



INSTITUTO UNIVERSITARIO DE INVESTIGACIÓN
EN ESTUDIOS NORTEAMERICANOS
"BENJAMIN FRANKLIN"

Course	Spanish for Mental Health Professionals
Program	Study Abroad
Credits	4.5 ECTS / 3 USA (semester credits)
Classroom hours	45
Student work hours outside the classroom	90
Office hours	By appointment
Requirements	Advanced Spanish
Language of instruction	Spanish
Type of teaching	In person

INTRODUCTION

The Spanish for Mental Health Professionals course is designed for those students who wish to acquire specific language skills to work in specialized mental health centers with Spanish-speaking patients. This course focuses on developing the linguistic and cultural competencies necessary to communicate effectively and understand the needs of Spanish-speaking mental health clients.

COMPETENCES

General Competencies (GC)

GC1: Develop basic language skills in Spanish to communicate effectively in specialized mental health centers.

GC2: Understand and apply the socio-cultural differences necessary to communicate with Spanish-speaking patients.

GC3: Acquire vocabulary and common phrases used in mental health assessments, interventions and treatment.

GC4: Practice communication skills and strategies to establish empathy and make therapeutic progress with Spanish-speaking clients.

GC5: Analyze and address common communication difficulties and learn to avoid common errors in interactions with Spanish-speaking clients.

Specific Competencies (SC):

SC1: Understand and know the Spanish mental health system and its differences with other western countries.

SC2: Identify mental health documents and procedures in Spanish and understand their terminology.

SC3: Be able to participate in communicative situations specific to the mental health field in Spanish.

SC4: Identify the cultural differences that exist among the Hispanic community with respect to the mental health/illness process and be aware of how these may affect the interaction between physician/specialist and patient.

METHODOLOGY

This course is developed under a theoretical and practical methodology. This didactic model aims to allow students to communicate not only orally, but also in writing with other Spanish speakers; therefore, in class we will use real texts, recordings and materials, and we will carry out activities in an attempt to faithfully imitate the reality outside the classroom (simulation activities). In the course, we work on the four language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. The teaching is student-centered and the teacher will guide the class, but the student acquires greater responsibility in the classroom. As part of the methodology, the possibility of visiting a hospital or a psychology center in the Community of Madrid is included. This visit is intended to allow the student to put into practice some of the knowledge acquired in class.

PREPARATION FOR CLASS

Working the readings before coming to class prepares you to ask questions and give opinions about the subject matter in class.

- Read assigned topics before class.
- Reflecting on questions that can lead to interesting discussions.
- Taking notes during explanations and class discussions The professor will instruct the student on how to prepare for class and the activities he/she should do for the greatest benefit of the subject.

EVALUATION

The final grade of the course will be calculated trying to combine different evaluation systems, so that all students can develop their abilities. The student's continuous work will be taken into account in the evaluation system. Consequently, the global evaluation will be based on the students' participation in the theoretical and practical sessions; the completion of exercises, assignments and written tests; the preparation of presentations and oral expositions and the participation in the course activities.

The percentage of the grade assigned to each of the course sections is distributed as follows:

- **Participation.** It must be active, i.e., the student should not only ask questions, but also make comments and actively participate in the exercises proposed in class both in group and individually. In addition, the student must read the assigned texts and do the exercises related to the text. The student is expected to demonstrate maturity and responsibility in the classroom so that gestures, passive attitude such as sleeping in class, and having inappropriate behaviors in the classroom may have a negative impact on the grade of this section.

The total percentage of this section is 10%

- **Exams:** There will be two exams throughout the course and they will be cumulative so the student must pass both exams to pass the course. The exam will incorporate both theoretical questions and practical exercises similar to those studied in class. Throughout the course, students will be given indications on the concepts and type of exercises to be included in the exam. A few days before each exam there will be a test that will have the same structure and type of exercises as the exam to be taken later.

Note: If the professor detects copying or plagiarism in the exam, the student will receive a grade of zero and will not have the option of any type of recovery. The professor reserves the right to give "surprise exams" when he/she deems it appropriate. These exams will be very brief and will be evaluated as an additional homework grade.

The total percentage of this section is 50%. 25% each of the exams

- **Subtitling workshop:** The student must subtitle an excerpt from an episode of a medical series. Before the workshop, the teacher will give the student the guidelines for the correct completion of the workshop.

The evaluation of this assignment will be based on the following criteria: - Good use of specific terminology - Writing of the subtitles according to the teacher's indications; synchronization of the subtitles so that they are legible and are on screen for the appropriate amount of time.

The total percentage of this section is 10%.

● **Written work:** The objective of the work is to research on a topic within the field of health and make a comparison between the situation in Spain with respect to other countries. The final paper must be typed double-spaced in Times New Roman 12, will be between 3 and 4 pages long and must contain a bibliography. When evaluating the written work, the following will be taken into account:

- Spelling and grammar. The work must be correctly written in Spanish respecting spelling and grammar rules. 25% of the work.

