



## Spanish Communication and Expression in Contemporary Nicaragua III

(SPAN 3503 / 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 refine and expand their communication and expressive capacity in Spanish through a wide range of listening, 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 while moving towards speaking at the level of a highly educated native Spanish 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 well prepared for the Independent Study Project while also directly supporting/enhancing learning throughout the entire semester experience.

### Learning Outcomes

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

- Comprehend a wide range of nuanced, longer texts and speech, and recognize implicit meanings.
- Express themselves spontaneously, demonstrating communication expertise, aural, oral and written, in qualitative field research methods.
- Apply oral and aural Spanish effectively for social, academic and professional purposes.
- Produce clear, well-structured, detailed writing (blogs/essays/scripts) for publication on complex subjects, showing controlled use of organizational patterns, connectors and cohesive language devices.

- Critically analyze 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: Revisión del Modo Indicativo*

#### TEMA 2

- *Descripción general de los géneros literarios nicaragüense. Desde las Crónicas y testimonios hacia blogueros/Facebook y los nuevos espacios de expresión.*
- *Gramática: Imperfecto (tres formas)*

#### TEMA 3

- *Rubén Darío: Canción de Otoño en Primavera – “Juventud, divino tesoro, ¡ya te vas para no volver!” Encontrándose su voz de poeta.*
- *Gramática: Presente de Subjuntivo, Condicional, Imperfecto (tres formas)*

#### TEMA 4

- *Músicos, poetas y novelistas nicaragüenses: De la Revolución Sandinista a la Revolución digital.*
- *Gramática: Presente de Subjuntivo, Condicional*

#### TEMA 5

- *Participación en Talleres de Poesía y con blogueros sociales. PodCasts.*
- *Gramática: Imperfecto de Subjuntivo, Presente Perfecto de Subjuntivo*

#### TEMA 6

- *El estudio de los textos políticos y populares, los medios masivos y los medios alternativos.*
- *Gramática: Pluscuamperfecto, Cláusulas condicionales [si]*

## 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. (1993). Somoza: Expediente Cerrado. Editorial El Gato Negro.
- Belli, Gioconda. (2009). Escándalo De Miel: Antología Poética Personal. Seix Barel.
- Cuadra, Pablo Antonio (1969) El Nicaragüense. Nuevos Editoriales.
- Darío, Rubén, (1890) Azul Segunda Edición (Ilustrado), Amazon Digital Services.
- Darío, Rubén (Ed. 2014) El Sátiro Sordo y Otros Cuentos, Rastro Digital.
- Ramírez, Sergio (1999) Adiós Muchachos. Alfaguara.

## 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.