SPAN/TRSP 6345

TOPICS IN TRANSLATION:
SPANISH GRAMMAR FOR TRANSLATORS

SPAN and TRSP courses are cross-listed. Double-check Assist to make sure you are properly registered under one or the other as per your plan of studies or accreditation needs.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Gabriel González Núñez
Office: BMAIN 1.520
Office Hours: By appointment
Office Telephone: 956-882-7658
E-mail: Gabriel.GonzalezNunez@UTRGV.edu

Preferred contact method: Because this course is 100% online, e-mail is the best way to reach the professor.

Response Time: Please allow 24 hours for e-mail response during the week and 48 hours during weekends. If the instructor plans to be away from their computer for more than a couple of days, he or she will let you know in advance.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course covers topics in the theory and practice of Spanish/English Translation in a wide range of areas. It may be repeated for a total of 9 credit hours as the topics change.

For the Summer 2019 session, the topic will be advanced Spanish grammar. During this session, students will work with a variety of texts tailored toward the specific aspects of grammar and lexis undertaken in each module. Students will learn how to deal with grammatical features that may pose potential confusion when translating from English into Spanish and vice versa. They will also learn how to use the vocabulary needed for discussing grammar, to make informed decisions about translation choices, and to comprehensively articulate the reasons for those choices.

Prerequisites: In order to take this course, students must be accepted into one UTRGV’s graduate Translation & Interpreting programs.
TEXTBOOK & COURSE MATERIALS

Required Textbooks and Dictionaries

- NOTE: Textbooks/Dictionaries may be purchased from the UTRGV bookstores or online bookstores.

Recommended Texts & Readings

- Diccionario de la Lengua Española, Real Academia Española (2001 edition available online at [www.rae.es](http://www.rae.es))
- Other readings will be made available through Blackboard.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course, as described above, is aligned with the following Student Learning Outcomes:

- Students will develop critical reading skills, both in English and Spanish, by learning to differentiate stylistic, formal, denotative and connotative aspects within a text.
- Students will translate general texts from English into Spanish and vice versa at a professional level, by successfully dealing with major syntactical and lexical problems, while accurately conveying meaning, both at a denotative and at a connotative level.

COURSE ORGANIZATION & ONLINE TOOLS

Course Structure:
This course is organized into 5 units/weeks of instruction, as outlined in the Course Schedule and Due Dates below. Each week/unit is listed by its main topic and contains required readings, discussion board assignments, grammar exercises, and translation exercises. A final portfolio will also be required.

For each topic, students will have to complete the following tasks:
1. Readings

Before starting the grammar exercises and translation assignments, please make sure you read the documents included in the “Teoría” tab. These readings tie together all aspects of the unit. Additional readings are found in the “Lecturas adicionales” tab, which you should also read, including some PowerPoint presentations. Before starting the translation assignments or the discussion boards, please, make sure you read all material assigned for each unit.

Note: Most materials used in conjunction with the course are subject to copyright protection.

2. Discussion Boards

Several discussion boards will be opened on specific topics related to the assigned readings or translations. For each topic, every student must:

1) Post at least one original, meaningful and relevant message to the assigned topic or problem.
2) Post at least one reply to messages provided by other students.

POSTED MESSAGES WILL BE GRADED AND WILL COUNT AS PARTICIPATION. Please note that the requirement outlined above is a bottom not a ceiling. Discussion boards will be graded based on two criteria: number of posts and quality of posts.

Before posting, please make sure you have read all previous messages: do not duplicate information unnecessarily. Please, write in Spanish, using complete sentences and proper spelling. If the message is about a doubt or a problem, do not just say, “¿Qué significa X?” Rather, provide what you found out, your options, your preferred solution, and why you are not happy with what you have so far. When replying to somebody else, please provide supporting information for your proposed solutions. (Where did you find it? How do you rate its reliability?)

