



SPA 335 - 23005

“Advance Conversation & TOPT Preparation”

Course Syllabus: Spring 2017

Instructor: Alberto Miras-Fernández

Class Meetings: Wednesday, 6:30pm – 9:10pm, UCD (Universities Center of Dallas), 81B

Office hours: Wednesday 4-6pm (TBA) or by appointment.

University email: Alberto.Fernandez@tamuc.edu (*Important note: I will respond to emails within 24 hours during the work week and by the next business day on weekends and holidays.*)

Textbooks:

TEXES (2009). *Preparation Manual 613 Languages Other than English - Spanish*. Austin, TX: Texas Education Agency. Available at: http://cms.texas-ets.org/files/9013/2949/1962/613_lote_spanish.pdf

TEXES (2010). *Preparation Manual 190 Bilingual Target Language Proficiency Test*. Austin, TX: Texas Education Agency. Available at: http://cms.texas-ets.org/files/2413/1473/2719/190_btllpt_spanish.pdf

Selected articles, TBA

Recommended readings:

Morris, Lidia and Rosado, Luis (2013) *Desarrollo Del Español Para Maestros En Programas de Educación Bilingüe*. ISBN: 9780980002805.

American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. (2013). *ACTFL-NCSSFL Can-Do Statements*. Alexandria, Va: ACTFL

COURSE INFORMATION

Course description

This course is designed to prepare future Bilingual and Spanish teachers seeking the Texas State Certification by helping advance their Spanish oral and written skills. In addition to Spanish advance level coursework on educational practices for bilingual classrooms, the course will present the content, format, and strategies to master the Bilingual Target Language Proficiency Test (BTLPT) and the Languages Other than English (LOTE) Spanish exam.

Student Learning Outcomes: Students who successfully complete the course will:

1. Demonstrate advanced competency in academic Spanish in the four language domains by completing diverse assignments in multimodal formats.
2. Describe and analyze the Texas bilingual language proficiency standards and its implementation as required competencies in the BTLPT and LOTE exams.
3. Produce writing samples, videos, and audio recordings to demonstrate understanding of the BTLPT and LOTE open-question formats.
4. Critically review language assessment design by analyzing the structure and content of the BTLPT and LOTE exams.

Collection of Data for Measuring Institutional Effectiveness:

In order to measure the level of compliance with the university's Institutional Effectiveness guidelines, I will collect some of the ungraded materials you will produce for the class. These materials will be part of a portfolio created on your behalf and will be measured to ensure that our program "promotes practices that result in higher student academic achievement; an enhanced student experience; aligned and transparent decisions; and readily available information for improvement, accountability, and accreditation" (see "Department of Institutional Effectiveness," <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutus/institutionalEffectiveness/default.aspx>). This is solely an assessment of program effectiveness and in no way affects students' course grades or GPAs.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION (30% of the final grade)

- Participation and attendance are fundamental to succeed in this course. **Attendance is mandatory.** After six absences, you may be dropped from the course, depending on circumstances. Absences due to illness or unexpected situations count as absences. The only justified absences are those resulting from mandatory participation in university events, hospitalization, or family emergencies of which the instructor has been notified. Please note **your final grade will be reduced by 2 points per absence.** Late work is not accepted.
- You should arrive on time. **Two late arrivals or early departures by more than 15 minutes equal one absence.** If a student arrives late, she/he needs to talk to the professor at the end of class to make sure that a tardy mark was registered in the class book instead of an absence. If a student misses 3 consecutive sessions and does not contact the instructor, she/he may be dropped from class. **You should not make travel/family /employment plans** that interfere with classes or exams since make up exams cannot be made in order to accommodate such plans.
- Student athletes, band members and members of other university sanctions should bring a letter from their supervisor or specific department **during the first week of class** indicating the

dates they will miss class.

- Students who require special accommodations for religious holidays should make arrangements with their instructor **during the first week of class.**

2. HOMEWORK (35% of the final grade)

Homework is assigned every session to provide students with additional practice and review of the material. The exercises are essential to practice your Spanish skills, with the focus on reading and listening academic Spanish. Students are responsible for completing the assignments by the due dates. Late work is not accepted.

