



Duke/OTS Undergraduate Semester Abroad Program

Culture and Language in Costa Rica

Duke University SP92A Fall 2017

This course is intended for students that have a basic to intermediate background of the Spanish language. The chief goals are to expand vocabulary and conversational skills, strengthen grammar, and introduce key social, cultural and environmental issues in Costa Rica. Students discuss specific topics of the Costa Rican society and learn about the different forms of the Latin American and Costa Rican culture. The course, taught entirely in Spanish, introduces new vocabulary and emphasizes grammatical rules within the context of specific themes chosen to enhance students' familiarity of daily customs or cultural institution that shape daily life. Classroom discussions supplemented by listening, writing and reading exercises are the main instructional vehicles used to increase language skills. Activities like cooking, music and dance, and lectures on Costa Rican history and sociology are also an integral feature of the course.

During the mid-semester period, students will live with Costa Rican families in San José and they will be taking 5 hours per day of intensive Spanish, during 12 days. During this period, students will have ample opportunity to improve Spanish skills and gain insights into contemporary Costa Rica. At the end of the program students would have received a total of 60 hours of Spanish instruction.

After this program, students are expected to have gained sufficient fluency to express themselves in different real life situations. Also, they will be able to make written reports and to apply their listening and comprehension skills when they take notes in Spanish during lectures and field assignments.

Cultural activities: Activities such as cooking, dance, and conversation classes are also an integral feature of the course, at least four additional hours per week. Throughout the semester cultural activities will be organized for the students such as typical music, folkloric dance, visits to museums, and handicraft fairs.

Grades are based on written exams, oral presentations, compositions and class participation as follows:

Final exam (1)	25%
Class participation	30%
Homework (5)	25%
Oral presentation (1)	10%
Composition (1)	10%

During classes, each day, the instructor will evaluate reading and auditory skills based on specific activities. At least, one auditory and audiovisual exercise will be done each week, as well a reading comprehension practice. Students will be expected to fill in missing words, organize sentences and verify information based on specific guides provided by the instructor.

Instructors: Classes are taught by CRLA teaching staff, accredited with the Costa Rican Department of Education holding university degrees in Spanish, Education, Linguistics or Philology, from either the University of Costa Rica or the Universidad Nacional (the two most prestigious universities in the country).

Textbook:

For beginner students: *Todo bien?* 2009

For intermediate students: De la Fuente, Martin & Sans.2007.*Gente*.Pearson, Prentice Hall.

For advanced students: Dominicus, Reynolds. 2007. *Repase y escriba*. Wiley and Sons.

Selected material based on social, cultural and environmental issues in Costa Rica.
Current event articles.

Student Evaluation:

Class participation and homework: Attendance is obligatory. Students will be graded on the basis of their active, dynamic and creative participation in all classroom activities (reviews, presentations, oral exercises, reading) Students will have homework every day. It will include grammar exercises, bibliographic research, newspaper readings and short interviews.

Oral presentations: they will be evaluated according depth, vocabulary, lack of repetition, grammar structure, noun and verb agreement, pronunciation, intonation and fluency.

Compositions: In the compositions, students will be expected to demonstrate knowledge acquired, including grammatical structures and vocabulary. Students will be allowed to choose composition topics from a list provided by the professor.

Final exam: At the end of the course, students will complete a final exam over all of the material learned during the intensive program. It will include grammar, reading, auditory, writing and oral exercises and will last approximately 2 and a half hours.

In order to ensure that each student is improving his/her language skills, is having the opportunity to actively participate in the class, and is taking full advantage of the program, students will be divided into groups based on their Spanish proficiency. Therefore, the course has three levels: beginner, intermediate and advanced

Beginner's level: has been designed to provide an introduction to elementary Spanish. The primary objective of this course is to offer students the opportunity to acquire communication skills in what we call "survival Spanish." Functions include: asking/giving directions, using appropriate greetings, introductions, and courtesy expressions as well as being able to communicate in different social situations such as visiting a bank, restaurant, or other public places. Furthermore students should be able to give their personal information, and talk about personal preferences and activities in growing details. In this course students will practice grammatical rules within the context of specific themes chosen to enhance students' familiarity of daily customs.

