

# MED SPAN 555 SPANISH FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND FOREIGN STUDIES

## Course Syllabus

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### Course Information

Contact hours: 60 (class instruction)

Lectures: (*TENTATIVE*) Mondays to Thursdays 1:30 PM – 3:45 PM

5-weeks

### Course Description

Specifically designed for medical students and health professionals, this course aims to improve physician-patient interactions with Spanish-speaking patients.

This course will lean on the activities students do at the hospital, recognizing that experience as a "natural approach to language".

The course will focus on the grammatical structures, relevant vocabulary, and cultural competency topics needed in a medical interview and physical exam.

Candidates should already possess a high intermediate level of Spanish proficiency.

### Course Requirements

Students are expected to study the material assigned for each class and actively participate in class.

Classes will begin with an assembly in which students will bring their rotation experience to the class and use that experience as a warm up for the course.

Vocabulary and expressions will be elicited from those assemblies.

To get a comprehensive view of the healthcare system, students will conduct a research project, explore key cultural aspects through readings and audiovisual material, and present written compositions with reflexive conclusions.

Attendance to class is mandatory. Students can only have two unjustified absences.

### Grading Policy

Participation	<b>15%</b>
Research Project	<b>10 %</b>
Oral presentations on hospital activities	<b>10 %</b>
Compositions	<b>10 %</b>
Collaborative dictionary	<b>5 %</b>
Final oral presentation	<b>15 %</b>
Final oral exam (clinical interview)	<b>15 %</b>
Final written exam	<b>20 %</b>

## Academic Calendar

### Week 1

Introduction to the course.

Asking and describing health conditions.

Vocabulary: relevant phrases and questions for an interview with a patient.

Grammar: Personal pronouns, formal and informal use. Verbs "doler", "arder", "molestar" and "picar".

HW for rotation: cultural aspects during the clinical interview. Introductory topics, questions and greetings.

How to express wishes and emotions.

Vocabulary: parts of the body.

Grammar: Present Subjunctive and Present Perfect Subjunctive.

Oral presentations: cultural aspects noticed during clinical rotation (aka) "Dear Diary (at the Hospital)".

Basic doctor-patient interview: describing common symptoms. Qualifying and quantifying pain.

Grammar: "Ser/ estar" + adjectives. "Tener/estar" + nouns. Quantifiers.

Vocabulary: adjectives to describe common symptoms.

Debate session: Latin America beyond the "Latino" patient stereotype.

Vocabulary: Latino stereotypes. Grammar: "deber (de)" + infinitive

### Week 2

Oral presentations: "Dear Diary (at the Hospital)".

Expressing hypothesis and conjectures.

Vocabulary: health disorders and chronic diseases.

Grammar: Future and Conditional tenses to express hypothesis and probability.

Vital signs. Equipment for taking vital signs.

Vocabulary: internal organs and the head. Male and female reproductive system.

Grammar: interrogative words. Definite, indefinite and neutral articles.

How to write a clinical story. Talking about illnesses and their symptoms. Vocabulary: Illnesses, medicine, and therapeutic action.

Grammar: Preterite and Pluperfect tenses.

**Research project** (Part 1): defining the 3 core ideas and texts' selection.

The Pediatric visit. Pediatric control.

Vocabulary: Pediatrics, typical objects and actions in childhood.

Grammar: Preterit vs. Imperfect.

Cultural reading about Argentina: "CABA: la pobreza en barrios del sur es cuatro veces mayor que en los del norte" (*Buenos Aires City: poverty in neighborhoods in the south is four times greater than in those in the north.*)

Grammar: verbs of change.

### Week 3

Oral presentations: "Dear Diary (at the Hospital)".

Cultural reading about Argentina: National Healthcare System and Public Hospitals.

Grammar: Conditional tense as the future of the past. Verb phrases.

Giving instructions for a physical and a neurological exam. Indications for treating burns.

Cultural reading about Argentina: Medical tourism: health tourism vs. aesthetic tourism.

Vocabulary: social and economic terms regarding medical tourism in Argentina.

Grammar: Imperative forms. "Tener que", "hay que", "ser necesario" + infinitive.

