

SPAN 3101 Syllabus

Conversation I, Section OL, 3 credits
Fall 2026

Instructor Information

Instructor

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General Course Information

Description

This course focuses on the development of oral proficiency and cross-cultural awareness. Students will strengthen their listening and speaking skills as they watch, discuss and analyze award-winning short films (cortos) across the Spanish-speaking world. The short films vary from 5 to 20 minutes in length. Students will also discuss contemporary issues affecting the Hispanic World in connection to the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to...

- Analyze linguistic, cultural, and contextual features of the cortos
- Interpret audiovisual cues
- Use appropriate vocabulary to discuss the range of social and cultural topics explored in the course
- Perform a variety of oral tasks that employ appropriate speech styles
- Compare cultures, and appreciate with greater empathy values and patterns that differ from the United States

Required Course Materials

Más que hablar: Cortometrajes para la comunicación

Grading Policy:

- Voice Thread Reports & Peer Comments 15%
- Cortos Preparation & Asynchronous Prompts 20%
- Group Conversations 40%
- Oral Exam 10%
- Oral Presentation 15%

Description of Graded Components

Voice Thread Reports & Peer Comments (15%)

Throughout the semester students will complete 5 (2 minute) oral reports via VoiceThread. For each Voice Thread Report students will also provide oral comments for two peers.

Cortos Preparation & Asynchronous Prompts (20%)

Each week, students will complete a series of pre-viewing and post-viewing activities based on the cortos (short films) and related topics. The goal of these is to help students prepare for the group conversation.

Group Conversations (40%)

Each week, students will participate in a group conversation related to the short film assigned that week.

Oral Exam (10%)

The oral exam will evaluate your ability to express yourself on course topics and themes in conversation with classmates.

Oral Presentation (15%)

During the semester, you will complete a 15 minute presentation on one of the UN SDG goals as it relates to the Spanish-speaking world.

Your final grade will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following scale:

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

Students taking this course on a pass/fail or audit basis **MUST** earn a minimum final grade of 70 (C) in order to successfully pass or audit the course.

Academic Integrity

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. Review [Georgia Tech's Honor Code](#) and the student [Code of Conduct](#).

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarism on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

Core IMPACTS

This is a **Core IMPACTS** course that is part of the **Humanities** area.

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help students master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I interpret the human experience through creative, linguistic, and philosophical works?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

- Students will effectively analyze and interpret the meaning, cultural significance, and ethical implications of literary/philosophical texts or of works in the visual/performing arts.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Ethical Reasoning
- Information Literacy
- Intercultural Competence

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, [contact the Office of Disability Services](#) (404-894-2563) as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. [The Student-Faculty Expectations](#) articulate some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

Collaboration, Group Work, and Use of Generative AI

Language learning occurs in a community of people. However, the following forms of assistance are not allowed for doing any of the work in this course: copying (from someone else's assignments or from another source [a reading in a textbook, the Internet, etc.]) without clear attribution of the source; having another student, a tutor, or a friend suggest changes or correct the work you are to turn in; completing assignments in consultation with other students ("working together") unless specified by your instructor; translating directly from another source; and especially **using electronic translation programs or generative AI unless instructed by the professor**. These restrictions apply to any work turned in for this course, even daily homework assignments.

Extensions, Late Assignments, & Re-Scheduled/Missed Exams

No late assignments or extensions will be granted. Please plan accordingly. Contact your instructor in the case of extenuating circumstances.

Inclement Weather and Digital Learning Days

In the event of a weather-related event on campus or other emergency situation where the Institute switches to modified operations, I will contact all students via Canvas about cancelling class or our plans for a digital learning day.

Campus Resources for Students

Student Well-Being:

"At Georgia Tech, we are concerned about your overall physical, social, and mental well-being. A [comprehensive list](#) of wellness related resources has been compiled and maintained by the Office of the Vice President for Student Engagement and Well-being ([student-resource-guide \(gatech.edu\)](#))

More resources on supporting student well-being on the syllabus and beyond are available through the [Learning Well Initiative](#).