



## **Spanish Refresh**

### **BSAS SPAN 3327**

#### **CAPA Buenos Aires Program**

#### **Summer 2019**

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Class times	:	TBD
Classroom location	:	TBD
Office Hours	:	TBD

#### **Course Description**

This course is designed for students who need to learn essential Spanish to face everyday situations as tourists in Spanish-speaking countries.

Successful communication is the main goal. Students will develop speaking and listening skills through conversation in class and the use of material such as recordings of dialogues, songs, news and videos. Reading and writing assignments are important components of this course and help students to broaden their vocabulary.

The course follows the guidelines of the *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages* ([CEFR](#)) as an international standard to measure the students' level of comprehension as well as their oral and written expression in Spanish.

Students are exposed to both Rioplatense Spanish (spoken in Argentina and Uruguay), Latin American Spanish as well as to Peninsular Spanish (spoken in Spain).

#### **Course Aims**

The goals of this course are:

- Speak in the target language using the Present Tense to communicate in everyday situations involving socializing, eating out, shopping, travelling and health
- Listen and grasp the main idea and get some additional information from authentic short conversations focused on everyday topics.
- Read and understand the main idea and some details of texts about daily life situations.
- Write short texts dealing with everyday topics, such as a letter describing oneself, a note for a friend, or an email requesting basic information.

## Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course students will be able to handle successfully a variety of basic communicative tasks necessary for survival in a Spanish speaking context. More specifically, students will be able to:

- A. Introduce themselves to others.
- B. Give and request personal information, such as name, age, nationality, and profession.
- C. Give information about where they live and work.
- D. Ask for directions
- E. Buy food at a supermarket
- F. Buy clothes or items at a store
- G. Book a room in a hotel
- H. Buy train, bus or flight tickets
- I. Buy tickets for a theatre or a movie
- J. Order food at a restaurant
- K. Describe symptoms and say what part of the body hurts

## Class Methodology

This course is based on the communicative approach to language learning which emphasizes genuine communication and student-centered teaching. The teacher acts as a facilitator encouraging students' active participation.

## Midterm and Final Exams

Both the Mid Term and Final Exam have a written and an oral component.

The Written Exam includes

- a) Exercises: various fill-in-the-blanks exercises where, according to the context, students need to choose the correct option from a word bank and make the necessary changes to it. For example, in a fill-in-the-blanks exercise on verbs, according to the context, students choose the correct verbs from a box and use the chosen verbs in their correct forms.
- b) Reading comprehension: a reading comprehension exercise that tests the students' ability to read and comprehend texts as well as their knowledge of vocabulary that has been taught during the course.
- c) Written Expression and Interaction: Students read a letter or simple message and write a response of between 100 and 150 words to it.

The Oral Exam is an individual exam that lasts between 10 and 15 minutes. It is made up of the following tasks:

- a. Students answer 5 questions on topics that have been studied in class
- b. Students choose between two photographs and describe the selected one.
- c. Students are given a text and they have to answer three questions about it.
- d. Students are given a text with two simulated situations. They select one situation and give their response to it.

## Assessment/Grading Policy

Descriptor	Alpha	UK	US	GPA
Excellent	A	75+	93+	4.0
	A-	70-74	90-92	3.7
Good	B+	66-69	87-89	3.3
	B	63-65	83-86	3.0

	B-	60-62	80-82	2.7
Average	C+	56-59	77-79	2.3
	C	53-55	73-76	2.0
Below Average / Poor	C-	50-52	70-72	1.7
	D+	46-49	67-69	1.3
	D	40-45	60-66	0.7
				1.0
Fail	F	<40	<60	0

## Grade Breakdown and Assessment of Learning Outcomes Assignments

### Assessment

Class participation	15%
Homework	20%
Mid-term exam and Final Exam	65%

Students must complete all required components for the course by the established deadlines. Not doing so will result in a reduction of the course grade and may result in a failure. A 75% of attendance is required to pass this course.

The Mini Tests are short written tests that students take once we finish studying and practicing a topic. Mini Tests include the topic that has just been studied and practiced and may include previous topics from other Mini-Tests since some topics build on each other. I have added this new element because, in previous courses, I noticed that in the weeks prior to the Mid-Term exam, many students confused basic verbs and structures and that, after the Mid-Term exam, because they had studied and memorized those basic verbs and structures, they got much more out of the course.

