



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
SAN ANTONIO

SPAN 4322

Spanish Advance Composition

OLC-A (Asynchronous)

College of Arts and Humanities
Department of Language, Literature, and Arts

Instructor: Dra. Alexandra Rodriguez S.

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Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm Classroom Hall 314-O
(For virtual appointments, send an email with two or three of your most convenient times)

Course Description

This advanced composition course focuses on different types of writing, including, descriptive, argumentative, and narrative genres.

The course aims to help students with an advanced level of Spanish develop their written expression. The course is designed for students to deepen their grammatical knowledge and expand their vocabulary. Through readings, exercises, and intensive practice, students will work with different prose techniques and styles. All sessions will be conducted in Spanish, although *translanguaging* is permitted depending on the context.

The main objectives of the course are:

Students will develop formal writing skills,
Students will review grammatical structures in Spanish texts,
Students expand active vocabulary, and will continue improving conversational Spanish.

Reading and Writing Goals

1. To read and think closely, creatively, analytically, and innovatively.
2. To articulate a clear, critical thesis in an introduction.
3. To support a thesis with relevant and varied forms of evidence and sustained critical analysis.
4. To substantially revise one's own writing using instructor comments and peer reviews.
5. To craft sentences and paragraphs which demonstrate correct and effective mechanics, grammar, usage, and style.
6. To begin to develop creative and novel ways of framing an argument, and to engage multiple points of view, distinct audiences, and interdisciplinary perspectives.

Texts

Cañón, Paula. *Taller de escritores*. 4th ed., Vista Higher Learning. Digital access only

E-MAIL

Email is the easiest and quickest way to get in touch with your instructors, and we will do our best to respond to your messages within 24 hours. To ensure effective communication, please use your TEXAS A&M-SA email when contacting Dr. Rodriguez (yrodriguezs@tamusa.edu). **If you send emails through Blackboard, do not expect a prompt response, as all communication will be conducted through TAMUSA email.** You are also responsible for all information that is sent to your TEXAS A&M-SA email account regarding the course, and you should check this information regularly.

AI Policy

Use of Generative AI Permitted With Explicit Permission

There are specific situations and contexts within this course in which you may be asked to use artificial intelligence (AI), **particularly to identify patterns of errors in your writing and support the revision process.** Outside of those circumstances, you should not use AI tools to generate content (text, video, audio, images) that will end up in any student work (assignments, activities, discussion responses, etc.) that is part of your evaluation in this course. Any student work submitted using AI tools should clearly indicate with attribution what work is the student's work and what part is generated by the AI. In such cases, no more than 25% of the student work should be generated by AI. If any part of this is confusing or uncertain, students should reach out to their instructor for clarification before submitting work for grading. Use of AI-generated content without the instructor's permission and/or proper attribution in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

A. Exam: 120 pts

During the course, there will be **one exam** that will assess the vocabulary, grammar, and writing skills learned throughout the course.

B. Homework / Tareas: 480 pts

Students must complete all exercises from each assigned practice exercises independently as homework see course calendar.

C. Compositions: 300 pts

Composition Draft and Revision Process

Students must complete two submissions for each composition (escritura). Each submission is worth 30 points.

First Submission – Handwritten Draft and Instructor Review

Students must submit a handwritten first draft of their composition for instructor review. The draft should be double-spaced. A clear and legible picture of the handwritten draft must be uploaded to Blackboard. The image should be clear enough for the instructor to read the composition and provide comments and suggestions.

Second and Final Submission – Revision, and Reflection on Patterns of Errors

According to the course schedule, students must revise their composition by incorporating the instructor's feedback and then type the revised version. Students will submit this version to ChatGPT and ask it to identify patterns of errors in their writing. ChatGPT should be used to help students identify and understand recurring errors rather than simply rewrite the composition.

Students will then make any necessary corrections based on the error analysis. The final version submitted to Blackboard should:

- 1 Include the revised and corrected composition.
- 2 Highlight the errors/corrections identified through the review process.
- 3 Include a brief reflection describing the main types or patterns of errors identified.
- 4 Provide specific strategies or suggestions for improving these areas in future compositions.

Point Value: The first submission is worth 30 points, and the second/final submission is worth 30 points.

