CIEE in Alicante, Spain

Course name: Advanced Conversational Spanish
Course Code: SPAN 4002 ALIL
Programs offering course: Alicante Intensive Summer Language
Language of instruction: Spanish
U.S. Semester Credits: 4
Contact hours: 60
Term: Summer 2019

Course Description
The attractiveness and importance of the study of colloquial register arises from considering the language not only as an abstract and structured system of signs and rules, but as a means of communication between two or more partners and as an expression of their ideas, feelings and desires. Colloquial language is limited by social and spatial coordinates of the language system by external factors, and the context and circumstances in which they communicative acts are held. In this course we will analyze then how these factors are reflected in the different levels of linguistic description.

Learning Objectives

- Describe and understand the organization, structure and characteristics of colloquial register.
- Know the language varieties and differences in oral and written modalities.
- Explain the different linguistic registers of speech.
- Recognize and explain the characteristics of colloquial register.
- Identify the phonetic and phonological phenomena involved in the conversation.
- Recognize morphosyntactic aspects concurring in the colloquial register.
- Explain the vocabulary that is commonly used in the colloquial register.
- Know the types of relationships used in colloquial expression.
- Identify and explain the colloquial formulas and procedures or cohesion ratio used in the colloquial register.

Course Prerequisites

None.

Methods of Instruction

Following the communicative approach adopted for the teaching of languages, this course is fundamentally practical. The teacher will explain the theoretical concepts necessary to understand the different items on the agenda, but what is expected from the student in any case is to understand the proper use and real-life application of material learned during the course.
Consequently, the class is conceived dynamically, i.e. the theoretical aspects will be checked in all cases in the actual manifestations of registration, so students will have a prominent role in the class, which will bring their interpretation, its analytical capacity, actual samples to illustrate his arguments, comments of the activities, etc.

**Assessment and Final Grade**

1. Midterm 30%
2. Final exam 40%
3. Oral presentation 20%
4. Class Participation 10%

**Course Requirements**

Apart from exams and papers, students must follow these guidelines in order to get a good grade in the course:

- Punctuality and attendance to class and to scheduled mandatory visits.
- Attention, interest, motivation and participation during the course.
- Meeting deadlines and guidelines for tests, assignments, presentations, etc.
- Appropriate preparation and presentation of PPTs and daily assignments.

**Midterm**

The exam will last a maximum of two hours and consist of five parts: listening / audiovisual comprehension, colloquialisms, reading comprehension, writing and speaking expression. Each of the parts will count 20% of the final grade.

**Final exam**

The exam will last a maximum of two hours and consist of five parts: listening / audiovisual comprehension, colloquialisms, reading comprehension, writing and speaking expression. Each of the parts will count 20% of the final grade. It includes all the contents seen along the whole semester.

**Oral presentation**

It should last 15 minutes approx. Students, in groups of 2-3 people, should conduct a fieldwork. It will consist of the observation, identification and analysis of the elements belonging to the colloquial register that occur in real-life situations, e.g. in a bakery, in the waiting room of a health center, in the market, at the hairdresser, etc. A guide for a proper preparation will be provided in class.

**Class Participation**

Active participation is essential and will be a fundamental part of the final grade.
Papers and assignments submission
According to CIEE Alicante academic norms all assignments, paper, readings, etc. must be turned in on the due date. Late submissions of coursework/assignments during the course of the term of study are not accepted.

If an exception is granted by the Academic Director, the new deadline for the assignment will be set for the next earliest possible date for the student for reasonably submit the assignment.

Course Attendance
Regular class attendance is required throughout the program. Students must notify (via e-mail with a copy to the Resident Director or Program Coordinator) their instructor beforehand if they will miss class for any reason. Students are responsible for any materials covered in class during their absence. Students who miss class for medical reasons must inform the professor and the RD or PC and provide appropriate documentation.

For CIEE courses, excessively tardy (over 15 minutes late) students will be marked absent (student will be reminded of the policy). Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursion or events, etc. Students who miss class for personal travel will be marked as absent and unexcused.

An absence in a CIEE course will be only considered excused if:
1) A doctor’s note is provided. The UA medical center does not generally provide class absence notes. In the case a doctor’s absence note is extremely necessary, students will need to go to the Vithas International Hospital to be examined.
2) A CIEE staff member verifies that the student was too ill to attend class
3) Evidence is provided of a family emergency

Persistent absenteeism (students exceeding 10% of the total course hours missed, or violations of the attendance policy in more than one class) will lead to a written warning from the RD, notification to the home school, and/or dismissal from the program in addition to reductions in class grade(s).
1) Since each CIEE Alicante course is 45 hours, 10% of the total course hours are 4.5 hours.
2) Students who miss more than 4.5 hours of class without justification will see their final grade reduced by -5%. For instance, students achieving a grade of 89.00 out of 100 points and missing more than 4.5 hours of class will see their grade reduced from 89.00 (B+) to 84.00 (B).

Students with unexcused absences exceeding 20% of the total course hours will fail the course. Written warnings and home school notifications will happen well before the absenteeism causes the student to fail the course so that the student has an opportunity for corrective actions.

Likewise, if any CIEE group organized activity/informational session (e.g. Intercultural development sessions) is scheduled during class hours, attendance to this activity or session is also mandatory for all students enrolled in courses that meet during that block of time. Not attending these CIEE group organized activities/sessions during regular class hours will result in an absence.
Plagiarism
Cheating and plagiarism in any course assignment may result in failing the course or being expelled from the program. Students are expected to adhere to the US American and norms.

Important principles:
1) Final examinations, quizzes and other tests must be done without assistance from other person, without looking at or otherwise consulting the work of another person, and without access to notes, books, or other pertinent information (unless the professor has explicitly announced that a particular test is to be taken on an “open book” basis).
2) The same written paper may not be submitted in more than one course.
3) Any use of the work of another person must be documented in any written papers, oral presentations, or other assignments carried out in connection with the course

Add/Drop
The add/drop period last for 1 week after the start of the courses. After the end of the add/drop period, the student’s registration is considered final, and no course(s) may be changed or deleted from the student’s CIEE Academic Record.

Withdrawal from a course
Students are required to register in 5 courses during their studies at CIEE Alicante. Each CIEE course is worth 3 credits (45 contact hours) and each Universidad de Alicante course is worth 4 credits (60h - unless the course has more than 60h of instruction). If exceptional circumstances warrant, the student may request permission from the Center Director to withdraw from a course. However, a student participating in a semester program is not allowed to drop below 12 US semester credits.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1  Introduction

Week 2  Unit 1: Basic terms related to "colloquial Spanish." Characteristics of colloquial language
Case Studies: colloquial language in texts, expressions to talk about feelings.

Reading: El español coloquial

Week 3  Unit 2: Linguistic features of colloquial conversation (the lexicon, syntax and June 5-8 intonation strategies).
Film: El otro lado de la cama

Week 4  Conversational strategies: intensification, attenuation and connection
Case studies: humor and irony
Reading: Modismos en su salsa

Week 5  
**Unit 3:** Discursive connectors and expressive values of the elements of relationship. Colloquial use of deictic elements.  
**Midterm exam**

Reading: Hablar por los codos

Week 6  
**Unit 4:** Phraseologisms: phrases, collocations, routine formulas and sayings. Idioms and cultural metaphors.

Reading: Modismos y metáforas culturales

Week 7  
**Unit 5:** Colloquial language in the new technologies.

Reading: El español coloquial en la clase de ELE

Week 8  
**Oral Presentation**  
**Final Exam**

Course materials

Readings


