

**(SPAN 225) ADVANCED SPANISH B**  
PROGRAM OF ARGENTINE AND LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES  
UNIVERSIDAD DE BELGRANO

**Course Syllabus**

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**Course Information**

Contact Hours: 60

Semester

**Course Description**

The aim of the course is for the student to perfect their communicative competence, deepen their grammatical and lexical knowledge of the Spanish language and expand their cultural knowledge of Argentina and Latin America. In the course we will work with different types of materials from different discursive genres (literary texts, films, journalistic articles, advertisements, essays, etc.) that will encourage discussion and exchange of opinions and will allow student to refine their linguistic strategies for oral and written production and comprehension.

In addition, we will learn and discuss some social and linguistic phenomena related to Spanish, such as "voseo", "lunfardo" (local slang), the debate over inclusive language, the influence of other languages on Spanish vocabulary, among other topics.

**Course Requirements**

Students must meet the requirement of 75% attendance to class in order to avoid losing regularity. The attendance control system is electronic. The professor also keeps internal control of attendance, since it is part of the course grade (see Grading Policy). Lack of punctuality (arriving more than ten minutes late or leaving class early) will be considered half-absences. In case of not attending class, it is the students' responsibility to contact their classmates or their professor to find out and complete the assigned tasks for the next class.

Students are expected to actively participate in class and make an oral presentation that must be accompanied by a written text (the topic and date will be agreed with the professor during the course). During the semester, students will have homework and papers assigned for each class, which will be evaluated as detailed below. It is at the professor's discretion to accept late work (having missed the previous class does not justify not completing the assigned task).

**Grading Policy**

Class attendance and participation	15%
Oral Presentation	10%
Mid- Term exam	15%
Final Exam	40%
Short assignments/reports/homework	20%

## Academic Calendar

- Week 1** Presentation of the course and personal presentations. Brief history of Spanish. The place of Spanish in the world. Characteristics of Río de la Plata Spanish. The "lunfardo" (local slang).
- Week 2** Communicative Content: Narrating and describing in the past. Resources for relating biographies.  
Grammatical and Lexical Content: The past tenses of the indicative mood. Contrast between the Simple past and the imperfect past of the indicative mood. Uses of the Past perfect. Temporal expressions. Verbal phrases indicating beginning, end, progress, continuity, and repetition of action.  
Sociocultural Content: Biographies of outstanding figures in Argentine history.
- Week 3** Communicative Content: Resources for narrating legends and traditional stories.  
Grammatical and Lexical Content: Narrating and describing in the past (continuation). Uses of "ser" and "estar". Adjectives that change meaning depending on whether they are used with "ser" or "estar". Idiomatic expressions with "ser" and "estar".  
Sociocultural Content: Legends of Indigenous peoples of the Americas.  
Assignment 1: Narrative text.
- Week 4** Communicative Content: Expressing desires and requests; expressions of influence and purpose. Writing formal messages.  
Grammatical and Lexical Content: The Subjunctive Mood, its Tenses, and Contexts of Use.  
Sociocultural Content: Tango and Latin American Popular Music.
- Week 5** Communicative Content: Expressing opinions and judgments about the present, past, and future.  
Grammatical and Lexical Content: The Subjunctive Mood, its Tenses, and Contexts of Use. Expressions of preferences and emotions.  
Sociocultural Content: Debate on the media, social media, and controversial advertising campaigns.  
Assignment 2: Formal Letter.
- Week 6** Communicative Content: Talking about hypothetical and impossible situations. Making reproaches and expressing regrets. Giving excuses. Establishing conditions.  
Grammatical and Lexical Content: Conditional structures with "si" (if). Hypothetical comparisons "como si" (as if). Conditional connectors.  
Sociocultural Content: Proverbs and vocabulary related to love and personal relationships.
- Week 7** Grammatical and Lexical Content: The indirect style. General rules. Introductory verbs: "*decir, preguntar, responder*".  
Communicative Content: Reproducing messages and conversations: Description of movies and cinematic scenes, and

writing reviews.

Sociocultural Content: Argentine cinema. Viewing scenes from films "El secreto de sus ojos", "Un cuento chino", and "Relatos Salvajes."