When posting, follow proper “netiquette” (a code of conduct for an online environment). It ensures respect for others and prevents misunderstandings or unintentional offenses. The netiquette described here is intended to help you communicate successfully in this course:

- When you are typing or submitting a response, do not use all capital letters (caps). Caps is equal to SHOUTING YOUR MESSAGE.
- Although it is customary to use acronyms (ex. ROFL - rolling on floor laughing, BTW - by the way, or FYI - for your information) when chatting online, try to avoid using these. Not all acronyms are be evident to all course users. Additionally, you should treat these discussion boards as a “professional” environment and write accordingly.
- Although you are encouraged to participate and ask questions, do not spam other users. (“Spam” refers to unwanted or excessive email.) Before sending mass emails, consider using the discussion board to post general inquiries or requesting assistance from your instructor.

The instructor’s role in the discussion boards is that of a facilitator. He will occasionally correct misconceptions and/or redirect conversations that need redirecting. Expect him to comment in the boards at least twice a week. He may also post comments following the completion of discussion indicating his general impressions of the comments and conclusions.
3. Grammar and Translation Assignments

There will be two kinds of assignments in each unit:

1) a series of grammar exercises,
2) a roughly 200-word translation.

The grammar exercises can be found in the “Ejercicios adicionales” tab. Please turn in the grammar exercises by their deadline to your instructor by e-mailing them to Gabriel.GonzalezNunez@utrgv.edu. You will get one grade for all grammar exercises.

For each unit there is a translation assignment related to that unit’s topic. These translation exercises can be found in the “Prácticas” tab. The direction of the 200-word translation will alternate, one unit from English into Spanish the next from Spanish into English. It is essential that you provide full translations for the assigned passages, even at the draft stage. Please produce these full translations as if you would be handing them to a paying client: do not leave blanks or unfinished sentences. You will get one grade for each translation.

Please follow this submittal procedure for the translations:

- Download the assignment.
- Name files as follow: YourLastName-YourInitial-NumberOfAssignment.doc (Example, for Adriana Smith, assignment 3: "Smith-A-3.doc").
- Submit the assignment Using SafeAssign before midnight on the due date (as indicated below).

Additionally, please make sure you do the following:

- Use Microsoft Word files or Rich Text Format files.
- Use the spellcheck function of your word processor.
- Double-space your translations.
- Number your pages.
- Write your full name at the beginning of the assignment (not just in the filename).

Please note that no make-ups will be granted on translation assignments.

Policy on late submission

Assignments and discussions must be submitted by the given deadline. (If you foresee a difficulty, special permission must be requested from the instructor before the due date. Extensions will not be liberally granted.) Remember, you are training to be a translator, and translators cannot afford not to meet deadlines. So meet your deadlines!

Policy on non-use of machine translation

One of the purposes of this course is to help each student develop his or her own translation skills. This means that the translations of necessity must be to be carried out by each student individually. Consequently, students are strictly prohibited from running their source texts through machine translation engines such as Google Translate, Bing Translator, DeepL, and
others. Students who turn in a translation that has been partially or fully translated by a machine are in fact plagiarizing, cheating, and turning in someone or something else’s work (see section on scholastic integrity below). If the professor believes that machine translation was employed in the process of translating a text, the student will automatically receive a zero for that assignment. Disciplinary measures may be initiated in the case of repeated violations. Exceptions to this rule prohibiting the use of machine translation will be clearly signaled by the professor, should there be any.

4. Portfolio

Submitted assignments will be reviewed by the instructor and retuned via the Blackboard messaging tool labeled “Devoluciones” (as Word or PDF documents, with comments and insertions). Students must attentively read these revisions and discuss any remaining concerns with the professor. Reviews are carried out in order to avoid similar pitfalls in further translations, so make sure you understand revisions and can implement them in your final portfolio.

The portfolio will be turned in at the end of the term using SafeAssign (“Prácticas” tab). Said portfolio will include two parts. The first part will be a final revision of students’ first four 200-word translation assignments. The second part will be a reflexive essay.

Part I: Revisions of translation assignments: Throughout the term, the professor will review student translations and return them via the Blackboard messaging tool (“Devoluciones” tab). Students will then re-work every one of those translations. To do so, they must address the suggestions or corrections the instructor has offered. If students reject a correction or suggestion, they must explain why and support their choice in a footnote or endnote.

Please note, merely incorporating instructor edits and not thoroughly revising one’s work is unacceptable for graduate level work. In the portfolio, students will be held accountable for errors not noted in the instructor’s original markup.

It is highly advisable that students make changes to their work as soon as they receive feedback so that the translation problems are fresh in their minds.