Grammar content:

- Verbos ser y llamarse
- Género y número
- Pronombres personales
- El alfabeto
- Los demostrativos
- Los números del 1 al 20
- Los intereses personales
- Adjetivos calificativos.
- Palabras útiles para la clase
- Adverbios de cantidad.

- El presente regular.
- Adjetivos posesivos.
- La edad, estados civiles y profesiones.
- La nacionalidad y la procedencia.
- los números de 20 a 100.
- Los estudios
- La familia.
- las aficiones
- Hay, estar y tener. (es necesario utilizar una práctica extra , ya que la que aparece en el libro no resulta la más apropiada)
- Y, ni, no, también y tampoco
- Verbos irregulares: querer y preferir
- Verbos gustar
- Los medios de transporte
- La ciudad
- Turismo y vacaciones
- Las estaciones y los meses del año
- Adjetivos calificativos
- Actividades en las vacaciones
- Números de 100 a 1000
- Tener que
- Necesitar
- ¿Cuánto cuesta?
- Pronombres de OD y OI
- Las tiendas y las compras
- Los regalos y productos personales
- Productos del hogar y electrodomésticos
- La ropa y los accesorios
- 38-Los colores
- 39-Las fiestas y las celebraciones
- Presente de indicativo: regular e irregular: cambios e>ie, e>i, o>ue, u>ue, verbos irregulares en la primera persona singular hacer, poner, decir, saber.
- Verbos reflexivos
- Expresiones para indicar frecuencia: siempre, de vez en cuando, casi siempre...
- La cuantificación: muy, mucho, demasiado
- Expresiones para dar consejos: tener que, haber que, es necesario/bueno /importante / conveniente
- El género y el número de los sustantivos
- Ser y estar con adjetivos
- Las partes del cuerpo
- Los días de la semana
- 49-Los deportes
- 50-La salud y la alimentación
- 51-Actividades relacionadas con la salud y el ejercicio
- El imperativo con usted (ustedes) y tú
- El imperativo y los pronombres de OD y OI
- Estar + gerundio
- Repaso de saludos y presentaciones
- Expresiones para hablar por teléfono
- Las partes de la casa

- Los muebles
- Pedir y dar direcciones en la ciudad (buscar material adicional para cubrir este tema)
- Distancias: de...a, hacia..., hasta..., estar cerca /lejos..., pasar por...
- Expresiones temporales: fechas, ayer, mañana, el próximo..., la semana pasada, el año que viene, por la mañana, de día, esta tarde
- La hora
- El futuro perifrástico
- Expresión *acabar de...*
- Los viajes
- Los medios de transporte
- Se impersonal
- Cantidades: poco, suficiente, bastante, mucho, demasiado
- Ninguno (ningún), ninguna, nada
- Pesos y medidas
- Preposiciones con y sin
- Comidas y bebidas
- Las medidas y los envases
- En el restaurante
- Comparativos
- El superlativo
- Pronombres relativos
- Me gusta / me gustaría
- El clima
- La ciudad y los servicios
- Problemas de la ciudad
- El clima y el medio ambiente
- Pretérito regular e irregular
- Secuencia de acontecimientos
- Las biografías
- Los acontecimientos y conceptos históricos y político-sociales
- El imperfecto
- Contraste pretérito / imperfecto
- Los acontecimientos históricos

Intermediate Level: covers most grammatical structures which will give the student the tools needed to achieve more confidence when using the language. The student will learn these grammatical structures while improving vocabulary, pronunciation, comprehension, as well as written and oral skills.

At this level the students learn to use different compensation strategies to communicate their ideas when they do not know the exact structure or word that should be used. Students will also be able to hold conversations on various subjects with native Spanish speakers, using the appropriate forms for each situation. This course emphasizes on cultural aspects of the language.

