



KIIS Spain II Program, Summer 2024

SPAN 470 Advanced Conversation

Instructor: Prof. Carmen Arranz Ordás

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Instructor's office hours: on site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description: This course focuses on developing greater fluency, lexical expansion, grammatical accuracy, and better pronunciation of Spanish by reading authentic texts, exploring the local community, interviewing host family members, and sharing both written and oral reports of these experiences with the class. Emphasis will be placed on vocabulary building, polishing of grammar while working to master more complex oral communication tasks (such as narrating and describing using aspects of time, giving elaborate explanation, and stating and supporting opinions concretely), and achieving more target-like pronunciation. Taught in Spanish.

Prerequisites: This advanced conversation class is designed for students who have taken Spanish Conversation and/or Spanish Composition at the intermediate level (some schools may offer those two courses combined) or equivalent. Exceptions might be granted by the instructor, if the student fits the level, after an oral interview (could be arranged before the trip).

2. Overall KIIS Program Student Learning Outcomes:

KIIS Study Abroad Mission Statement:

KIIS provides high-quality education abroad programs for students from all diverse backgrounds that promote deep international learning, are integrated into the curriculum, and encourage critical and creative thinking. Our goal is to help students understand the wider world and develop personal and professional skills for lifelong enrichment. We strive to go beyond generalizations and cultural stereotypes to help foster a nuanced appreciation of the world in which we live.

Students participating on KIIS study abroad programs aim to:

- 1) Understand contemporary issues of their host country/countries (i.e. KIIS program location).
- 2) Develop skills to interact comfortably in a global setting.
- 3) Understand other cultures.

Prior to your KIIS study abroad program, and again at the conclusion of your program, KIIS will ask each student to a) answer a few multiple-choice questions, and b) write a short reflective essay (two paragraphs in length) related to the elements detailed above. There is no right or wrong answer, and your responses will not affect your grade in any way. The purpose of the exercise is to help KIIS measure the effectiveness of its study abroad programs.

3. Course Objectives and Specific Learning Outcomes:

In accordance with ACFTL guidelines for Advance Low level, students should be able to:

- Contribute to conversations on a variety of familiar topics with accuracy, clarity and precision, and convey their intended messages without confusion.
- Narrate and describe in the major time frames of past, present, and future by providing a full account.
- Handle successfully and with relative ease the linguistic challenges presented by a complication or unexpected turn of events that occurs within the context of a routine situation.
- Understand conventional narrative and descriptive oral/written discourse, such as expanded descriptions of persons, places, and things and narrations about past, present, and future events.

4. Major Topics covered in the Course:

- Challenges of living in a foreign country: host families, cultural shock, Spanish news.
- The city: directions, stores, places in Segovia.
- Trips: transportation, lodging, dealing with the unexpected.
- Shopping: products and characteristics of open air markets, supermarkets, and malls.
- Lifestyle: paseo, tapas, bullfighting, soccer.
- History: Legends, history of Segovia.

5. Required Readings and Materials:

- Compilation of materials, available on KHS site (You can either print them all, or download them and have them available in your electronic device, for use both in class and out of class).
- Spanish/English dictionary or electronic version.
- EU30 for some out-of-class experiences.

6. Graded Assignments:

The grade will be assigned as follows:

- 20% Homework and participation
- 30% Oral presentations
- 25% Written quizzes
- 25% Oral exams

Homework and in-class participation (20 %). Students will be expected to prepare daily assignments based on review of the materials assigned. The student should fully prepare for lively conversations in the classroom by reviewing the materials well and developing a personal and creative way of contributing to in-class discussions. Many times, these assignments will be task-based and require the student to make the most of the program's site in developing a personal/individual voice and manner of expression in the Spanish language. Students will be required to use their own money (approx. EU 30) for a couple of these activities, such as "ir de tapas."

A participation grade will be assigned daily (5 points), and the criteria for it are as follows:

1. Was always on task, and respectful of others
2. Spoke exclusively in Spanish
3. Spoke without being called on
4. Spoke up repeatedly
5. Provided thoughtful comments and insight

Each student will have to bring up at least 2 “Choques culturales” during this month. When you see, hear, observe something that you do not understand, or that shocks you, record it (take a photo, make a note in your phone, etc). We will discuss your observations at the beginning of class as a way to gain a deeper understanding of Spaniards’ values and customs. You do not need to sign up for those, but rather present them as you see them.

