



**SPA 4000 HMWA (53526) – Advanced Oral Communication I**  
**Spanish for the Public Good**

Modern Languages and Comparative Literature Department  
Spring 2021

Monday & Wednesday, 9:55-11:35 am

Online | Synchronous

[Zoom Meeting ID | 272 026 9351](#)

Office hours | Monday & Wednesday, 11:45 am-12:45 pm EST

Prof. Daniel Valtueña | [daniel.valtueña@baruch.cuny.edu](mailto:daniel.valtueña@baruch.cuny.edu)

### Course Description

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This is an advanced-level conversational grammar review with primary attention given to the development of accurate and idiomatic oral expression. The course emphasizes the active use of the language through informal conversations, discussions of contemporary issues, role-playing, debates, oral presentations, and discussions of readings.

The Spring 21 iteration of the course is titled **Spanish for the Public Good**. This is a project-based course where students will apply their advanced knowledge of the Spanish language into a public-engaged final project. The course will be structured in three main branches:

1. **Spanish Grammar in Context** | Advanced grammar topics will be explained and reviewed via the [Spanish Grammar in Context](#) site.
2. **Design Thinking Methodology** | Students will apply their knowledge of Spanish into the development of a public-engaged project in Spanish using the Design Thinking Methodology. A total of five classes will be devoted to explain this project planning methodology which students will have to apply to the four short assignments and the oral presentation.
3. **Guest Speakers Series** | Various professionals will visit the class and give a presentation about their positions in relation to the relevance of the Spanish-speaking communities mainly in NYC to expose the students to the importance of the Spanish language in the US. Guest speakers will deliver a 20-30-minute presentation on their projects followed by a 15-20-minute Q&A with the students.

This course has been developed thanks to an Open Education Resources Fellowship offered by the Mina Rees Library at the CUNY Graduate Center.

*Calendar and syllabus policies are subject to change in agreement with the students or due to unexpected circumstances.*

## Materials

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### **No textbook is required for this class**

All necessary materials will be available in the course site [Spanish for the Public Good](#)

This is an **online class** and the following materials are therefore expected: 1. Electronic device. 2. Good internet access. 3. Email account connected to Blackboard. 4. Gmail email address. 5. Microphone.

## Learning Goals

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- To gain consolidate advanced knowledge of the Spanish grammar
- To develop advanced oral and written communication skills in Spanish
- To instrumentalize advanced knowledge of the Spanish language to meet community needs and serve the public good
- To develop a critical awareness of the Spanish-speaking populations and the use of Spanish in the United States and abroad
- To incorporate the Design Thinking methodology into students' personal and professional lives

## Grading System

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**35%** Class Participation

**30%** Short Assignments | **7.5% each**

**15%** Oral Presentation | **Weeks 14-15**

**20%** Final Exam | **Monday May 24, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm EST**

**Class Participation | 35 % (10% Guest Speakers Sessions + 25% Regular Classes)** Not only the student is expected to be present, but also to be always prepared to participate actively in the classroom activities. This is an advanced oral class which means that oral participation is mandatory. Students are not allowed to engage in other activities while being in synchronous class sessions.

**Short assignments | 30%** See the [course site](#) for specific guidelines.

**Oral Presentation | 15%** During Weeks 14 and 15 in students will have to deliver an oral presentation in Spanish in class on their project which will address their learning path included in the previous 4 short assignments. See the [course site](#) for specific guidelines.

**Final Exam | 20%** A final oral exam on Spanish grammar components will be conducted on **Monday May 24, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm EST**. The structure and format of the exam will be explained later in the semester

**Extra Credit Opportunity |** See the [course site](#) for specific guidelines.

## Course Policies

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**COVID-19** | These are challenging and unprecedented times. The instructor is aware of the challenges students might have to encounter throughout the semester due to COVID-19 related circumstances. Students should inform the instructor if anything unexpected happens.

**Zoom Synchronous Sessions** | This course will be conducted **mostly synchronously online via Zoom**. It is strongly encouraged that students turn their cameras on during class. Being able to put a face to your names goes a long way toward fostering a sense of collegiality and creating an engaging online classroom dynamic. **Keep your microphones muted** unless asking a question, engaging in a discussion, or prompted by the instructor. Please keep in mind that recording and/or distributing any material from Zoom classes is a serious breach of privacy for all parties involved –student and instructors alike– and may have serious consequences.

**Absences and Lateness** | Students are expected to arrive to synchronous class sessions on time. Being systematically late –5 min after the synchronous class is started– will affect the student’s participation grade. Three late arrivals count as an absence. Students may not leave before the synchronous class is over, unless they have been granted permission by the instructor. Being absent systematically will result in a severe drop in the participation grade.

**Late Submissions** | Late submissions are not accepted in this course. If the student is unable to submit an assignment, the student must contact the instructor in advance.

**The Use of Spanish** | Students must ask their questions and participate in Spanish. This is an advanced level course conducted fully in Spanish.

**Electronic Devices** | Engaging in activities non-related to class work while in class session will harm students’ class participation grade.

**Food and Beverages** | Beverages are permitted during synchronous class sessions. Food is not allowed.

**Email** | Professor checks his mail every day except on the weekends. However, students should try to anticipate their questions and not expect an immediate answer. Students should be reachable by their Blackboard email and must check that email, Blackboard, and the course site on a daily basis.