- Content The work must be well structured with an introductory paragraph of the research carried out, a body in which the results of the research are explained and a conclusion. Since it is a comparative study, data should be provided in relation to the subject matter in each of the countries. 50% of the work.

- Terminology. Terminology specific to the field of health should be used. 25% of the work.

If the student makes use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) such as ChatGTP, he/she must inform the professor about the use of this tool.

The total percentage of this section is 5%.

Note: If the work is not submitted on the due date, the student will receive one point less for each day late.

● **Oral presentation:** The written work must be presented in the classroom on the days established in the program. The duration of the oral presentation will be around 10 minutes and will be taken very much into account:

- Content and development. The student must make a well-structured presentation making an introduction to the main topic whose information and ideas must be developed in a coherent and related way to end with a logical conclusion according to the research that has been carried out.

- Specific language. The student must expose his work using specific terms of the Spanish of health and will take special care with the concordance, verb tenses and use of complex constructions.

- Body language. The student must show control over the content of the topic and the attention of the class. To this end, eye contact, intonation and body language are important. The student must show an effective attitude to maintain the attention of the class. To develop this section, it would be interesting that the class participates in the presentation through comprehension exercises or questions related to the topic.

● **Audiovisual media.** It is very important that the student uses audiovisual media to make his oral presentation. The student is advised to use Power Point, flashcards, videos, graphs, images, newspaper clippings, etc. It is also very important that the student does not read directly the information to be presented. Supporting notes can be used, but never a direct reading of the presentation.

The total percentage of this section is 25%.

Plagiarism:

Research papers should state students' own ideas. The work of other writers or experts used to support students' ideas must be properly cited. Inappropriate use of someone else's text or work is considered plagiarism. Plagiarism is a violation of academic standards and may result in failure of the paper or even the subject for which the paper was written. Guidelines for writing the paper properly should be provided by the teacher.

EVALUATION

PARTICIPATION AND VISIT TO A PSYCHOLOGY AND PSYCHIATRY CENTER	10 %
MIDTERM EXAM	25 %
FINAL EXAM	25 %
SUBTITLING WORKSHOP	10 %
RESEARCH WORK	5 %
ORAL PRESENTATION	25 %

ATTENDANCE

Class attendance is MANDATORY. If the student is absent for more than the allowed limit (one class absence in the summer program and two absences in the fall and spring programs), the final grade will reflect a decrease of 10 points for each non-attendance that has not been excused by a doctor's certificate or by your Program Director. It is the individual responsibility of the student to make up any missed content about the subject taught in class the day the student was absent.

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS (Instituto Franklin-UAH Policy)

Students with special needs should contact Antonio Fernández: antonio.fernandezm@uah.es Instituto Franklin-UAH can accommodate these students who show through a medical note or a note from their academic advisor that require help in order to fulfill the program.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN CLASS

The use of technology is essential today in education, but if is used inappropriately it can be harmful for students. It is necessary that students ask for permission from the teacher in order to use any technological devices. Faculty should make clear to students in what instances technology can be used.

CLASS SHCHEDULE

CLASS SCHEDULE	
The mind and the human brain (parts, functions, mental processes).	
Comparison of mental health systems in Spain vs. other Western countries Mental health professionals	
Interaction between the specialist-patient (vocabulary and specific phrases). Explanation of treatments	
Cultural aspects to take into account Mental illnesses and common symptoms. Explanation of feelings and emotion	
Sale of medicines (Prescriptions, Distribution and consumption of medicines, Package leaflet)	

NOTE: This syllabus is subject to change. The final syllabus will be given to students on the first day of class.

BIBLIOGRAHY

Joana Formés Vives. Enfermería de Salud Mental y Psiquiátrica. Valoración y Cuidados. Editorial Médica panamericana. Enfo Ediciones; 2007

Francisco Megías-Lizancos y Francisco Javier Castro-Molina. Enfermería de Salud Mental y Psiquiatría. Valoración y Cuidados, 2024

José María Buceta. Psicología y Salud. Evaluación y Tratamiento. Ed Dykinson, S.L.

Walter Ghedin. Las Enfermedades Mentales. Ed. Lea, 2023

Criterios Diagnósticos. American Psychiatric Asociation. Ed Panamericana; 2014

Trastornos psicóticos. Amaia Ortiz de Zarate San Agustín, M.^a Ángeles Ruiz de Azúa Velasco, Aitzber Ubis González and Isabel Alonso Durana. Elsevier- Masson; 2011

WE SPEAK ONLY IN SPANISH

In the class we will only speak in Spanish. The use of English in the class would prevent the total immersion of the student in the Spanish learning process. In addition, it is important to emphasize that in order to understand and enjoy the class we ask you to make an additional effort to adapt the terminology with the sole purpose of familiarizing yourself with the characteristic languages of the subject. For a better understanding of the class we recommend a high