

# SPANISH FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed for students with **a high level of Spanish (B2-C1)**, who need to know Spanish in order to be able to communicate in the healthcare settings. That is, students who are currently enrolled in university studies in **biology, premedicine, nursing, pharmacy or psychology**. The course will be taught both in the classroom and in a hospital. In the classroom, a series of activities and tasks with a communicative approach will be carried out, and real life situations in the context of healthcare will be used. Particular attention will be paid to the acquisition of terminology in context, to oral expression in specific situations and to written expressions, as well as to cultural elements. In the hospital, students will apply what they learned in class; they will have the chance to know the Spanish healthcare system first-hand and to observe the most common healthcare practices in such as, consultations, in the operating room, in the laboratory, etc. **The internship in the hospital has an additional cost of 150€ and, before enrolling, students must turn in a medical certificate of good health.**

## OBJECTIVES

The objective of the course is student-centered and competency-based. This means that the students will be told what they will be taught, how they will be taught, what they must learn, what types of activities will be carried out, what resources will be used, and how their learning will be assessed. The course will aim to develop the following competences:

<b>Competence 1.</b>	To know and use medical terminology, both orally and in writing.
<b>Competence 2.</b>	To be able to express opinions, reason and talk about current issues related to healthcare settings.
<b>Competence 3.</b>	To understand and identify different types of diseases and drugs.

<b>Competence 4.</b>	To be aware of the most significant cultural differences between the Spanish and American communities considering customs, practices, attitudes, values and beliefs within the scope of the healthcare system and be able to identify them.
<b>Competence 5.</b>	To be able to participate in communicative situations specific to the Spanish healthcare field (understand and use the correct expressions).
<b>Competence 6.</b>	To identify the main types of medical documents and understand their terminology

## METHODOLOGY

This course is developed under a "service-learning" methodology combining a communicative learning of the language in the classroom and with 15 hours of practice in a hospital, under the constant supervision of a doctor-tutor. This didactic method will be used to train the student for real communication situations - not only in oral, but also in writing - with other speakers of Spanish. In order to accomplish that, texts, recordings and real materials will be used in class. Activities that try to imitate the reality outside the classroom (simulation activities) will also be carried out. The aim of the internship in the hospital is to give the students the opportunity both to practice the theoretical content, and improve the attitude and skills of the students. Thus, they will develop and put into practice the aforementioned skills.

Before starting their internship in the hospital, students will be taken for a guided tour to the University Hospital Príncipe de Asturias so that they can learn about the different medical services offered and how they work.

## PREPARATION

Students must prepare and complete the tasks before each class as indicated in the schedule so that the class runs smoothly.

Homework is very important because it will allow students to anticipate in class. Students will have to read information in the textbook and do the comprehension exercises. This task is fundamental as it will enhance their ability to follow the pace of the class, and by helping them to understand what they have learned. In fact, this method will be used to help students get used to the terminology and specific documentation before arriving class.

## EVALUATION

The evaluation procedures that will be used will attempt to combine different elements in order to make sure that all the students can develop their skills. Ongoing student work will be the main criterion of the evaluation. Consequently, the overall assessment will be based on students' participation in the theoretical and practical sessions; exercises, projects and written tests; the preparation of oral presentations and participation in the activities of the course. The percentage of the grade will be assigned to each of the evaluation criteria's and will be distributed as follows:

- **Participation:** It must be active, that is to say, the student should not only ask questions but also make comments and participate actively in the exercises proposed in class, both in

**group and individually.** In addition, students must read the texts assigned by the Professor and do the exercises related to the text. This aspect is worth **5%** of the final grade.

- **Written Assignment:** The objective of this task is for the students to research a topic within the scope of the healthcare settings. The final paper should be double-spaced in Times New Roman 12, have an extension of 3 or 4 pages and include a bibliography. In case of plagiarism the student will fail the course (grade 0). This aspect is worth **15%** of the final grade.

**Note. If the paper is not submitted on the indicated date the student will be graded one point less for each day of delay.**

- **Oral presentation of the paper:** Each student must deliver a 10-15 minutes oral presentation of the paper in the classroom on the days established by the professor. The following aspects will be assessed:

**Content and development:** The student must prepare a well-structured presentation. It should introduce the main topic. The main information and ideas must be developed in a coherent and interrelated way. The paper should end with a logical conclusion based on the research that has been carried out.

**Specific language:** The student must present his / her work using specific terminology related to the Spanish healthcare settings and must pay attention to concordance, use of tenses and use of complex constructions.

**Body language:** The student must show mastery of the subject matter and maintain the attention of the class. Thus, visual contact, intonation, and body language are important. The student must demonstrate an effective way of maintaining the attention of the class. In order to help the student develop this skill it would be interesting that the class participates in the presentation through comprehension exercises or questions related to the topic.

**Audiovisual aids:** It is very important that students use audiovisual aids to deliver their oral presentation. Power Point, flashcards, videos, images, newspaper clippings, etc. are recommended. It is also very important that students do not directly read the information to be displayed. They can use notes but never read their presentation word for word. This aspect is worth **15%** of the final grade.

- **Complementary activities:** There will also be **A MANDATORY** out-of-class academic activity to complement the Professor's lectures on theoretical content, which consists in the visit to the hospital where the students will later carry out their internship.

Before the visit, and in the classroom, students will work with and complete a study guide provided by the Professor so that the group can analyze certain aspects that will be presented to the students in class and commented on after carrying out the task.

**During the visit, each student will be provided with a gown and an identification card. It is essential that the students use these items throughout their internship period and**

hand them over to the Professor once the assignment has been completed. In the case, the student fails to return the gown or the card to the Professor, the student will fail the course (grade 0).

This aspect is worth 5% of the final grade.