Part II: Reflexive essay: Students will submit a short writing in which they reflect on some of the grammar/syntax errors made in their original submissions of the 4 translation assignments (please do not choose lexical errors unless they are directly related to semantics or syntax, e.g., an error in meaning due to missing accent mark or using an adjective where an adverb is needed). For each translation assignment, the reflective paper will include the following:

1) A selection of three of the grammar/syntax errors that the instructor has marked. It is recommended that students select a variety of errors.

2) Specific references (citing page numbers) from the course’s two text books to indicate the following:

   A) what was incorrect about the translation
B) what one or more correct translations would be.

5. Final Exam

There will be one single final exam for every student to be posted on July 9th. The exam needs to be returned within 24 hours of posting. All exams turned in after the deadline will NOT be graded.

The exam will include two short translations, one into English and one into Spanish. Students will have to annotate their translation to fully justify their grammatical choices.

6. Course Navigation

In this online course, Blackboard will serve as our classroom. When you sign in onto Blackboard, you will see a section titled MyCourses. By clicking on the TRSP-6345-91E-Summer12019 (or TRSP-6345-91L-Summer12019) link, you will land in the Announcements page for this course. On the left-hand side of your screen, you will see a menu of options that will serve to navigate the Blackboard mini-site. The options are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Avisos</th>
<th>Here you will find relevant course or institutional announcements.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programa de estudios</td>
<td>Here you will find the course syllabus. Please review it thoroughly. You will also find additional material that will be helpful during your first week of class. You should start with the material in this section!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calendario</td>
<td>Here you will find a calendar with deadlines for all course activities, as well as other important dates.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profesor</td>
<td>Here you will find a link to your instructor’s UTRGV profile.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teoría</td>
<td>Here you will find the theoretical contents of the course, organized in six units.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecturas adicionales</td>
<td>Here you will find extra course materials (e.g. PowerPoint presentations, lecture notes, etc.) as provided by your instructor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foros</td>
<td>Here you will find discussion boards where most of your online interactions will occur with both your instructor and fellow students. Check participation requirements in the course syllabus. Visit this area often, and apply what you learn here to your assignments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prácticas</td>
<td>Here you will find details on your translation assignments. This content area provides specific instructions to complete the translations required in each unit. Completed assignments are to be submitted through this section.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ejercicios adicionales</td>
<td>Here you will find grammar exercises for each week.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Examen Final  Here you will find the final exam.

Devoluciones  Here you will find your translations once your instructor reviews them. Do not use this tool to communicate with your instructor!

Calificaciones  Here you will be able to monitor your progress in the course. All grades posted by your instructor are visible here.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND DUE DATES

The following is the class schedule, including due dates. Please note it may be adjusted as the semester moves forward. If you have any questions, please contact your instructor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates for every unit: Mon. through Sun.</th>
<th>Deadlines (all at 11:59 pm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 (Jun 3 - 9)</td>
<td>Course Intro (Programa tab); Leone, U 1 (Teoría tab); Wheatley, Ch. 1*-2*; Butt, Ch. 37; How to Translate (Lecturas tab).</td>
<td>Mon: Presentation Board  Wed: Theory Board  Wed: Grammar Exercises Fri: Practice Board Sun: 200-word Translation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2 (Jun 10 - 16)</td>
<td>Leone, U 2 (Teoría tab); Wheatley, Ch. 3*-4*; Butt, Ch. 2-4 &amp; 6; PP Acentos y doble género (Lecturas tab).</td>
<td>Wed: Theory Board  Wed: Grammar Exercises Fri: Practice Board Sun: 200-word Translation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3 (Jun 17 – 23)</td>
<td>Leone, U 3 (Teoría tab); Wheatley, Ch. 5*-6*; Butt, Ch. 7, 11-12, 26 &amp; 35; PP Health Policy and Comparative Systems (Lecturas tab).</td>
<td>Wed: Theory Board  Wed: Grammar Exercises Fri: Practice Board Sun: 200-word Translation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4 (Jun 24 – 30)</td>
<td>Leone, U 4 (Teoría tab); Wheatley, Ch. 7*-8*; Butt, Ch. 13-14, 16-17, 19, 20; Researching Legal Translations (Lecturas tab).</td>
<td>Wed: Theory Board  Wed: Grammar Exercises Fri: Practice Board Sun: 200-word Translation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5 (Jul 1 – 7)</td>
<td>Leone, U 5 (Teoría tab); Wheatley, Ch. 9*; Butt, Ch. 15, 21, 29-30; The Art and Science of Translating Financial News (Lecturas tab).</td>
<td>Wed: Theory Board  Fri: Practice Board Sun: 200-word Translation Sun: Portfolio</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

July 9: Final Exam

* The section “Perspectiva sincrónica y diacrónica” is optional.

