



Spanish Communication and Expression in Contemporary Nicaragua I

(SPAN 2503 / 3 credits / 45 class hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:
Nicaragua: Youth Culture, Literacy, and Media

PLEASE NOTE: This syllabus is representative of a typical term. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.

Course Description

In this decidedly non-traditional course, students will enhance and expand their expressive capacity in Spanish through a wide range of oral, reading and writing activities. They will develop both aural and oral skills through radio, podcasts, music, poetry, political speeches and propaganda, everyday conversation, and vernacular expressions, while deepening their understanding across class and region and moving towards speaking at the level of a highly educated native speaker. Students will also study Nicaraguan literature, participate in writing workshops (often with community members), and learn to write in different styles, genres, and registers. This course is heavily oriented towards assuring the students be prepared for the Independent Study Project while also directly supporting/enhancing learning throughout the entire experience.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the seminar, students will be able to:

- Comprehend the main ideas from articles and discourse, in Spanish, on complex topics, including thematic/technical discussions on youth, literacies and media.
- Manage daily personal and academic interactions with native Spanish speakers.
- Evaluate Nicaragua literature with a good understanding of the different style, genres within the social political context of the writing.
- Create creative and thoughtful blogs/essays/scripts for possible publication and to be shared with other students and community members.
- Probe contemporary popular expressions, poetry, music, and communication through social media and traditional media utilizing a contemporary social linguistic lexicon.

Language of Instruction

This course is taught entirely in Spanish.

Course Schedule

***Please be aware that topics and excursions may vary to take advantage of any emerging events, to accommodate changes in our lecturers' availability, and to respect any changes that would affect student safety. Students will be notified if this occurs.**

Modules and Topics

In the Spanish classes a variety of bibliographies are utilized and there is no singular text. The different topics of the Spanish classes are imparted through oral presentations and didactic activities using diverse tools for language development with an emphasis on listening and oral skills. More than anything the students will be pushed to creatively express themselves through the use of different media.

IMPORTANT: The content, order and readings may be modified if necessary. Any changes made will be communicated to the students in a timely manner.

TEMA 1

- *Introducción. Hablar, leer y escribir con y para los y las demás.*
- *Gramática: Pronombres y verbos reflexivos*

TEMA 2

- *Descripción general de los géneros literarios nicaragüense. Desde las Crónicas y testimonios hacia bloggers/Facebook y los nuevos espacios de expresión.*
- *Gramática: Presente de indicativo*

TEMA 3

- *Rubén Darío: Canción de Otoño en Primavera – “Juventud, divino tesoro, ¡ya te vas para no volver!” Encontrándose su voz de poeta.*
- *Gramática: Perífrasis verbales en presente y pasado*

TEMA 4

- *Músicos, poetas y novelistas nicaragüenses: De la Revolución Sandinista a la Revolución digital.*
- *Gramática: Pretérito e Imperfecto, tiempos perfectos*

TEMA 5

- *Participación en Talleres de Poesía y con bloggers sociales. PodCasts.*
- *Gramática: Perífrasis verbales en presente y pasado*

TEMA 6

- *El estudio de los textos políticos y populares, los medios masivos y los medios alternativos.*
- *Gramática: Sobre el Modo Subjuntivo, Presente*

Excursions

Excursions to both rural and urban areas throughout Nicaragua and in Havana, Cuba link classroom learning to interactions with diverse means of expression and communication in

contemporary Nicaragua. The Spanish classes are designed to promote learning opportunities presented both inside and outside the classroom, putting students in contact with native Spanish speakers to develop linguistic understanding through these interactions. Oral and written assignments are also assigned for the excursions.

- Radio station visit (*Radio Universitario* in Managua) or in rural area (*Radio Palabra de la Mujer* in Matagalpa) to help create vignettes and public service spots.
- Visits to the National Palace and historic monuments of Managua.
- NGOs and youth groups that work with digital storytelling, PodCasts for Peace, creating scripts and podcasts on contemporary themes.
- Participation in cultural activities at the Centro Cultural Pablo Antonio Cuadra, the Centro Cultural de España en Nicaragua and the Centro Cultural Norteamericana Nicaragüense.
- In Havana, Cuba meet with young artists organized with the *Asociación Hermanos Saiz* for a comparative look at young artists and expression.

Recommended Readings:

- Alegría, Claribel. (2011). *Otredad*. Visor Libros. .
- Belli, Gioconda. (2000) *País Bajo Mi Piel*. Plaza & Janes Editores, S.A
- Cuadra, Pablo Antonio (1969) *El Nicaragüense*. Nuevos Editoriales.
- Darío, Rubén (Ed. 2014) *El Sátiro Sordo y Otros Cuentos*, Rastro Digital.
- Ramírez, Sergio (1960-2009) *Perdón y Olvido: Antología de Cuentos*. Leteo Ediciones.

Evaluation and Grading Criteria

Blog	10%
Blog Comments	5%
Poetry Assignment	5%
Scripts and Audio for Podcast	25%
Oral Presentation #1	10%
Oral Presentation #2	15%
Final ISP Oral Presentations	20%
Participation	10%

Grading Scale

94-100%	A Excellent
90-93%	A-
87-89%	B+
84-86%	B Above Average
80-83%	B-
77-79%	C+
74-76%	C Average
70-73%	C-
67-69%	D+
64-66%	D Below Average
below 64	F Fail

Expectations and Policies

- Show up prepared. Be on time, have your readings completed and points in mind for discussion or clarification. Complying with these elements raises the level of class discussion for everyone.
- Have assignments completed on schedule, printed, and done accordingly to the specified requirements. This will help ensure that your assignments are returned in a timely manner.
- Ask questions in class. Engage the lecturer. You should keep in mind that the lecturers are often very busy professionals who are doing us an honor by coming to speak.
- Comply with academic integrity policies as specified in the SIT Study Abroad Student Handbook.
- Respect differences of opinion. This includes the opinions of classmates, lecturers, and local constituents that you interact with during visits. You are not expected to agree with everything you hear, but you are expected to listen across difference and consider other perspectives with respect.

Please refer to the SIT Study Abroad Student Handbook for policies on academic integrity, ethics, warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment, and the academic appeals process.