D. Final Academic Essay: 100

One academic essay will be submitted at the end of the final week of class, after the last chapter of the e-book, which addresses the conventions and rules of academic writing, has been covered. The essay should include a clear thesis statement, well-developed body paragraphs, a conclusion, appropriate citations, and a bibliography. A detailed rubric outlining the requirements and grading criteria will be provided by the instructor.

Assignments	Points
12 Weekly Homework from the ebook (tareas) (40 pts. each)	480
1 Exam Vocabulary, Grammar & Syntax	120
5 Compositions Assignments (60 each Escritura)	300
1 Final Ensayo Académico	100
Total	1000

GRADING SCALE

Letter	Score
A	900-1000
B	800-899
C	700-799
D	600-699
F	Below 590

Semana 1: 24–29 de agosto.

Introducción al curso. Explanation of the Syllabus and preliminary diagnostic of writing competence

Semana 2: 31 de agosto–5 de septiembre

Lectura: El recado de Elena Poniatowska

Tareas: Preposiciones & Adjectivos. Video: Chile y los sentidos

Escritura: La descripción, una breve comparación (First draft)

Semana 3: 7–12 de septiembre

Escritura: La descripción, una breve comparación (Second draft)

Lectura: La siesta del martes

Tareas: Ampliar el vocabulario Ser, Estar, haber, Ir y Venir. Acentuación II: Casos especiales

Semana 4: 14–19 de septiembre

Lectura: La siesta del martes

Tareas: Ampliar el vocabulario Ser, Estar, haber, Ir y Venir. Acentuación II: Casos especiales

Escritura: La narración de un evento (First draft)

Semana 5: 21–26 de septiembre

Producción de escritura: El relato periodístico

Tira cómica: El viaje espacial

Tareas: 2.3 Narrating in the past

Escritura, La narración de un evento (Second draft)

Semana 6: 28 de septiembre–3 de octubre

Escritura: El ensayo narrativo, La narración de un evento histórico (First draft)

Lectura Puerto Rico en Veracruz

Tareas: 3.1 Las conjunciones; 3.3 Passive Contructions

Semana 7: 5–10 de octubre

Tarea: 3.4: The future and conditional; 3.6 Las citas

Lectura Artículo Cara y cruz de las tecnologías de la información

Escritura: El ensayo narrativo, La narración de un evento histórico (Second draft)

Semana 8: 12–17 de octubre

Midterm

Lectura: La prohibición silenciosa de los móviles en los colegios españoles

Tarea: 4.4 El subjuntivo I

Semana 9: 19–24 de octubre

Lectura: Si los jóvenes están en internet los libros también dice un *booktuber* español

El ensayo de opinión

Tarea 4.1 Expresiones de transición

Escritura: La crónica

Semana 10: 26–31 de octubre

Lectura: de Inmigrantes a emigrantes by Paz Soldan

Tarea: 5.1 los cognados falsos; Subjuntive II, Palabras compuestas

Escritura El ensayo de argumentación (First draft)

Semana 11: 2–7 de noviembre

Lectura: Sujetos en el margen: representaciones de los indígenas en la pintura

Tarea: 6.2 El lenguaje académico

Escritura El ensayo de argumentación (Second draft)

Semana 12: 9–14 de noviembre

Tarea: 6.1 verbos para indicar cambio; 6.5 reported speech

Escritura: 6.B. La crítica literaria (First Draft)

Semana 13: 16–21 de noviembre

Lectura: El ensayo académico: Cine para indignados

Tarea: 6.6 notas y referencias bibliográficas; 6.5 Reported speech

Escritura: Critica literaria (Second Draft)

Semana 14: 23–28 de noviembre — Thanksgiving Week

Escritura: Ensayo Academico (First submission)

Semana 15: 30 de noviembre–5 de diciembre

Escritura: Ensayo Académico (Final submission)

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

University Email Policy and Course Communications

All correspondence between professors and students must occur via university email accounts. You must have your Jaguar email account ready and working. If it is not working, contact the help desk at helpdesk@tamusa.edu or at 210-784-HELP (4357). If you don't hear back within 48 hours, contact them again. They have many requests during the first part of the semester, so you may need to follow up with them.

