

## SYLLABUS: SPANISH COMPOSITION & CONVERSATION I

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**COURSE PREFIX AND NUMBER:** SPN 2240

**COURSE NAME:** Spanish Composition and Conversation I

This course is designed to improve the student's Spanish language skills in the areas of listening comprehension, reading, speaking and writing, with a concentration on oral and written communication. The student will practice and develop proficiency in oral expression and communication. The student will practice to develop proficiency in oral expression and will produce written assignments at an advance level of grammar accuracy.

**To find additional information, go to:** <http://www.sampere.es/>

### **STUDY ABROAD APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:**

Approval for participation in the program is subject to the participant

- being 18 years old or older
- having a GPA of 2.75 or higher
- being enrolled for credit in an approved study abroad program course
- being approved by the International Programs office
- obtaining a positive faculty recommendation for participation in the program
- paying all deposits and fees according to the fee schedule
- obtaining all immunizations required by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
- In addition, participants are strongly encouraged to get all immunizations and preventative treatments recommended for the particular country and regions through which they will be traveling

### **MEETING INFORMATION/ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Regular attendance is essential to the learning of a foreign language. You will be expected to attend class regularly, arrive on time, and stay the entire class session. You are subject to being dropped if you accumulate more than five unexcused program hours (including class meetings, cultural activities and planned tours). It is the student's responsibility to notify the classroom instructor as well as the SPC lead instructor of ANY absence. The program plan for this class (class meetings and activities, etc.) meets or exceeds the requirement of 62 contact hours for the course.

## **COURSE CONTENT:**

**Listening comprehension:** You will be able to follow conversations and comprehend speech concerning personal interests and activities.

**Reading Comprehension:** You will be able to get main ideas from texts and understand texts of structural complexity.

**Speaking:** You will be able to engage in prepared and original conversations, following rules of structure and grammar at a fairly complex level.

**Writing:** You will be able to create original written texts in Spanish in various styles and formats.

**Culture:** Culture and language are very much interconnected, each influencing the other. It is essential, therefore, to learn culture as an integral part of the language. You will be able to develop an understanding of proper socially accepted language and behavior in Latin and Hispanic Culture.

## **PREREQUISITES:**

Intermediate Spanish II (SPN 2201) or written permission from SPC instructor.

## **GRADING:**

Instituto Sampere plans to assess and evaluate throughout the month program to ensure your success in the course. The grading will include assessment from the grammar as well as the conversational section of the course. The grading of the course will be based on:

<b>Participation (collaboration and attitude)</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Class activities and assignments (oral and written)</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Quizzes and Tests (oral and written)</b>	<b>60%</b>

The academic grade will be 90% of your course grade. Participation in extracurricular activities (tours, excursions, dance class, cooking class, movie nights) will be considered for the other 10% of your course grade. In order to get the 10% of the extracurricular activities, you will need to participate in 3 out of 4 weekday activities and all the weekend excursions.

## **ACADEMIC HONESTY:**

St. Petersburg College has an Academic Honesty policy. It is your responsibility to be familiar with the policies, rules, and the consequences of violations. Read about the policy at: <http://www.spcollege.edu/webcentral/admit/honesty.htm>. There is no tolerance for cheating and academic dishonesty. Discipline can range from a zero on that specific assignment to expulsion from the class with a grade of F. Note that copy/pasting published information, whether it's from your textbook or the Internet, without citing your source is plagiarism and violates this policy. Even if you change the words slightly, the ideas are someone else's, so you still have to cite your sources. Cheating, plagiarism, bribery, misrepresentation, conspiracy and fabrication are defined in Rule [6Hx23-4.461](#), Student Affairs: Academic Honesty Guidelines, Classroom Behavior.

### **TEXTBOOK INFORMATION:**

**Required materials:** The course textbook will be provided by Instituto Sampere upon arrival in Ecuador. You will be able to keep all the materials provided by Instituto Sampere at the end of the program.

Bilingual dictionary (Spanish –English).

Ecuador travel guide such as Lonely Planet, Rough Guide, Insight Guide, Frommer's, Fodor's.

**Suggested material:** *definition dictionary (Spanish-Spanish)*

### **ASSIGNMENTS:**

Upon arrival you will be asked to take a placement test to assess your language level accordingly. The first day of class you will meet the Ecuadorian instructor and discuss course syllabus in details. You will receive information regarding course activities as well as assignments.

**TIPS FOR SUCCESS:** The following tips will assist you to be successful in the program.

**Live the language:** Make and take opportunities to use the language in natural communication in and outside the class during your stay in Ecuador. Search outside sources to improve your language skills (newspapers, magazines, books, radio, television, etc...)

**Think the language:** Avoid heavy reliance on a dictionary and try not to translate everything word for word. Recognize the fact that grammar rules will be different. Learn the difference along with the similarities and your understanding of how the language works will increase ten fold.

**Guess the language:** When in doubt, try to guess new words in context and don't be afraid to make mistakes. Take constant advantage of cognates to understand new words and to comprehend new paragraphs.

**Ask about the language:** If needed, seek extra help from course instructor, SPC professors, families and friends in Ecuador.

**Stay open minded to the language and the culture.** The best tool for learning a language at any level is a good attitude. Understanding the culture helps with language acquisition.

**Set realistic goals:** Learning another language is not an easy task. It takes time, practice, and dedication. Go into the program with the goal of increasing your communication skills, but avoid setting those goals very high.

**Enjoy!** Learning another language is an adventure.

## **ITEMS TO PACK:**

**Clothing:** As the climate varies from day to night and with altitude, it is recommended to bring a variety of clothing. Keep in mind that laundry services are provided at the host house. Instituto Sampere will send you a handbook before departure detailing suggested clothing and personal items to bring.

**Computer:** laptop is not required, but is suggested. There are many Internet cafés in Cuenca, as well as wireless services in parks and public areas.

**Cameras and chargers.** You do not need to bring a transformer, since the electricity in Ecuador is 110 volts.

**Cell phones:** Check with your provider about service in Ecuador. You may purchase an inexpensive cell phone with minutes in Cuenca.

**Medical and personal items.**

**Documents:** original and copies of passport, driver's license, health/travel insurance card and information, student ID card.

**Dictionaries, travel guide, notebooks, folders, and other school items.**

**Money:** credit cards and ATM card. We do not recommend traveler checks. Keep in mind that the currency in Ecuador is US dollars.

## **STUDENT CONDUCT / ALCOHOL AND DRUG POLICY:**

Please refer to important information about student conduct and related policies in your study abroad application package.

## **EMERGENCIES/HEALTH & SAFETY:**

Please refer to important information in pre-departure orientation materials.

## **LINK TO DEPARTMENT OF STATE ADVISORY FOR STUDY ABROAD DESTINATION(S):**

[http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1106.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1106.html)

This information is subject to change; please check this source again as departure time nears.

## **SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS:**

If you anticipate requesting of the Learning Specialist an accommodation for a **documented** disability, it is important to notify the International Programs office as soon as possible that you plan to make a request. Please also make an appointment with the Learning Specialist on campus to make your request as soon as possible. The Learning Specialist can be reached at 791-2628 or 791-2710 (CL), 341-4758 (SP/G), 394-6108 (SE), 712-5789 (TS), or 341-4532 (AC).