Grammar content:

- Pretérito regular e irregular
- Secuencia de acontecimientos
- Las biografías
- Los acontecimientos y conceptos históricos y político-sociales
- El imperfecto
- Contraste pretérito / imperfecto

- Los acontecimientos históricos
- El presente perfecto
- El participio
- Ya / todavía
- Las profesiones
- Verbos de dativo para expresar sensaciones y sentimientos
- Contraste entre presente perfecto y pretérito perfecto simple
- Usos del gerundio
- Enseñanza y aprendizaje de lenguas
- Adverbios de modo
- Verbos de dativo para expresar sentimientos
- El condicional
- Interrogativas directas e indirectas
- El carácter y la personalidad
- Otros usos del condicional
- Otros verbos como gustar
- Superlativos
- El verbo quedar (se)
- El cine y la televisión
- Los espectáculos
- El ocio y el tiempo libre
- Tú impersonal
- El imperativo
- Estado físico y salud
- Conectores
- Adverbios en mente
- Medicina: accidentes, síntomas y enfermedades
- Se impersonal
- Presente de subjuntivo
- Indicativo y subjuntivo en cláusulas relativas
- Relativos con preposición
- Los materiales y las formas
- Ciencia y tecnología
- Objetos de uso cotidiano
- Repaso del imperfecto y su contraste con el pretérito
- El pluscuamperfecto
- Estar + gerundio en el pretérito y en el imperfecto
- Pero y sino
- La literatura
- El relato de misterio
- Sentimientos y emociones
- El futuro simple
- Cualquier / cualquiera
- Pronombres relativos + subjuntivo
- Expresiones de impersonalidad
- Las empresas y negocios
- La economía y el comercio
- La expresión de opiniones y dudas
- Cuando + subjuntivo

- La expresión de la continuidad y la interrupción
- La tecnología y el medio ambiente
- Verbos de dativo para expresar emociones, consejos y valoraciones
- Verbos que expresan cambios: ponerse, volverse, hacerse
- Ser y estar + adjetivo
- Sentimientos y emociones
- Discurso indirecto
- Posesivos
- Pedir y dar cosas, pedirle a alguien que haga algo
- Es que...
- Correspondencia y mensajes

Advanced Level: includes the study of advanced Spanish grammar. The student will begin to handle complex structures -syntactical and morphological-. In addition, the students will face current topics and conversations with a higher level of complexity and abstract thought in order to improve considerably in fluency and precision. This level includes cultural, social and historical aspects on different Hispanic speaking countries as a way to explain the relationship between language, history, and culture.

This course includes a historical background of Latin America and continues with an overview of different cultural manifestations: art, literature, music, traditions and customs.

Short stories, articles and essays, followed by class discussions, are used to cover the content of the course. Works by Costa Rican and other Latin American writers will be introduced as a way to discuss social changes and identity.

Grammar content:

- Repaso del pretérito y del imperfecto, énfasis en verbos que “cambian de sentido” al usarse en pretérito o imperfecto: conocer, costar, poder, querer, saber, tener.
- Repaso de diferencias entre ser y estar
- Expresiones con las partes del cuerpo
- Repaso de verbos de dativo
- Se involuntario
- El subjuntivo con verbos de voluntad, influencia o deseo.
- Concordancia de tiempos
- Uso del subjuntivo en cláusulas independientes
- Conectores (buscar ejercicios alternativos para cubrir este tema)
- El subjuntivo con expresiones impersonales
- El subjuntivo en cláusulas relativas
- La influencia del inglés en los países hispánicos
- El subjuntivo con expresiones adverbiales
- El subjuntivo después de conjunciones de tiempo
- Cláusulas condicionales
- Usos de los artículos definidos e indefinidos
- El artículo neutro lo
- La preposición a
- La preposición de
- La preposición con
- La preposición en
- Por y para
- Expresiones con por
- Pares con por y para

- El futuro para expresar conjeturas
- Repaso de verbos reflexivos
- Se impersonal
- La voz pasiva (con ser + participio y pasiva refleja)
- Uso de las formas no personales del verbo: gerundio, participio e infinitivo
- Pronombres relativos
- Refranes populares