Spanish 682.01  Spanish Oral Proficiency
WR 5:00-6:15, ECTR 225

Instructor:  Dr. Joseph Weyers  E-mail: weyersj@cofc.edu
142 JC Long  Phone: 953-6782
Office Hours:  MF 12:30-1:45, W 1-2, R 2-3:30, or by appointment

Required materials:
A mi manera: Spanish for proficiency, Mujica Laughlin et al, Cengage 2009
Two USB drives: one for your work, one to turn in

INTRODUCTION:
Proficiency deals with the tasks one can accomplish in a language: describing, narrating, expressing and defending opinions, hypothesizing, and the like. Mastery of a language is a lifelong process. As professionals in Spanish, understanding your current level of proficiency and embarking on fine tuning it is an important step in your professional development.

OBJECTIVES:
SPAN 682 is designed with one objective: to raise your current level of oral proficiency in Spanish by at least one sublevel on the ACTFL Oral Proficiency Guidelines. To that end, we will discuss the Proficiency Guidelines; the OPI; and the linguistic functions that define each level of proficiency. Moreover, class will be active, if not noisy. The course is about your own linguistic performance. You will speak often, and record your oral productions; you will analyze your speech, and work with feedback to improve it. At the conclusion of the course, you will know what it means to be a highly proficient speaker of Spanish and how to diagnose your and your students’ levels of proficiency.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
- Diagnostic OPI, recorded and transcribed
- Active participation and thorough preparation
- Four (4) monologues, recorded and transcribed
- Eight (8) in-class themes, recorded in class
- Final self-assessment
- Final OPI, with parts transcribed

DESCRIPTION:
Diagnostic OPI: Many of you will have completed a diagnostic OPI prior to the beginning of the semester. Those who have not will do so as soon as possible. The diagnostic OPI gives us a baseline reading of your current level and allows us to set a goal for the end of the course. The goal is to perform at at least one sublevel higher than your original performance.

The diagnostic OPI will be transcribed, and the transcription is submitted for evaluation. Transcription is an important task in this class as it requires that you truly listen to and notice your own speech. Instructions will be posted on OAKS.

Preparation: In a class that emphasizes oral production, we must share a common corpus of topics. Assigned readings from the text, along with reading news items of personal and/or professional interest, are utmost to a successful class. Please come to class prepared to summarize, to express your opinion, in short, to speak about the topics at hand.
Monologues: Each student is assigned monologue topics individually, based on your performance on the diagnostic OPI, your personal goal, and your performance on previous monologues. Monologue topics are assigned one week ahead of time; you will prepare your oral presentation at home. In class, you will record your monologue, and then transcribe it as homework. Feedback will guide you toward reaching your goal, and will lead you to the following assignment. All monologue instructions will be posted on OAKS.

Recorded themes: A theme in this class is defined as a topic of current interest. Advanced level proficiency deals with current events, and it is essential that each student explore four (4) news stories of personal and professional interest. Themes are done in three parts: (1) after having identified a news story of interest, you will come to class and record a summary of what you learned; (2) you will receive oral feedback on your production, along with follow up questions that you are to address; (3) in the following class, you will do a second recording, reiterating your summary and addressing the follow up questions that were posed. In total, the same story will be dealt with twice, that is, four stories will yield eight recordings. Instructions will be posted on OAKS.

Final self-assessment: Improving your oral proficiency is a personal journey. Only you can determine what you have done to reach your goal. Your final assessment is a type of journal entry whereby you will address a series of questions posed for this assignment, and respond in kind. Assessments are done in English, in writing. Instructions will be provided on OAKS.

Final OPI: At the conclusion of the semester, you will take a final OPI. For the most part, it will replicate what we did at the beginning of the semester. As a final assignment, you will transcribe parts of the final OPI to prove that you have achieved your goal. Instructions will be provided.

Note that the final OPI may be an official OPI, if you like. Like any candidate, you pay a fee for an official OPI. An official OPI is conducted by a certified tester and rater by at least one other tester. Information will be available at the end of the semester, and will be posted on OAKS.

Attendance: It’s impossible to speak in a speaking class if you are not present. If you must miss class once, there is no penalty. Two absences equates to a full week, and in insufficient for a passing grade. You will be withdrawn with a WA if you miss two classes.

GRADING: Below is a breakdown of how your final grade will be calculated.

- Diagnostic OPI transcription .................................. 5%
- Four monologues ..................................................45%
- Themes ................................................................. 30%
- Self-assessment ...................................................... 5%
- Final OPI transcription ............................................. 5%
- Improvement by one sublevel ................................. 10%

After the numeric grade for the course is calculated, letter grades will be assigned as outlined below:
A = 93-100; B+ = 87-92; B = 80-86; C+ = 75-79; C = 70-74; F = below 69
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE of major assignments, subject to change with prior notice.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 11</td>
<td>Intro to the course.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 18</td>
<td>Transcriptions for the diagnostic OPI are due. First theme is recorded in class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 25</td>
<td>Second version of the first theme recorded</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 1</td>
<td>Monologue #1 is recorded in class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 8</td>
<td>Transcription of monologue #1 is due. Second theme recorded in class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 15</td>
<td>Second version of second theme recorded in class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 22</td>
<td>Monologue #2 is recorded in class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 29</td>
<td>Transcription of monologue #2 is due. Third theme recorded in class</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 14</td>
<td>Second version of third theme recorded in class</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 21</td>
<td>Monologue #3 is recorded in class</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 28</td>
<td>Fourth theme is recorded in class. Transcription of monologue #3 is due</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 11</td>
<td>Second version of fourth theme recorded in class. <em>Final OPIs will be scheduled around this time</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>April 12</td>
<td>Monologue #4 is recorded in class</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 18</td>
<td>Transcription of monologue #4 is due</td>
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<td>April 19</td>
<td>Last class meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 25</td>
<td>Transcription of final OPI and final assessment are due via email or in person</td>
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**NOTE:** You are bound by the College of Charleston Honor Code.