



CIEE Barcelona, Spain

Course name:	Advanced Spanish Writing and Stylistics
Course number:	SPAN 4006 BASP
Programs offering course:	Barcelona Advanced Liberal Arts
Language of instruction:	Spanish
U.S. Semester Credits:	3
Contact Hours:	45
Term:	Spring 2020

Course Description

This course will analyze the main characteristics of discourse writing in Spanish from the point of view of its preparation and especially of its execution. The processes of writing to be discussed will include: planning, textualization and revision. The prototypical text typologies to be mastered by the university student will be presented and the grammatical, lexical and discursive features associated to each of them will be explained. The concepts of appropriateness, coherence, cohesion, correction, variation and style will be covered in order to achieve expertly written texts in Spanish.

Learning Objectives

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- **Analyze** the characteristics of the planned written discourse in Spanish and internalize and apply them in the creation of appropriate texts that respect writing standards.
- **Learn** the formal rules of academic writing in the Spanish language.
- **Present** different text typologies.
- **Explain** specific grammatical, discursive and lexical strategies associated with different types of text.
- **Utilize** necessary resources and strategies to compose texts in Spanish that have clarity, fluency and expressive richness.

Course Prerequisites

6 semesters of college-level Spanish (or equivalent).

Methods of Instruction

Classes will have an eminently practical character. Reading of texts, scheduled discussions and exercise work of different types will be combined in class. Active work and the preparation and timely delivery of written texts and assignments on grammar, accuracy and lexical richness will be required.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Midterm exam:	20 %
2. Final exam:	30 %
3. Essays:	30 %
4. Oral presentation:	10 %
5. Class Participation:	10 %



Course Requirements

Exams

Both exams will consist of two parts: 1) regulatory aspects of Spanish (e.g. accentuation, punctuation, questions on grammar, questions related to lexical precision...); 2) production of a written text.

Essays

Students will prepare weekly compositions. The essays will respond to the different text typologies presented in the classroom and must respect the specific linguistic strategies associated with each one of them.

Oral presentation

Students will make an oral presentation on an open topic (10-15 minutes). The professor will provide a guide for its proper preparation.

Class Participation

Students are expected to participate in class by asking questions that show their active engagement in class and by being able to comment on the readings due for each session. The level of engagement with the class materials, as evidenced in written work and class participation, will be one of the factors of the final grade. Students are responsible for the material covered in regular classes, on-site classes, discussions, peer presentations and readings.

CIEE Barcelona Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all scheduled class sessions on time and be prepared for the day's class activities. CIEE does not distinguish between justified or unjustified absences, whether due to sickness, personal emergency, inevitable transportation delay and/or other impediments. You are considered responsible of managing your own absences. Please keep in mind that exams, paper submission dates, presentations and any other course work deadlines cannot be changed.

No academic penalty will be applied if students miss up to 3 class sessions. If students miss up to 6 class sessions, students' final course grade will drop 5 points out of 100 on the CIEE grade scale for each additional absence beyond 3 (for example a 95 will become a 90 if they reach the 4th absence, and an 85 if they reach the 5th absence). **Students will automatically fail the course if they miss more than 20% of total class hours (i.e. if they exceed 6 absences).**

For students who miss up to 20% of the total course hours due to extenuating circumstances, the Academic Director may allow for exceptions to the local attendance policy based on documentation such as proof of bereavement, religious observances, hospitalization etc.

Students arriving more than 10 minutes late to the class will be considered absent for a day.



Weekly Schedule

Block I. Discursive strategies of planned written texts in Spanish (8 weeks; 16 class sessions)

Week 1

- 1.1 Writing processes.
Plan and document: context of the text (for whom it is written and for what purpose), research, organization of ideas and presentation. Keywords and preliminary outline.
- 1.2 Textualize the text. Structure and linguistic activities used in the production of written texts. Introduction and conclusion. The paragraph and its importance in planned written texts. Review, reformulate and correct the text. Self-revision and the correction of others.
Reading: Cassany (2006: 17-48).

Week 2

- 2.1 Prototypical text genres. Essential characteristics (Sessions III-XVIII).
How to write biographical and autobiographical texts. Narrative texts in the past tense. Specific linguistic strategies. Past tense verbs. The contrast between the preterit and the imperfect. Use of the plusperfect.
- 2.2 Tense markers. Time clauses.

Week 3

- 3.1 How to write descriptive texts. Descriptions in planned written texts in Spanish. Specific linguistic strategies.
Contrasts when using *ser* and *estar* to describe in Spanish.
- 3.2 Adjectives. Types of adjectives; gradation. Adjective position with respect to the noun.

Week 4

- 4.1 Clauses that are equivalent to adjectives. Indicative vs. subjunctive in relative clauses.
- 4.2 Order of the discourse. The distribution of information in the text.

Week 5

- 5.1 How to write expository texts. Specific linguistic strategies (Sessions X-XII). Canonical structure of an expository text: introduction, development and conclusion. Thematic progression.
- 5.2 Objectivity as the main characteristic of an expository text. Mechanisms of objectification in written Spanish.

Week 6

- 6.1 Lexical precision and clarity. The use of technicalities.