- **Mid-Term Exam:** There will be a single midterm exam and it will be cumulative. The exam will take an hour and a half to complete and it will cover the topics studied by that time. The exam will include both theoretical questions and practical exercises. This aspect is worth 30% of the final grade.

**If the teacher detects copying or plagiarism during the exam, the student will receive a zero and will not have any option to redo the exam.**

- **Internship in the hospital:** The internship in the hospital will be evaluated by the doctor-tutor assigned to each student. He will complete a questionnaire assessing several aspects regarding the student's behavior such as:
  - Punctuality and attendance at the hospital.
  - Positive interaction with health personnel and patients.
  - Communicative ability (the ability to understand and participate in conversations about medical aspects).
  - The effort made by the student to understand; for example, asking for clarification or repetition of what has been said in a more precise way.
  - Tolerance and understanding of the different situations that occur in the medical setting as a result of cultural differences.

Students must make sure that the doctor signs for each of the hours they have covered in the hospital on the form that will be provided by the Professor. It is the student's responsibility not the doctor's, to set up the hours with the doctor or reassign hours if he/she cannot finally cover the ones agreed on initially. For any kind of problems, the student should contact the Professor immediately.

This aspect is worth 15% of the final grade.

- **Internship report:** students must write a final report about their internship in the hospital. This report should include aspects such as the daily activities, an English-Spanish glossary of terms learned during the internship, experiences, cultural problems they had to face, differences, etc. Apart from this report, they must also submit to the Professor the Excel sheet with 15 hours signed by the doctor-tutor and reflections on their internship in class. This aspect is worth 15% of the final grade.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Class attendance is MANDATORY. If the student is absent for more than the allowed limit (**one class absence in the summer programs 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.

CLASS SCHEDULE	
TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS
Overview of the course. Reading the program.	Students' self-introduction (oral test). Buy the dossier at the Photocopy Center ( <i>Reprografía</i> )
The human body I: Parts of the body	Exercises on the human body
The human body II: Organs and medical specialties	Exercises on the organs
The Spanish healthcare system. Public and private hospitals: -Waiting lists. -Privatization of public hospitals in the Community of Madrid	Reflect on the differences between the Spanish and American healthcare systems. Discuss a topical text and video.
Consultation in the family doctor's office: - Hospital Admission Process. Health Card. - Patient's clinical history	Prepare a questionnaire on the data that should be included on a New Patient Admission Sheet. Fill in your own medical history. Discuss a topical text.
Consultation in the family doctor's office: <b>Symptoms and common diseases.</b>	What common diseases have you suffered from throughout your life? Write the name and describe the symptoms. Role plays (doctor-patient)
Consultation in the family doctor's office: <b>Medical prescriptions: prescriptions, referral notes and medication.</b> Medical instruments.	Reading, comprehension and translation of related documents (patient information, leaflets, etc.) Medical instrument learning exercises.
Referral to the specialist: medical specialties	Exercises on medical specialties
Problems of intercultural communication in the doctor-patient interaction. Home accidents and home remedies	Reflect on problems of intercultural communication. Write home remedies from your country and reflect on the differences considering the Spanish ones
Addictions and their treatment: -Drugs. - Alcoholism and Smoking  Review for the exam	Carry out a statistical study on drug use in the US and in Spain. Review at home for the exam and prepare questions to ask and discuss in class. Answer the questions of a mock exam in class
EXAM	
VISIT TO THE HOSPITAL (to be confirmed)	

INTERNSHIP IN THE HOSPITAL	
REFLECTION ON THE INTERNSHIP IN THE HOSPITAL	Submission of the internship report and writing the activity for the blog.
Oral presentation of final papers	Submission of final papers.

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

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

### **COURSE MATERIALS**

#### **MANDATORY (Course textbook).**

Dossier on Spanish for Health Professionals

**Students must purchase this textbook at the Photocopy Center (Reprografía). Building Colegio de Málaga.**

#### **LINKS TO WEBSITES:**

- Descifrar siglas: <http://www.tribunamedica.com/descifradorframe.htm>.
- Diccionario de siglas médicas:  
[http://www.hipertensionpulmonar.es/pdf/publicaciones/publicaciones\\_siglas.pdf](http://www.hipertensionpulmonar.es/pdf/publicaciones/publicaciones_siglas.pdf).
- Glosario español e inglés de frases útiles:  
[http://bvs.sld.cu/revistas/aci/vol13\\_2\\_05/aci10\\_05.htm](http://bvs.sld.cu/revistas/aci/vol13_2_05/aci10_05.htm)
- Glosario términos médicos:  
<https://www.aecc.es/sobreelcancer/diccionario/Paginas/Diccionario.aspx>.
- Información sobre la salud, vídeos, entrevistas, etc.:  
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/spanish>.
- Síntomas: [www.sintomas.com.es](http://www.sintomas.com.es).
- Diccionario médico-biológico, histórico y etimológico: <http://dicciomed.eusal.es>.
- Atlas anatómico general:  
[http://www.saludalia.com/Saludalia/web\\_saludalia/atlas/index.html](http://www.saludalia.com/Saludalia/web_saludalia/atlas/index.html).
- Banco de Imágenes Médicas: <http://elmedico.metropoliglobal.com/Images>
- Medspain: <http://www.medspain.com>.

#### **WE WILL ONLY SPEAK IN SPANISH**

In class we are going to speak only in Spanish. The use of English in the classroom would prevent the total immersion of the student in the process of learning Spanish. Moreover, it is important to emphasize that in order to understand and enjoy the class we will ask for an additional effort of terminological adaptation with the sole aim of helping the student get used to the specific jargon of the professional field. For a better understanding of the class a high level of Spanish is recommended.