**Office hours** | Before coming to office hours, send the instructor an email to make an appointment and wait for a confirmation. Please note that an office hour meeting is not meant to serve as a replacement for a missed class. Students should not expect the instructor to go over what was covered in class in great detail. Rather, the student should study the material on their own and come prepared with specific questions.

**Disability Support Services** | Students needing special academic accommodations and who have documented disabilities should make an appointment to discuss these accommodations.

## Academic Honesty

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By participating in the course, students accept an honor code that prohibits plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty. Cheating is the attempted or unauthorized use of materials, information, notes, study aids, devices or communication during an academic exercise. Plagiarism means including in your assignment other people's words and/or ideas without citing them correctly. In such cases, students will automatically receive a grade of zero for the assignment and, on a second occasion, a F in the course. In addition, the instructor is required by College policy to submit a report of suspected academic dishonesty to the Office of the Dean of Students. This report becomes part of the student's permanent file. If questions remain, students should ask the instructor. Ignorance is not an acceptable excuse for unacceptable practices. For a detailed reference see: [http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/academic/academic\\_honesty.html](http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/academic/academic_honesty.html)

## Calendar

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See the course site for specific materials and to do activities for each class session.

<b><u>WEEK 1   February 1-7</u></b>	<b>Monday February 1</b>	Introduction to the Course Introductions
	<b>Wednesday February 3</b>	<u>Guest Speakers</u> <b>Ángeles Donoso Macaya</b> <b>Pedro Cabello del Moral</b> Archives in Common
<b><u>WEEK 2   February 8-14</u></b>	<b>Monday February 8</b>	<b>Design Thinking   Empatizar</b>
	<b>Wednesday February 10</b>	<u>Guest Speakers</u> <b>Familia Saavedra</b> Restaurante La Morada
	<b>Sunday February 14</b>	<b><u>Short Assignment #1 is Due</u></b>
<b><u>WEEK 3   February 15-21</u></b>	<b>Monday February 15</b>	<b><u>NO CLASS – President's Day</u></b>
	<b>Wednesday February 17</b>	<u>Guest Speaker</u> <b>Richard Morales</b> The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center
<b><u>WEEK 4   February 22-28</u></b>	<b>Monday February 22</b>	<b>Spanish Grammar in Context</b> Adjectives
	<b>Wednesday February 24</b>	<u>Guest Speaker</u> <b>Rafael Sánchez</b> Repertorio Español

<b><u>WEEK 5   March 1-7</u></b>	<b>Monday March 1</b>	<b>Design Thinking   Definir</b>
	<b>Wednesday March 3</b>	<u>Guest Speaker</u> <b>Sara Cordón</b> Chatos inhumanos
	<b>Sunday March 7</b>	<b><u>Short Assignment #2 is Due</u></b>
<b><u>WEEK 6   March 8-14</u></b>	<b>Monday March 8</b>	<b>Spanish Grammar in Context</b> Adverbs
	<b>Wednesday March 10</b>	<u>Guest Speaker</u> <b>Elvis Jocol Lara</b> Latinos for Education
<b><u>WEEK 7   March 15-21</u></b>	<b>Monday March 15</b>	<b>Design Thinking   Idear</b>
	<b>Wednesday March 17</b>	<u>Guest Speaker</u> <b>Stephany Guachamin</b> Hispanic Association on Corporate Responsibility
<b><u>WEEK 8   March 22-28</u></b>	<b>Monday March 22</b>	<b>Spanish Grammar in Context</b> Conjunctions
	<b>Wednesday March 24</b>	<u>Midterm Check-in</u>

**WEEK 9 | March 29 – April 4 | NO CLASS – SPRING RECESS**

**Sunday April 4 – Short Assignment #3 is Due**

<b><u>WEEK 10   April 5-11</u></b>	<b>Monday April 5</b>	<b>Spanish Grammar in Context</b> Determiners
	<b>Wednesday April 7</b>	<b>Design Thinking   Prototipar</b>
<b><u>WEEK 11   April 12-18</u></b>	<b>Monday April 12</b>	<b>Spanish Grammar in Context</b> Negation
	<b>Wednesday April 14</b>	<b>Spanish Grammar in Context</b> Nouns
<b><u>WEEK 12   April 19-25</u></b>	<b>Monday April 19</b>	<b>Spanish Grammar in Context</b> Prepositions
	<b>Wednesday April 21</b>	<b>Spanish Grammar in Context</b> Pronouns

	<b>Sunday April 25</b>	<b><u>Short Assignment #4 is Due</u></b>
<b><u>WEEK 13   Apr 26-May 2</u></b>	<b>Monday April 26</b>	<b>Spanish Grammar in Context Verbs</b>
	<b>Wednesday April 28</b>	<b>Design Thinking   Idear</b>
<b><u>WEEK 14   May 3-9</u></b>	<b>Monday May 3</b>	<b>Spanish Grammar in Context Final Exam Review</b>
	<b>Wednesday May 5</b>	<b>Oral Presentations</b>
<b><u>WEEK 15   May 10-16</u></b>	<b>Monday May 10</b>	<b>Oral Presentations</b>
	<b>Wednesday May 12</b>	<b>Oral Presentations</b>
<b><u>WEEK 16   May 17</u></b>	<b>Monday May 17</b>	<b><u>Final Reflection</u></b>

**MONDAY MAY 24, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm EST | ORAL EXAMS**