3. OPINION/POSITION ESSAYS (15% of the final grade)

You will write 5 opinion/position essays (1 per unit) to demonstrate competence in academic Spanish. The essays will seek to persuade the audience (e.g., proposing a solution to a school or classroom issue, convincing a parent to dedicate time to reading with their child), and demonstrate cultural knowledge and sensitivity in regards of multicultural communication. Essays will be evaluated on appropriate vocabulary, grammar and mechanics (including punctuation as well as accents and other diacritics) usage. Late work is not accepted.

4. ORAL PRESENTATIONS (10% of the final grade)

Two oral presentations will be conducted during of the semester to measure students' Spanish speaking level. The presentations will consist of: 1) a broad discussion of one the topics presented in class, and 2) a data report on an educational issue in Texas. More details will be provided in class.

6. TEST (10% of the final grade)

You will take a BTLPT interactive practice test at the end of the semester. The full-length practice test will allow you to practice the questions and experience the format you will encounter on the actual exam. The test will be graded by the Spanish faculty, and you will receive individual feedback to improve your performance.

7. EXTRA-CREDIT

The Spanish Program at TAMUC presents the Spanish Film Festival 2017. The Festival includes several movies in Spanish with English subtitles (see calendar for details). Attendance and completion of a short survey will result in one (1) extra-point in your final grade for each movie, up to three.

GRADING

Attendance & participation	30%
Homework	35%

Opinion/position essays	15%
Oral presentations	10%
Test	10%
Total =	100%

Grade Scale: A=100-90 B=89-80 C=79-70 D=69-60 F= 59>

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES

1. Late work

No late work will be accepted in this course, without exceptions. Work should be submitted on the due date provided in the class schedule. Failure to submit an assignment on time will result in a zero (F) grade. In the case of an emergency or other reasonable situation which may affect your submissions, please contact me immediately.

2 Academic Dishonesty

Plagiarism is borrowing the work of others and not giving credit where credit is due. It is unethical and reflects very poorly on a person's character. Copying someone else's work, or asking a friend or tutor to write your work constitutes a violation of the TAMUC Academic Honesty Policy. Likewise, the use of electronic media to translate your work to Spanish is also unacceptable. Instructors in the Department of Literature and Languages do not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Instructors uphold and support the highest academic standards, and students are expected to do likewise.

Penalties for students guilty of academic dishonesty include disciplinary probation, suspension, and expulsion (Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b [1,2,3]). For further information please see the *Academic Honesty* statement of the Department of Literature and Languages below.

3. Students with Disabilities:

The *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)* is a federal antidiscrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library, Room 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

<http://www.tamuc.edu/CampusLife/CampusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/default.aspx>

4. Student Conduct and Discriminatory Behavior

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*). A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Students also should consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with peers and instructor in an online forum: <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

5. Withdraws & Incomplete grade.

A student may drop a course by logging into his/her myLeo account and clicking on the hyperlink labeled "Drop a class" from among the choices found under the myLeo section of the web page. I reserve the right to drop a student from the course administratively for excessive absences or violations of the Code of Student Conduct. Incomplete grades (grade of "X") are granted only under rare and extraordinary circumstances which are fully documented; students requesting an incomplete grade should contact the instructor as soon as possible, provide all pertinent documentation, and sign the 'X' grade contract which details the coursework they need to complete to pass the class.

6. Grievance procedures.

Students who have concerns regarding their courses should first address those concerns with the assigned instructor in order to reach a resolution. Students who are unsatisfied with the outcome of that conversation or have not been able to meet individually with their instructor, whether in-person, by email, by telephone, or by another communication medium, should then schedule an appointment with the Director of the Spanish Program, Dr. Flavia Belpoliti (flavia.belpoliti@tamuc.edu). If there are still unresolved issues, students need to schedule an appointment with the Department Head, Dr. Hunter Hayes, by completing a Student Grievance Form (available in [the Main Office, HL 141](#)). In the event that the instructor is the Department Head, the student should schedule a meeting with the Dean of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Humanities after following the steps outlined above; if the instructor is the Assistant Department Head, students should schedule a meeting with the Department Head. Where applicable,

students should also consult University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.05 (“Student Appeal of Instructor Evaluation”).

7. Campus Concealed Carry

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to: www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf, and/or consult your event organizer. Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

This course schedule is subject to revisions and changes as the instructor deems necessary for the course. Any changes to the course schedule will be announced in class and on the course website in advance.

