based on previously studied topics. The development of this skill is aimed at improving performance in PUCP “controles de lectura” [reading comprehension tests] and midterm and final exams.
- Express carefully thought out argumentative ideas in writing, respond to complex ideas, use rhetorical devices effectively with well developed, cohesive, and logical arguments. This skill is aimed at improving performance in PUCP required papers.
- Engage in the writing process from development of an idea, writing drafts, and editing with peer and instructor feedback.



Methods of Instruction

Each three-hour week is organized into three distinct modules: grammar practice and improvement topics, reading of a small or medium size text and writing of short or medium size essay. Except for the writing activity, constant and productive interaction in Spanish between instructor and students will be the norm. Students are encouraged to bring their personal dictionaries or similar tools to class and used them as needed even during the writing period. The first and second half of the semester will slightly differ.

First half of the semester: Over the course of these weeks, attention is focused on “live” writing skills, that is, the production of academic essays in class within a set time limit. This aims to drill the students in the skills necessary to face similar tests within their regular PUCP classes, during which resources such as spell-check or the time to carefully look up everything are not readily available. **Mid-term exam:** Our mid-term exam is scheduled a week before regular PUCP midterms so that students may benefit from having more time to study for these last exams. Students are encouraged to give notice regarding the topics that may be covered in their mid-term examinations in order to tailor plausible practice exam questions for them. It would also be in the students’ benefit to have read the required texts by this date, in order to add as much ‘realism’ as possible to the exam.

Second half of the semester: This focuses on the production of ‘take home’ essays, aiming to prepare students for the production of term papers for their PUCP classes. Grammatical fine tuning shall continue, and formal elements of term paper production shall be covered. **Final exam:** The final exam will also take place one week before the normal PUCP finals. Students will turn in a longer essay [term paper] written at home. Your instructor will inform you of the specific requirements of this paper in a timely manner.

Assessment and Final Grade

- Mid-term exam: 25%
- Final exam: 25%
- Term paper: 30%
- Coursework: 20%

Course Requirements: The student must have taken at least one Advanced Spanish course.

Recommended Readings

Rogelio Vallecillos, *Practice makes perfect: Advanced Spanish Grammar*. McGraw-Hill. 2008.

Graciela Reyes, *Cómo escribir bien en español: Manual de redacción*. Madrid: Arco Libros. 2008.

Zulma Iguina and Eleanor Dozier, *Manual de gramática: Grammar reference for students of Spanish*. Boston: Thompson-Heinle. 2008.