

## **SPAN 3171 – Spanish for Engineers**

MWF 1.25-2.15pm, Oak 201

Instructor: Charles LeBel

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Office hours: Wednesday 3-5pm and by appointment

### **Description**

This is a Spanish language and communication course specifically designed for engineering students with an intermediate command of the Spanish language who seek to enhance their use and knowledge of the language and vocabulary in specific fields of engineering. The course will also cover the linguistic and pragmatic aspects of the job search process in Spanish: searching and understanding job/internship announcements, preparing a cover letter and CV/resume in Spanish, and interviewing for a job/internship in Spanish.

### **Objectives**

At the end of this course you will be able to:

- Communicate in Spanish in the field of engineering.
- Use a richer and more precise vocabulary related to different engineering fields.
- Write a cover letter and CV in Spanish.
- Conduct a job interview in Spanish.

### **Grade Breakdown**

Active class participation	15%
Brief written assignments	15%
Brief in-class presentations	15%
Cover letter and resume	15%
Mock interview(s)	10%
Group project	15%
Individual final project	15%

### **Final Grade**

A 93-100	A- 90-92	B+ 88-89	B 83-87	B- 80-82	C+ 78-79
C 73-77	C- 70-72	D+ 68-69	D 63-67	D- 60-62	F 0-59

### **Academic integrity and Student Code**

Academic dishonesty and misconduct will not be tolerated in this course. Any instance of academic dishonesty and/or misconduct will be handled following the guidelines presented in the University Student Code, available here:

[http://www.dos.uconn.edu/student\\_code.html](http://www.dos.uconn.edu/student_code.html).

## **Assignment descriptions**

Podcast digest. Each student will follow a weekly Spanish-language podcast on topics related to science and engineering (preferably one produced in Spain – there’s a list of suggestions on HuskyCT). *Students will hand in a 150 word written summary of one episode per week, and will give a weekly 5 minute digest of the same episode in class.* The purpose of this activity is to develop students’ auditory comprehension and to familiarize them with Castillian accents and speech patterns, while providing an opportunity to synthesize ideas in both written and oral form. Students will have contact with genuine cultural products and will practice important communicative skills in the context of topics related to engineering.

Individual project. Each student will select a course from her/his field that has been of particular use in their formation as an engineer. *Students will choose specific materials from this course to present in Spanish, investigating necessary terminology and developing a personal glossary over the course of the semester. Students will deliver a condensed lesson (20 minutes) to her/his classmates on the topic of the course, including the glossary of necessary terms and a practice problem or concept quiz.* This activity will allow students the opportunity to develop specialized knowledge in their area of expertise/interest, as well as the skills necessary to communicate effectively on specialized topics. A portion of the evaluation of each student’s performance will be based on the comprehension of her/his classmates, as evidenced by the class’s performance on the practice problem and/or concept quiz. Students will submit a portfolio of materials used in the design of their lessons (articles or other text, either in Spanish or translated into Spanish), which will be negotiated periodically with the course instructor.

Class handbook. Students will work as a team to produce an online handbook to be shared with the future sections of SPAN 3171. *This handbook will be an open-ended collaborative project, beginning with a bilingual glossary of fundamental concepts and terminology for students of engineering and Spanish. Individual student projects will be archived along with the handbook towards establishing a body of user-generated learning materials.* The purpose of this activity is to encourage cooperation and teamwork among colleagues, in addition to reinforcing students’ competence in working with engineering topics in the Spanish language.

Curriculum vitae and cover letter. Students will produce a Spanish-language CV and cover letter to aid in attaining an engineering internship in Spain.

Mock interview. Students will practice interviewing and communication skills throughout the semester, culminating in a mock interview conducted at the end of the course.

## **Meetings with Virginia Cabrera**

Virginia is an MA student in Higher Education working with the office of study abroad who spent a semester in Valencia living at the same housing facility where the UConn students

will be staying. She will give short presentations on preparing for the study abroad experience, student life in Valencia, and interning in Spain as an international student.

### **Class policies**

- Attendance. Students are expected to arrive *on-time and prepared for active participation to all class sessions*. Failure to attend class consistently and punctually will result in the loss of participation credit.
- Technology. The use in class of cellphones and other devices for non-class purposes is forbidden. Students found to be using devices for non-sanctioned purposes will forfeit participation credit for that class session.

**STUDENT'S RIGHTS:** All students in the College have specific rights and responsibilities. You have the right to adjudication of any complaints you have about classroom activities or instructor actions. You also have the right to expect a classroom environment that enables you to learn, including modifications if you have a disability

**POLICY AGAINST DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT AND INAPPROPRIATE ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS** The University is committed to maintaining an environment free of discrimination or discriminatory harassment directed toward any person or group within its community – students, employees, or visitors. Academic and professional excellence can flourish only when each member of our community is assured an atmosphere of mutual respect. All members of the University community are responsible for the maintenance of an academic and work environment in which people are free to learn and work without fear of discrimination or discriminatory harassment. In addition, inappropriate Romantic relationships can undermine the University's mission when those in positions of authority abuse or appear to abuse their authority. To that end, and in accordance with federal and state law, the University prohibits discrimination and discriminatory harassment, as well as inappropriate Romantic relationships, and such behavior will be met with appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the University. More information is available at <http://policy.uconn.edu/?p=2884>.

**SEXUAL ASSAULT REPORTING POLICY:** To protect the campus community, all non-confidential University employees (including faculty) are required to report assaults they witness or are told about to the Office of Diversity & Equity under the Sexual Assault Response Policy. The University takes all reports with the utmost seriousness. Please be aware that while the information you provide will remain private, it will not be confidential and will be shared with University officials who can help. More information is available at <http://sexualviolence.uconn.edu/>.

**MAKE-UP WORK:** No make-up quizzes or exams will be given for reasons other than **documented medical absences**. Unit Exams must be made up within one week of the scheduled date. Other emergencies or situations will be considered on a case-by-case basis. In order to make up a Final Exam, the student must present a written authorization from the Dean of Students.