Date	Activities
1/18	<i>Introducción y presentación del curso. BTLPT</i>
1/25	Unidad 1. Educación y lenguas (parte I)
2/1	Unidad 1. Educación y lenguas (parte II)
2/8	Unidad 2. El español académico en la educación (parte I)
2/15	Unidad 2. El español académico en la educación (parte II)
2/22	Unidad 3. Enseñanza de español en Latinoamérica (parte I)
3/1	Unidad 3. Enseñanza de español en Latinoamérica (parte II)
3/8	Presentaciones orales
SPRING BREAK	
3/22	Unidad 4. Las TICs en la enseñanza de español
3/29	Unidad 4. Las TICs en la enseñanza de español
4/5	Unidad 5. Evaluación en español como segunda lengua (parte I)
4/12	Unidad 5. Evaluación en español como segunda lengua (parte II)
4/17	BTLPT y LOTE: Comprensión auditiva y lectora
4/26	BTLPT y LOTE: Comprensión oral y escrita
5/3	Presentaciones orales

Finals Week	BTLPT examen de práctica
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Academic Dishonesty Appendix

Department of Literature and Languages
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Policy #12
April 28, 2003
ACADEMIC HONESTY

Preamble. Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all their scholastic work. Faculty members are expected to employ teaching practices that encourage academic honesty.

1. Academic Dishonesty Defined. Texas A&M University-Commerce defines “academic dishonesty” in the following way (Procedure A13.12 “Academic Honesty”): Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one's own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material.

2. “Plagiarism” Further Specified. The Department of Literature and Languages builds on the university definition of “plagiarism,” given in 1, in the following manner (taken from “Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: The Council of Writing Program Administrators’ Statement on Best Practices” undated, pages 1-2, 12,2003. <http://www.ilstu.edu/~ddhesse/wpa/positions/WPAplagiarism.pdf>)

Plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else’s language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source. [. . .] Ethical writers make every effort to acknowledge sources fully and appropriately in accordance with the contexts and genres of their writing. A student who attempts (even if clumsily) to identify and credit his or her source, but who misuses a specific citation format or incorrectly uses quotation marks or other forms of identifying material taken from other sources, has not plagiarized. Instead, such a student should be considered to have failed to cite and document sources appropriately.

3. “Collusion” Further Specified. Collusion specifically includes selling academic products. According to the Texas Penal Code (Title 7 Offenses Against Property, Chapter 32 Fraud, § 32.50 Deceptive Preparation and Marketing of Academic Product), an “‘academic product’ means a term paper, thesis, dissertation, essay, report, recording, work of art, or other written, recorded, pictorial, or artistic product or material submitted or intended to be submitted by a person to satisfy an academic requirement of the person.”

The Texas Penal Code also specifies that person commits a Class C misdemeanor offense “if, with intent to make a profit, the person prepares, sells, offers or advertises for sale, or delivers to another

person an academic product when the person knows, or should reasonably have known, that a person intends to submit or use the academic product to satisfy an academic requirement of a person other than the person who prepared the product.”

4. Responsibility. Matters of academic dishonesty are handled initially by the instructor. If the instructor feels the problem warrants more attention, it should then be pursued through the department head. If the department head and instructor wish, it should be brought to the attention of the Dean of the college for study and review before being referred to the University Discipline Committee (adapted from Texas A&M University-Commerce Procedure A13.04, “Plagiarism”).

Instructors may also choose to refer cases directly to the University Discipline Committee (Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 6.a [2]).

5. Statement for Course Outlines. Instructors of record in the Department of Literature and Languages are required to include an Academic Honesty statement in all course outlines. The following language is suggested for that statement: *Instructors in the Department of Literature and Languages do not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Instructors uphold and support the highest academic standards, and*

students are expected to do likewise. Penalties for students guilty of academic dishonesty include disciplinary probation, suspension, and expulsion. (Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b[1,2,3])

6. This Policy supersedes Department of Literature and Languages Policy #12, “Plagiarism,” dated October 10, 1990, and will be effective until further notice.

7. The Head of the Department of Literature and Languages is responsible for maintaining this policy current.

Dr. Hunter Hayes, Head of the Department of Literature and Languages

April 28, 2003