- Week 8** Review for the mid-term exam.  
**Mid-Term exam.**
- Week 9** Communicative Content: Argumentation. Presenting, commenting on, and expressing opinions on a topic. Expressing cause, consequence, and purpose.  
Grammatical and Lexical Content: Information organizers. Causal, consecutive, and final connectors.  
Sociocultural Content: Issues and challenges of life in major Latin American cities.  
Assignment 3: Film Review
- Week 10** Communicative Content: Argumentation. Presenting, commenting on, and expressing opinions on a topic.  
Grammatical and Lexical Content: Connectors for adding, qualifying, contrasting, and refuting information.  
Sociocultural Content: Debate on various current issues. Reading of journalistic articles. Oral presentation.
- Week 11** Communicative Content: Argumentation. Presenting, commenting on, and expressing opinions on a topic (continuation).  
Grammatical and Lexical Content: Adversative and concessive connectors. Reduplicative structures.  
Sociocultural Content: The debate on inclusive language and other topics related to language use.  
Assignment 4: Argumentative Text. Oral presentation.
- Week 12** Communicative Content: Description of historical sites and well-known monuments. Expressing different points of view on the same fact.  
Grammatical and Lexical Content: The passive voice using "ser" + past participle.  
Sociocultural Content: Monuments and historical sites of Buenos Aires. Oral Presentations.
- Week 13** Communicative Content: Talking about customs. Generalizing. Omitting authors of an event. Explaining processes.  
Grammatical and Lexical Content: The passive voice with "se" and the impersonal "se". Vocabulary related to cooking.  
Sociocultural Content: Argentine gastronomy.  
Oral Presentation.  
Assignment 5: Descriptive Text about a well-known monument.
- Week 14** Review of content for final exams.
- Week 15** Final exams and grade submission. End of the course.

## Required Textbooks and Materials

The required material for the course will be available on the Universidad de Belgrano's online campus (LMS).

The course content is based on the book:

Berman Yael y Lichtmann Yael; *Sin fronteras, nivel Avanzado B*, Universidad de Belgrano, Buenos Aires, 2015.

## Supplementary Resources:

*On the history of Spanish, Lunfardo, and contemporary Spanish.* --

<https://www.fundacioncomillas.es/actualidad/noticias/view/el-origen-del-idioma-esp%C3%B1ol/>

- [https://www.cervantes.es/imagenes/File/espanol\\_lengua\\_viva\\_2019.pdf](https://www.cervantes.es/imagenes/File/espanol_lengua_viva_2019.pdf)
- [https://www.cultura.gob.ar/en-el-dia-del-lunfardo-conoce-de-donde-vienen-muchas-de-las-palabras-que-usamos-a-diario\\_4604/](https://www.cultura.gob.ar/en-el-dia-del-lunfardo-conoce-de-donde-vienen-muchas-de-las-palabras-que-usamos-a-diario_4604/)
- <https://www.pagina12.com.ar/105340-el-lunfardo-es-un-fenomeno-linguistico-unico>

Resources for Telling Anecdotes: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m\\_13F-OZpl0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m_13F-OZpl0)  
Indigenous Legends

- La flor del ceibo: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cobaxdzns4o>
- El cerro de los 7 colores: <http://www.aborigenargentino.com.ar/leyenda-del-cerro-los-siete-colores/>
- El ñandú: <http://pueblosoriginariosargentinos.blogspot.com/p/leyendas-2.html>
- El fruto del calafate

Videos on Prominent Argentine Women of the 20th Century: *Videos about Victoria Ocampo, Cecilia Grierson, Alicia Moreau de Justo, and Lola Mora* from channel "Canal Encuentro."

Latin American Music and Tango:

- Solo le pido a Dios, Mercedes Sosa.
- Mi Buenos Aires querido, Carlos Gardel.
- Cambalache de Enrique Santos Discépolo.

Texts and videos on inclusive language: *Disidencias y estridencias. La lengua en disputa 2*, Feria de Editores, Buenos Aires 2020.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J8PxLu0kLG4>

- <https://glotopolitica.com/2018/09/08/debate-por-el-lenguaje-inclusivo-nuestro-idioma-en-el-banquillo-por-machista/>
- <https://www.cronica.com.ar/info-general/Lenguaje-inclusivo-Moda-politica-o-una-lucha-mas-contra-la-desigualdad-20190807-0101.html>

Architectural Styles of Buenos Aires: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3KvptF9wRfo>

Argentine Gastronomy: Series "*Comidas regionales*" from channel "Canal Encuentro".

<https://www.youtube.com/user/encuentro/search?query=comidas+regionales>

## Suggested Course Materials

- AA.VV.; *Gramática básica del estudiante de español*, Barcelona, Difusión, 2005.
- Lieberman, Dorotea Inés; *Temas de gramática del español como lengua extranjera*, Buenos Aires, Eudeba, 2007.
- Matte Bon, *Gramática comunicativa del español*, Madrid, Edelsa, 1995
- Gómez Torrego, Leonardo, *Gramática didáctica del español*, Madrid, Ediciones SM, 2002.

- Moreno Concha, Hernández Carmen y Miki Kondo Clara, *En gramática Avanzado B2*, Madrid, Anaya, 2007.