Temporal clauses and connectors.

Lab tests and diagnostic results: blood test, urine test, sputum test, skin tests and X rays.

Expressing the cause and the purpose.

Vocabulary: different tests (elements and actions involved).

Grammar: Use of "por, porque, para" and "para que". Use of "se" pronoun.

Cultural reading about Argentina: alternative medicine.

Interview with a patient with abdominal pain.

Vocabulary: symptoms and description of abdominal pain.

Grammar: pronominal verbs & passive sentences. Conditional sentences & connectors.

Cultural reading about Argentina: "Desde que se cobra la atención, cayó más de un 80% la concurrencia de extranjeros a los hospitales de Salta" (*Since medical care is being charged, the attendance of foreigners at Salta hospitals fell by more than 80%.*)

**Research project** (Part 2): reading workshop on selected corpora.

Composition 1: «How healthy are our habits?»: health in different countries.

#### Week 4

Oral presentations: "Dear Diary (at the Hospital)".

Contraceptive methods. Sexually transmitted diseases (STD).

How to address sexual activity questions. Vocabulary: sexual behavior and birth control.

Grammar: Present Subjunctive with verbs of influence, and doubt and possibility.

Cardiovascular and respiratory systems: a patient with high blood pressure and a patient with bronchitis.

Vocabulary: cardiovascular and respiratory systems. Grammar: relative clauses & pronouns.

Cultural reading about Argentina: "El doctor Fernando Cichero, a cargo del Instituto de Trasplante porteño, analiza el sistema de salud y el colapso en los hospitales" (Dr. Fernando Cichero, in charge of the Buenos Aires Transplant Institute, analyzes the health system and the collapse in hospitals)

The patient with diabetes.

Vocabulary: types of food, healthy and unhealthy food.

Grammar: use of Conditional with "poder, deber and tener que". Concessive clauses.

Cultural reading about Argentina: organ donation.

**Research project** (Part 3): writing workshop. Composition 2: organ donation: a comparative view.

#### Week 5

Emergency room: a car accident.

Cultural reading about Argentina: "Problemas para los afiliados de prepagas: por qué cada vez más médicos dejan de atenderlos". (*Problems for prepaid medicine members: why more and more doctors stop treating them*)

Grammar: review of grammar points.

Final exam review.

**Final presentation:** "My experience shadowing & with the Argentine healthcare system". The presentation must include a brief summary of the main research project conclusions.

**Final written exam.**

**Final oral exam: a clinical interview.**

End of the course

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### Required Textbooks and Materials

- Koper, Alejandra; *Español para profesionales de la salud. Material de trabajo*, Universidad de Belgrano, Buenos Aires, 2017.

### Required Readings

- [Ámbito Financiero, "CABA: la pobreza en barrios del sur es cuatro veces mayor que en los del norte"](#).
- *Infobae*, "[Desde que se cobra la atención, cayó más de un 80% la concurrencia de extranjeros a los hospitales de Salta](#)".
- *La Nación*, "[El doctor Fernando Cichero, a cargo del Instituto de Trasplante porteño, analiza el sistema de salud y el colapso en los hospitales](#)".
- Magnani, Rocío, "[Problemas para los afiliados de prepagas: por qué cada vez más médicos dejan de atenderlos](#)", Diario Clarín.
- Ríos-Fernández-Ríos, "Más allá del estereotipo del paciente latino", *Complete Medical Spanish*, McGraw-Hill Education, New York, 2015 (adapted).

### Suggested Course Materials

- AA.VV.; *Complete Medical Spanish. Practical Medical Spanish for a Quick and Confident Communication*, Estados Unidos, McGraw-Hill Education, 2015 (3a. edición).
- AA.VV.; *Gramática básica del estudiante de español*, Barcelona, Difusión, 2005. Bongiovanni, G., *Medical Spanish*, Estados Unidos, McGraw-Hill Education, 2005 (4a. edición).
- Matte Bon, *Gramática comunicativa del español*, Madrid, Edelsa, 1995.
- *VOX Medical Spanish and English Dictionary*, Estados Unidos, Editorial Larousse, 2011.