COURSE TITLE: Special Topics

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Introduces students to topics of special interest incorporating the various modalities of language learning: listening, speaking, reading and writing, and interweaves the culture of the Spanish-speaking community. The course may be retaken for credit as the topics change.

AUDIENCE: This course is designed for students who are beyond an introductory level and wish to build on language proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing.

FULFILLS MN TRANSFER CURRICULUM AREA (S):

PREREQUISITES OR NECESSARY ENTRY SKILLS/KNOWLEDGE: SPAN 2201, three years of high school Spanish, or consent of instructor.

LENGTH OF COURSE: Varies with program, but generally one semester

THIS COURSE IS USUALLY OFFERED: Undetermined/As requested

Four goals are emphasized in courses at Minnesota West Community & Technical College:

1) ACADEMIC CONTENT: The academic objectives of this course are:
   • To use in real-life situation vocabulary and grammatical structures learned from previous language courses
   • To develop those language skills necessary to converse in, read, write and understand the target language
   • To demonstrate an understanding of more advanced grammatical structures in Spanish through reading, written expression and oral interaction
   • To increase the vocabulary base
   • To increase an understanding of Hispanic culture

2) THINKING SKILLS: This course will help students improve their thinking skills through:
   • Developing language transfer skills
   • Comparing language structures, cultural and social elements, values and beliefs
   • Analyzing and discussing various topics of conversation and of global concern through the target language, integrating the cultural, economic, and political differences that affect their solutions
   • Discussing archaeological points of interest, art, places of historical interest, social issues, etc. from the point of view of another culture

3) COMMUNICATION SKILLS: This course will help students improve their oral and written communication skills through:
   • Individual and group oral projects and/or presentations
   • Class discussions in the target language
   • Written exercises and journaling in the target language

4) HUMAN DIVERSITY: This course will help students recognize, understand, and appreciate human diversity through:
   • Exploring the cultures of countries in the Hispanic world
   • Using the communications skills developed in the target language to function within the real world
   • Building proficiency in communicating in another language includes understanding and appreciating other cultures
• Reading authentic materials, studying, discussing, and writing about political, social, and economic issues from other cultural points of view

TOPICS TO BE COVERED:
• Cultural topic that affect real life situations encountered in Hispanic countries
• Grammar and structure: To be determined by proficiency levels of students.
• Readings: Authentic materials and literary texts assigned to enhance understanding of historical, political and social events

LIST OF EXPECTED COURSE OUTCOMES:
See above under goals

LEARNING/TEACHING TECHNIQUES used in the course are:
X Collaborative Learning   X Problem solving
X Student Presentations   X Interactive Lectures
X Creative Projects        X Individual Coaching
X Lecture                 X Films/Videos/Slides
X Demonstrations          X Journaling

ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS FOR THIS COURSE INCLUDE:
X Reading         Tests   X Individual Projects
X Oral Presentations  X Worksheets  X Collaborative Projects
X Textbook Problems   Papers    Portfolios
X Group Problems     Term Paper
X Other

EXPECTED STUDENT LEARNER OUTCOMES:
Students will be able to understand/demonstrate the listening, speaking, reading and writing process in Spanish necessary to function in the real world.

Students will be able to integrate their knowledge of the Hispanic culture and their own culture through discussion and journaling in the target language

Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of varying views on topics of conversation

The information in this course outline is subject to revision

To receive reasonable accommodations for a documented disability, please contact the campus Student Services Advisor or campus Disability Coordinator as arrangements must be made in advance. In addition, students are encouraged to notify their instructor.

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Veteran Services: Minnesota West is dedicated to assisting veterans and eligible family members in achieving their educational goals efficiently. Active duty and reserve/guard military members should advise their instructor of all regularly scheduled military appointments and duties that conflict with scheduled course requirements. Instructors will make every effort to work with the student to identify adjusted timelines. If you are a veteran, please contact the Minnesota West Veterans Service Office.

To receive reasonable accommodations for a documented disability, please contact the campus Student Services Advisor or campus Disability Coordinator as arrangements must be made in advance. In addition, students are encouraged to notify their instructor.

This document is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by contacting the Student Services Advisor or by calling 800-658-2330 or via your preferred Telecommunications Relay Service.
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