

SPANISH 3305B – Writing and Composition in Spanish

This course is not only about becoming a stronger writer; it is also about becoming a more thoughtful, reflective, and empathetic person. Through literature, art, and film, you will explore experiences beyond your own and develop a deeper understanding of yourself and others.

Course Description

How do literature, art, and film help us understand ourselves and others?

In this course, students develop advanced writing and composition skills in Spanish through the exploration of cultural, literary, visual, and cinematic portraits from across the Spanish-speaking world. Using themes such as childhood, family, identity, migration, belonging, imagination, and social change, students examine how individuals and communities are represented in different forms of artistic expression.

Unlike a traditional grammar or composition course, SPANISH 3305B uses literature, visual art, and film as starting points for writing. Students learn to write not simply by practicing language structures, but by connecting with compelling stories, images, and ideas that invite reflection, interpretation, and creative expression.

Through short stories, visual art, photography, and film, students engage with diverse voices and perspectives from Latin America and Spain while strengthening their ability to write clearly, creatively, and analytically in Spanish. Writing becomes a tool for observation, interpretation, critical thinking, and self-expression.

By the end of the course, students will have developed a portfolio of written work that reflects both their growing command of Spanish and their deeper understanding of the human experiences that connect cultures across the globe.



Why Take This Course?

Strong writing skills are among the most valuable abilities you can develop, regardless of your career path. Whether you are interested in education, business, law, public service, health care, international relations, communications, or creative industries, the ability to communicate effectively in writing is essential.

This course will help you:

- Strengthen your written communication skills in Spanish.
- Develop critical thinking, analytical, and creative abilities.
- Explore diverse cultural perspectives from Latin America and Spain.
- Build intercultural competence and global awareness.
- Learn to express complex ideas with clarity, confidence, and style.
- Reflect on questions of identity, belonging, and human experience.

Beyond language learning, this course encourages students to engage thoughtfully with different cultures and perspectives while discovering and refining their own voices as writers.

What Will You Learn?

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

Write Effectively in Spanish

- Produce clear, well-organized, and engaging written texts for different audiences and purposes.
- Apply effective strategies for planning, drafting, revising, and editing.
- Use appropriate grammar, vocabulary, and stylistic techniques in academic and creative writing.
- Develop a confident and distinctive voice in Spanish.

Analyze Literature, Art, and Film

- Interpret literary texts, visual works, and films from the Spanish-speaking world.

- Examine how different forms of artistic expression represent individuals, communities, and cultural experiences.
- Use observation and critical analysis as foundations for effective writing.

Explore the Spanish-Speaking World

- Gain insight into the cultural diversity of Latin America and Spain.
- Examine themes such as identity, family, migration, difference, and belonging.
- Recognize the complexity of Hispanic cultures beyond stereotypes and generalizations.
- Appreciate the richness and diversity of the Spanish language.

Develop Intercultural and Reflective Skills

- Connect cultural texts to contemporary social and human issues.
- Reflect on personal experiences and perspectives through writing.
- Engage constructively in peer review and collaborative learning.
- Build empathy, cultural awareness, and intercultural communication skills.

Who Should Take This Course?

This course is ideal for students who enjoy writing, reading, culture, film, and creative expression. It is particularly valuable for students interested in education, communication, translation, international studies, public service, law, business, health professions, and any field that requires strong communication and analytical skills.

No matter your goals, this course will help you become a more thoughtful writer, a stronger communicator, and a more engaged global citizen.

Course Themes

Throughout the semester, students explore a series of cultural portraits through literature, visual art, and film from Latin America and Spain. Each module serves as a starting point for developing writing, analytical, and reflective skills in Spanish.

Seeing the Other

How do we perceive people who are different from ourselves? Students explore representations of identity, difference, and human connection.

The Child's Perspective

Through stories, paintings, and film, students examine childhood, memory, innocence, and the ways young people experience the world.

Portraits of Motherhood

Students explore representations of mothers, families, care, sacrifice, and belonging across Hispanic cultures.

Dreamers and Visionaries

This module investigates imagination, creativity, dreams, and the boundaries between reality and fantasy.

Rebels and Changemakers

Through cultural texts that challenge convention, students consider resistance, social change, and the pursuit of new possibilities.

Crossing Borders

Students examine migration, exile, displacement, and the search for home in an increasingly interconnected world.

The Art of Play and Ingenuity

This module explores creativity, humor, innovation, and the ways people navigate life's challenges with resourcefulness and imagination.

Who Are You?

In the final unit, students reflect on the portraits they have encountered throughout the course and consider their own identities, experiences, and place in the world.

Required Textbook

This course uses *Retratos: Arte y sociedad en Latinoamérica y España* (Focus / Hackett Publishing), an advanced Spanish composition and culture textbook that helps students develop their writing skills through literature, visual art, film, and cultural analysis. The textbook serves as the foundation for course discussions, writing assignments, and

cultural exploration throughout the semester. It is available in both digital and print formats through the publisher and participating bookstores.

Estimated Cost

- eBook (180-day access): approximately **\$35.98 CAD**
- eBook (lifetime access): approximately **\$49.28 CAD**
- Print edition: pricing varies by retailer

Textbook prices are approximate and subject to change.