Oral presentations (25%). Students will prepare and engage in a number of in-class and out-of-class presentations, and other activities aimed at increasing oral proficiency. There will be several types:

1. *Bienvenidas*: As part of the class homework, you will need to watch the *Telediario* (at least the first 20 minutes). *Telediario* is a short news report that most Spaniards watch. Most likely, your *señora* will turn it on without you even asking for it, at 3 or/and 9 pm. Every class meeting will begin with two of the students reporting on one of the news from the previous day *Telediario*.
2. In-class short presentations. You will be asked to prepare some short presentations, both individually and in pairs, such as: a place in Segovia (individual, 5 minutes), a plan for a weekend trip of your choice (in pairs, 15 minutes), a legend around Segovia (5 min), two historical events from Segovia’s history (individual, 5 minutes each), a festivity (5 minutes).

Written quizzes: (25%) There will be regular short quizzes on vocabulary, grammar structures, and cultural content.

Oral exams (30%). They will be a mid-term exam (role playing situations), and a final exam (oral presentation on a cultural topic).

The following grading criteria will be used to determine the final grades for this course:
A (90-100), **B** (80-89), **C** (70-79), **D** (60-69), **F** (0-59).

7. Attendance Policy:

KIIS program participants are expected to be punctual to and in attendance at all classes, presentations, meetings and required excursions, and to remain with the program for the full academic period. Unexcused absences from classes and/or mandatory meetings will result in a lowering of the student's final grade, as will excessive tardiness. Multiple unexcused absences could result in expulsion from the program. Any absence from an academic class session must be excused for medical reasons.

8. Disability Accommodation:

KIIS will make every reasonable effort to provide accommodations for program participants with special needs or disabilities, but we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Be aware that many foreign countries do not have comprehensive legislation comparable to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). As a result, businesses and other establishments operating in foreign countries may not be able to provide accommodations.

If you have a disability accommodation need, we recommend you contact your KIIS Campus Representative, <https://www.kiis.org/about-kiis/contact-us/campus-representatives/> early in your program selection process so that s/he has time to discuss any specific needs, including which KIIS programs may be best suited. You also are welcome to contact KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning, maria.canning@wku.edu, to discuss your disability accommodation needs (e.g. housing, transportation, excursions, class schedule, etc.).

Immediately after acceptance, notify KIIS Admissions and Enrollment Specialist, Haley McTaggart, haley.mctaggart@wku.edu, if you have a special need or disability that might require any form of accommodation abroad. Failure to notify KIIS may prevent you from participating on your KIIS program.

If you require any accommodations abroad, you must provide KIIS Admissions and Enrollment Specialist, Haley McTaggart, an accommodation letter from your home campus' disability accommodation office that lists the accommodations you are eligible to receive. Please do not request accommodations directly from your KIIS Program Director or other KIIS Faculty; the KIIS Office will notify your KIIS Program Director and/or Faculty after we have received your above accommodation letter.

In some cases, you may need to make arrangements for a caregiver to join you on your KIIS program, should your physician, campus disability accommodation office, or KIIS make such a recommendation or require it.

9. Title IX / Discrimination & Harassment:

Recent attention to gender discrimination and sexual harassment at colleges and universities reminds us of the importance of adhering to standards of ethical and professional behavior. KIIS Study Abroad is committed to supporting and encouraging safe and equitable educational environments for our students, faculty, and program directors. Students, faculty, and program directors are required to be civil and treat each other with dignity and respect. As such, harassment and/or discrimination of any kind will not be permitted or tolerated.

Sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, sexual assault, and sexual/dating/domestic violence) and sex discrimination are violations of KIIS policies. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to a) KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning (+1-859-200-1000) or KIIS Executive Director, John Dizgun (+1-270-227-2288), b) WKU's Title IX Coordinator, Ena Demir (270-745-6867 / ena.demir@wku.edu) or WKU's Title IX Investigator, Michael Crowe (270-745-5429 / michael.crowe@wku.edu). Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a KIIS program director and/or faculty member, KIIS program directors and faculty are considered "Responsible Employees" of Western Kentucky University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator.

If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center, <https://www.wku.edu/heretohelp/> at 270-745-3159.

For more information on KIIS Title IX, see <https://www.kiis.org/students/health-safety/title-ix-clery/>; additional Title IX resources can be found here <https://www.wku.edu/eeo/titleixbrochure2020.pdf>.

Everyone should be able to participate on a KIIS program, attend a KIIS event, or work in a KIIS environment (e.g. KIIS office) without fear of sexual harassment or discrimination of any kind. Be respectful of each other.