GRADING POLICY

Final grades assigned for this course will be based on the percentage of total points earned and are assigned as follows:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion boards</td>
<td>See above</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>See above</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portfolio</td>
<td>See above</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>See above</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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A = 90-100%
B = 80-89%
C = 70-79%
F = Below 70%

**TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS**

**Computer Hardware and Software**

To participate in this online course, you must have easy access to the following:
- A computer that is less than 5-years old with high-speed internet connection
- Word processing software, such as MS Word, OpenOffice, LibreOffice, or similar applications
- A PDF reader
- Web browsing software, such as Chrome or Internet Explorer. To ensure you are using a supported browser and have required plug-ins please refer to Supported Browsers, Plugins & Operating Systems for Blackboard Learn from Blackboards resource page.

You may also need occasional access to the following:
- Zipping and unzipping software, such as WinZip, WinRar, or 7.zip

**Student Technical Skills**

You are expected to be proficient with the following:
- Installing and using basic computer applications, including word processing software
- Sending and receiving email attachments
- Zipping and unzipping files

**Technical Assistance**

If you need technical assistance at any time during the course or to report a problem with Blackboard you can:
- Visit the Blackboard Student Help Site
- Submit a Blackboard Help Ticket
- Contact the Center for Online Learning and Teaching Technology (COLTT)
UTRGV POLICY STATEMENTS

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:
Students with a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects academic performance) who would like to receive academic accommodations should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible to schedule an appointment to initiate services. Accommodations can be arranged through SAS at any time, but are not retroactive. Students who suffer a broken bone, severe injury or undergo surgery during the semester are eligible for temporary services.

Pregnancy, Pregnancy-related, and Parenting Accommodations
Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination, which includes discrimination based on pregnancy, marital status, or parental status. Students seeking accommodations related to pregnancy, pregnancy-related condition, or parenting (reasonably immediate postpartum period) are encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services for additional information and to request accommodations.

Student Accessibility Services:
Brownsville Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.
Edinburg Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD:
Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (http://my.utrgv.edu); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades.

ATTENDANCE:
Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and may be dropped from the course for excessive absences. UTRGV's attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange to make up missed work or examinations.

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY:
As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism (including self-plagiarism), and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the
integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, and VIOLENCE:
In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “Responsible Employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect that is free from sexual misconduct and discrimination. If students, faculty, or staff would like confidential assistance, or have questions, they can contact OVAVP (Office for Victim Advocacy & Violence Prevention) at 665-8287, 882-8282, or OVAVP@utrgv.edu.

COURSE DROPS:
According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.

STUDENT SERVICES:
Students who demonstrate financial need have a variety of options when it comes to paying for college costs, such as scholarships, grants, loans and work-study. Students should visit the Students Services Center (U Central) for additional information. U Central is located in BMAIN 1.100 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 1.145 (Edinburg) or can be reached by email (ucentral@utrgv.edu) or telephone: (888) 882-4026. In addition to financial aid, U Central can assist students with registration and admissions.

Students seeking academic help in their studies can use university resources in addition to an instructor’s office hours. University Resources include the Learning Center, Writing Center, Advising Center and Career Center. The centers provide services such as tutoring, writing help, critical thinking, study skills, degree planning, and student employment. Locations are:

- Learning center: BSTUN 2.10 (Brownsville) or ELCTR 100 (Edinburg)
- Writing center: BLIBR 3.206 (Brownsville) or ESTAC 3.119 (Edinburg)
- Advising center: BMAIN 1.400 (Brownsville) or ESWKH 101 (Edinburg)
- Career center: BCRTZ 129 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 2.101 (Edinburg)