### Course Materials

The course is based on the "Talk Spanish" program by the BBC which includes video clips, worksheets with comprehension activities based on videos and activities that give learners the opportunity to use the language. (For information on this program go to <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/talk/tutorsguide.shtml>)

The instructor will make all materials specifically designed for the course available via e-mail or as handouts. These materials include vocabulary, grammar explanations, and practice homework assignments.

### Required Readings:

Alonso Raya, Rosario et al. *Gramática básica del estudiante de español*, Barcelona, Difusión, 2005

### SUNY-Oswego On-line Library Resources

Students are advised to review assignments and readings. If you do not have access to sufficient additional resources from your home institution to complete the coursework for this class, you may request access to the on-line library resources of SUNY-Oswego: <http://libraryguides.oswego.edu/c.php?g=500670>. To access this resource, you must request access during the first week of the program.

## Weekly Course Schedule

WEEK 1	Date
Spanish Sounds	Spanish sounds: consonants, vowels and diphthongs. Nouns. Definite and indefinite articles. Adjectives. Gender and number. Article, noun and adjective agreement.
Greetings	Greeting people in Spanish. Degree of formality when addressing people. Structure of questions. Asking and answering basic questions.

Meeting time and Venue	
In–class activity	
Out–of–class activity	
Readings	
Assignments	
Notes	

WEEK 2		Date
<b>Getting to know people and socializing</b>	Getting to know people and socializing. Finding out where people come from and what language they speak. Making personal questions. Talking about where you live and work.	
<b>Making Personal Questions</b>	Moving around a city. Asking for directions. Asking for clarification or checking information. Asking about places in town. Asking about public places and their opening and closing times.	
<b>Moving Around a City</b>	Using different means of public transportation (public bus and subway). Negotiating a taxi ride.	
Meeting time and Venue		
In–class activity		
Out–of–class activity		
Readings		
Assignments		
Notes		

WEEK 3		Date
<b>Shopping: Supermarket, household products, street market (bargaining), credit cards and currency</b>	Buying food at the supermarket. Asking if a specific item is available. Asking for prices. Buying fruits and vegetables, meat and dairy products. The metric system of weights and measures. Buying household products. Buying presents at a street market. Bargaining. Paying with a credit card and with local currency. Mid-Term Exam. After students finish taking the Mid-Term Exam, we will start with Unit 6. Shopping for clothes. Asking and understanding prices. Asking about a product (color, size, price). Producing the phrases needed for shopping.	
Meeting time and Venue		
In–class activity		
Out–of–class activity		
Readings		
Assignments		
Notes		

WEEK 4		Date
<p>Booking a room in a hotel, traveling long distance, and buying tickets for events</p> <p>Restaurants, bars, and banking</p>	<p>Booking a room into a hotel. Asking for a room and checking in. Expressing dates. Making requests</p> <p>Travelling by train, long-distance bus or plane. Buying tickets and asking for arrival and departure information.</p> <p>Buying tickets for a concert or a movie.</p> <p>Ordering a meal in a restaurant. Vocabulary and expressions needed for inquiring about meals on a menu and ordering meals. Food and menu vocabulary, restaurant dishes.</p> <p>Ordering a drink in a bar.</p> <p>Paying with a credit card and with local currency.</p>	
Meeting time and Venue		
In-class activity		
Out-of-class activity		
Readings		
Assignments		
Notes		

WEEK 5		Date
Going to the Doctor	Going to the doctor. Talking about health, describing symptoms and explaining what part of the body hurts. Parts of the body, illnesses.	
Meeting time and Venue		
In-class activity		
Out-of-class activity		
Readings		
Assignments		
Notes		

WEEK 6		Date
Going to the Doctor	Final Exam	
Meeting time and Venue		
In-class activity	Closing Activity	
Out-of-class activity		
Readings		
Assignments		
Notes		

## Attendance, Participation & Student Responsibilities

**Attendance:** CAPA has a mandatory attendance policy. Attendance is taken at the beginning of every class. Unless otherwise expressed by your instructor, the first time a student has an unexcused absence for a class, his/her grade will not be impacted.

The second time a student has an unexcused absence in that class, it will result in a 3 percent reduction of the final grade (for example: an A- [92] will become an B+ [89]). The student will be placed on academic probation at this time. Three unexcused absences per class will result in failure of the course. A pattern of three absences in more than one course will result in dismissal from the program.

**Excused Absences:** Absences are only excused for medical reasons, for a family emergency or for a religious holiday. To request an excused absence, students must contact [excused.absence@capa.org](mailto:excused.absence@capa.org) ahead of time and provide evidence (e.g. a doctor's note) of the reason for his/her absence, otherwise the absence will not be excused. Even if the student knows the absence will not be excused, the student should still contact CAPA to inform CAPA they will not be in class.

In addition to contacting [excused.absence@capa.org](mailto:excused.absence@capa.org), it is the responsibility of the student to contact his/her instructor and make up any missed assignments.

**Class Participation:** Students are expected to participate actively and critically in class discussions, and the participation portion of the class will be graded accordingly. Students must read assignments BEFORE the class, and come in on time. Participation is a vital part of your grade: students are expected to participate orally in seminars and in online forums and discussions in a critical and evaluative manner; to interact with the faculty and fellow students with respect and tolerance; and to actively engage in discussion. Derogatory or inflammatory comments about the cultures, perspectives or attitudes of others in the class will not be tolerated.

*Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a physical, psychological, medical, or learning disability should contact the instructor and/or the director of academic affairs privately to discuss your specific needs.*

**Academic Integrity:** A high level of responsibility and academic honesty is expected. Because the value of an academic course depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student, it is imperative that a student demonstrates a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work and class behavior. Plagiarism, self-plagiarism and cheating can result in dismissal from the program.

Self-plagiarism, copying an assignment entirely or partially to submit to a different class in an attempt to receive credit twice for one piece of work is unacceptable and considered cheating by duplication. Students risk receiving an "O" for any assignments in which they have duplicated their own work.

All substantial writing assignments (typically anything worth 20% or more of the final course grade) will be run through the plagiarism checking software Turnitin when submitted via CANVAS. See CAPA's Academic Standards and Policies for more information and resources on plagiarism.

**Sexual Misconduct, Required Reporting, and Title IX:** CAPA The Global Education Network is committed to encouraging a safe and healthy environment at our seven CAPA centers. This commitment includes the understanding of, and applicable adherence to, the guidelines outlined in Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX necessitates that US universities provide equity in all educational programs and activities without sex discrimination.

CAPA understands the implications of Title IX compliance for our institutional partners and thus endeavors to support this compliance as a vital aspect of partnership. The safety and security of all students during a program is a matter of crucial importance to CAPA. To facilitate this, CAPA encourages students to openly disclose any and all information that is Title IX relevant so that CAPA staff can provide support and connect students with appropriate resources. Because students may not understand the implications of Title IX abroad, CAPA will work to advise students about the resources available through Title IX and explain the importance of compliance in Title IX reporting. CAPA will work to build student confidence in CAPA's status as a mandated reporter by outlining the advantage of disclosure for the student, reassuring them that any information disclosed will not be used in an inappropriate manner, and stressing that individuals will only be informed on a need-to-know basis.

**Use of electronic equipment in class:** All devices such as laptops, i-pods, i-pads, netbooks, notebooks and tablets, smartphones, cell phones, etc. are **NOT** allowed unless you have express permission from the faculty or you have been instructed to do so. If you require an accommodation to use any type of electronic equipment, inform the Associate Director of Academic Affairs at the beginning of Term.

**Use of Electronic Translators:** In Language courses students are NOT allowed to use electronic translators for writing texts in the target language: those submitting compositions and texts of whatever kind translated in such a fashion will receive a final F grade for the course.

**Late Submission:** Late submission of papers, projects, journal entries, pieces of homework and portfolios is only permitted with prior approval. A request must be made to the relevant Faculty member no later than two days prior to the due date. Late submission without prior approval will result in a full alpha grade penalty. In either case, work cannot be submitted after

feedback has been provided to the rest of the class on the relevant assessment or one week after the due date whichever comes first, after which point a grade of F will be given for the assessment.

**Behaviour during Examinations:** During examinations, you must do your own work. Unless specifically instructed by the lecturer or instructor, talking during an exam is not permitted, nor may you compare papers, copy from others, or collaborate in any way. Any failure to abide by examination rules will result in failure of the exam, and may lead to failure of the course and disciplinary action.