Reading: Dworkin (2012: 212-229).

- 6.2 The polyphonic character of expository texts. Citation as a characteristic strategy of the expository text. Indirect speech

Week 7

7.1 Midterm Exam.

- 7.2 How to write opinion essays. Critical review and film review. Specific linguistic strategies. Linguistics evaluation mechanisms and linguistics objectify mechanisms. Impersonal constructions. Passive voice

Week 8

- 8.1 Usage and the importance of the pronoun *se*. Nominalization; use of non-personal verb forms. Reading: Gómez Torrego (2006a: 9-10; 27-34).
- 8.2 How to write argumentative texts. Arguments in planned written texts in Spanish. Specific linguistic strategies. Brevity, clarity and conciseness, essential characteristics of the thesis. Types of argumentative texts according to the order of their structure.

Week 9

- 9.1 Formulation of arguments and counterarguments. Subordinate clauses to express opinion. Indicative vs. subjunctive.
- 9.2 Connectors in argumentative texts: causal, consecutive, concessive, counter-argumentative. Other mechanisms of textual cohesion. Reading: Ruiz Va-Palacios (2005: 327-344).

Week 10

Block II. Regulatory aspects of planned written texts in Spanish (6 weeks; 12 class sessions)

- 10.1 Rules of accentuation: general rules and diacritical accentuation (1)
- 10.2 Rules of accentuation: general rules and diacritical accentuation (2)
Reading: Gómez Torrego (2006a: 17-73).

Week 11

- 11.1 Spanish punctuation and syntax. General uses of punctuation marks (1)
- 11.2 Spanish punctuation and syntax. General uses of punctuation marks (2)
Reading: Gómez Torrego (2006b: 75-100)

Week 12

- 12.1 Grammatical aspects of advanced Spanish writing. Expression of grammatical gender and its association with sociolinguistic questions. Grammatical number. Matters of agreement.
- 12.2 Use of determinants: contexts of obligatory use; use of different determinants and semantic consequences; possible and impossible combinations of determinants in Spanish

Week 13

- 13.1 Pronouns: contexts of necessary, possible and non-recommended uses. Types of pronouns and specificities of use in advanced Spanish writing.
- 13.2 Regulatory standards related to the adjective. Position of the adjective in the noun phrase. Possible arrangements and semantic consequences.

Week 14

- 14.1 Form and standard usage of verbs. Usage and the importance of prepositions. Popular prepositional phrases and prepositional phrases not recommended for use.
Oral presentations
- 14.2 Lexical aspects of educated Spanish writing. Undesirable repetitions, catch-all words and lexical poverty. Lexical precision, a requirement of advanced Spanish writing. Collocations in Spanish. Reference sources. Colloquialisms and cultisms.
Reading: García Asensio (2014: 175-220).
Oral presentations

Week 15

- 15.1 **Conclusions**
Oral presentations
- 15.2 **Final exam**

Course Materials

Readings

- Cassany, D. (2006). "Géneros escritos", in *Taller de textos. Leer, escribir y comentar en el aula*. Barcelona: Paidós.
- Dworkin, S. N. (2012). "Anglicism in Spanish", in *A History of the Spanish Lexicon. A Linguistic Perspective*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- García Asensio, M^a Á. & E. Montolío (2014). "Cuestiones de léxico", in *Manual de escritura académica y profesional*, Vol I. Barcelona: Ariel.
- Gómez Torrego, L. (2006a). *Gramática normativa del español actual*, Vol. 1, Madrid: Arco Libros.
- Gómez Torrego, L. (2006b). *Gramática normativa del español actual*, Vol. 2, Madrid: Arco Libros.

Ruiz Va-Palacios, P. (2005). "El texto: coherencia y cohesión. Los conectores discursivos", in M. L. Gutiérrez Araus et al. *Introducción a la lengua española*. Madrid: Centro de Estudios Ramón Areces.

Bibliographic References

- Alvar Ezquerro, M. *Manual de redacción y estilo*. Madrid: Istmo, 1998.
- Álvarez Martínez, M. *Ejercicios de escritura: Nivel avanzado*. Madrid: Anaya, 2001.
- Gómez Torrego, L. *Hablar y escribir correctamente. Gramática normativa del español actual*, 2 vols. Madrid: Arco Libros, 2006.
- Martín Vivaldi, G. *Curso de redacción: Teoría y práctica de la composición y del estilo*. Madrid: Paraninfo, 2000.
- Montolío, E. (dir.) *Manual de escritura académica y profesional*, 2 vols. Barcelona: Ariel, 2014.
- Onieva Morales, J. L. *Curso superior de redacción*. Madrid: Verbum, 2003.
- Real Academia Española. *Diccionario panhispánico de dudas*. Madrid: Santillana, 2005. www.rae.es
- Real Academia Española. *El buen uso del español*. Barcelona: Espasa, 2013.
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- Vázquez, G. (coord.) *Actividades para la escritura académica*. Madrid: Edinumen, 2001.
- Vázquez, G. (coord.) *Guía didáctica del discurso académico escrito*. Madrid: Edinumen, 2001.