Academic Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities

Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, Disability Support Services is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us at the [website](#) or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. All students are encouraged to discuss their academic accommodation with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

Academic Learning Center

All currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio can utilize the Academic Learning Center for subject-area tutoring. The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the *Tools* section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202. Online tutoring is also available for after hours and weekend assistance. While tutoring hours may change based on tutor schedules and availability, the current tutoring hours for MATH in the ALC are as follows:

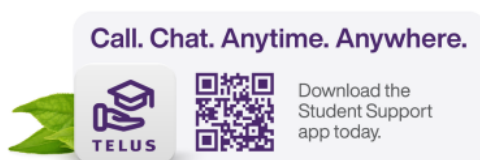
Day of the Week	Appointments available	Walk in Tutoring – No appointment needed
MONDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
TUESDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
WEDNESDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
THURSDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm

Day of the Week	Appointments available	Walk in Tutoring – No appointment needed
FRIDAY	8 am – 5 pm	11 am – 4 pm

Counseling/Mental Health Resources

As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment, visit our website, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM. All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. *Crisis support is available 24/7/365 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 or through the TELUS student support App.*

The TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including 24/7/365 support for in the moment distress, crisis support, an anonymous peer-to-peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.



Emergency Preparedness

JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification system. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>. More information on emergency response may be found at: Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan. Download the SafeZone App (<https://safezoneapp.com/>) for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900.

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance

According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun

attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended by the published Census Date (the first week of class). Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend prior to the published Census Date (the first week of class) will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Jaguar Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center (WLDCC)

The WLDCC provides support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. The WLDCC offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. Students can schedule appointments with the WLDCC in JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on “Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center” to make your appointment. Students wanting to work in realtime with a tutor can schedule an “Online Appointment.” Students wishing to receive asynchronous, written feedback from a tutor can schedule an “eTutoring” appointment. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website . The WLDCC can also be reached by emailing wldcc@tamusa.edu.

Meeting Basic Needs

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to submit a CARE report for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources. A food pantry is available on campus; [click here for hours and contact information](#).

Military Affairs

Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots’ Casa building, room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military.va@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances

Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the wide variety of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or course work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

The Six-Drop Rule

Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination

Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equal opportunity, and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual on our campus and within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees are to be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the University's Civil Rights Officer at 210-784-2061 or titleix@tamusa.edu.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking based on sex, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or other related sex-based misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

Pregnant/Parenting Students

Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the

University. The university will provide such reasonable accommodations to pregnant students as would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status (titleix@tamusa.edu; 210-784-2061; CAB 439K).

Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

Young Jaguars

Young Jaguars can support parenting students with daycare if students meet this criteria: (1) must be enrolled in classes at Texas A&M-San Antonio in the current semester, (2) must be Pell eligible or a single parent, (3) child(ren) must be aged 3 to 12-years-old, and (4) child(ren) must be enrolled in Pre-K-3 through 6th grade. Hours of operation is Monday-Thursday 3:30pm-9:00pm. For more information, please contact Young Jaguars at youngjaguars@tamusa.edu or call (210) 784-2636.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities

The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, and

pregnancy/parenting or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.

3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty, and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, [Student Code of Conduct](#), on our website, and University Catalog, and to comply with them, as well as with federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, or disability. Conduct that infringes on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated. Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the [Student Code of Conduct](#) or visit the resources available in the [OSRR website](#)

Important Fall 2026 Dates

Dates	Event
August 20	Tuition & Fee Payments deadline
August 24	First day of class
September 7	Labor Day Holiday – No Classes / University Closed



Dates	Event
September 9	Census Date – Students not paid in full or enrolled in a payment plan by 4:59 pm may be dropped for non-payment
October 5 – October 16	Midterm grading period
November 13	Last day to drop with an automatic “W”
November 25	Study Day – No classes
November 26-November 28	Thanksgiving Holiday – No Classes / University Closed
November 30	Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the University
December 4	Last day of classes
December 5 – December 11	Final exams
December 15	Commencement

The complete [academic calendar](#) is available online.

NOTE: Guidance for how to cite AI-generators, like ChatGPT, can be found here <https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt>