

SPANISH 260A SEM A: PROF SEMINAR (31833)

Prof. Mahieux

Fall 2023

HH 338

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Office Hours: W 11-1 PM

Spanish 260 A: Professionalization Seminar

Description: This seminar will address the transition from graduate student to professional in the Humanities. We will cover specific formative stages in the progress of graduate students towards their degrees, as well as help with the preparation for a professional life with a PhD in Spanish. The informal setting aims to encourage students to reflect on the status of the Humanities at large and of Spanish programs in particular, and to think critically of their own current and future contributions as scholars and/or professionals.

This is a collaborative seminar that will not be graded. However, attendance is mandatory and active participation essential to the success of the course.

Format: This seminar will meet in person.

Timeline: Spanish 260 A-B-C will be held over three quarters. We will meet four times during the fall with two optional additional sessions scheduled for cover letter/interview workshops.

This syllabus covers Spanish 260A, which is held in the fall.

Requirements: You must complete at least 5 out of these 7 possible assignments throughout the year to pass this course. At least 2 assignments must be turned in during the Fall quarter. You may pick among the fall assignments marked in bold below.

All assignments will be available to the entire group. All assignments must be uploaded to the class site on the Sunday before the class when it will be discussed to give everyone the time to read it. You are expected to share your first drafts and to comment on the drafts of your colleagues. I will be happy to review and comment on your second drafts individually in office hours after you have benefitted from class discussion.

- **FALL: Timeline of your trajectory at UCI (Mandatory for all)**
- **FALL: Dissertation Prospectus**
- **FALL: Conference abstract and/or panel proposal (approx. 300 words each)**
- Sample class syllabus
- Book review (800-1000 words- Mandatory for all)
- Grant/Fellowship proposal (1500 words)
- Cover letter (2 page maximum) and CV.

Readings: All readings are available on CANVAS in the weekly modules.

COURSE POLICIES

Academic Integrity

It is essential that all members of the academic community subscribe to the ideal of academic integrity and accept individual responsibility for their work. Please familiarize yourself with the UCI Policy on Academic Integrity.

Any incident involving cheating, plagiarism, etc. will affect your final course grade and will be reported to the student's Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies.

Students with Disabilities

UCI is committed to providing a barrier-free environment for learning and an electronic environment that is accessible to everyone, including individuals with disabilities. If you have a disability and feel you need accommodations in this course, please contact the [Disability Services Center](#). DSC approved accommodations will be provided for students who present a Faculty Notification Letter from the DSC.

Attendance Policy

Class time is an opportunity for you to learn from your fellow students as well as from the instructor. You can have 1 unexcused absence. More than 1 absence will affect your participation grade. Please notify instructor early and in writing if you expect to miss a class.

Punctuality

Students are expected to turn in all assignments on time. Please adhere to all due dates as listed on the Canvas Course Space. There will be a half letter grade deduction for each day that an assignment is late, unless accommodations have been discussed beforehand with instructor. Communicate with your professor early if meeting a deadline will be an issue.

Copyright

We are sharing much more digital content these days. As a consequence, it is particularly important that students clearly understand that the unauthorized sale or commercial distribution of course notes or recordings is a violation of campus policy.

Specifically, Section 102.23 of Policies Applying to Campus Activities, Organizations, and Students states that the following activities constitute grounds for discipline:

Selling, preparing, or distributing for any commercial purpose course lecture notes or video or audio recordings of any course unless authorized by the University in advance and explicitly permitted by the course instructor in writing. The unauthorized sale or commercial distribution of course notes or recordings by a student is a violation of these Policies whether or not it was the student or someone else who prepared the notes or recordings.

Modifications to the Program

The professor reserves the right to make necessary modifications depending on the needs of the group and the progress of the class. Please make sure to check Canvas regularly for messages from instructor and/or possible changes to the program.

October 6th 2023: Introduction to seminar. Preparing a timeline for your trajectory at UCI.

Carlos Alonso. "Spanish: The Foreign National Language" *MLA Profession*, 2007.

Ignacio Sánchez Prado, "Academe's Shameful Neglect of Spanish", 2020.

Jonathan Charles Flowers, "The University We're.", 2020.

Fisher, Karin, "The Insular World of Academic Research" 2023.

You will need to create a free account in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* to access articles on that site.

Discuss timeline for your trajectory at UCI.

October 20th: MA and PhD Exams.

What is the MA exam and what is expected? How do we read the "cannon" today?

What does the PhD exam consist of? What are the diachronic and synchronic lists? How do they relate to future teaching and research? What can you expect from the oral exam?

Leonard Cassuto, "The Comprehensive Exam: Capstone or Cornerstone?"

Wendy Laura Belcher, "Reading the Scholarly Literature".

Sabelo Ndlovu-Gatsheni, "Decolonizing Research Methodology".

Workshop Students who have completed the PhD exams share their experience, lists and rationales.

November 3rd: From Prospectus to Dissertation. Getting started as an ABD. Getting into the rhythm of writing.

Karen Kelsky “Some Advice About Advisors”, from *The Professor is in*.

Steven Cahn, “The Dissertation”, *From Student to Scholar*.

“Writing a Dissertation” from *The Chicago Guide to Your Academic Career: A Portable Mentor for Scholars from Graduate School Through Tenure*.

Eric Hayot, “Eight Strategies for Getting Writing Done”, *The Elements of Academic Style*.

Workshop Read and discuss dissertation prospectus. ABD students/recent grads share experiences.

November 17th: From final paper to conference talk.

Sending an abstract. Organizing a panel. What is there to learn in a conference?

“The Ten Minute Talk”, *How to Succeed in Academics*.

“Abstracts as a tool for success”, *Writing Journal Articles in 12 Weeks. A Guide to Academic Publishing Success*.

“Conference Talks”, *The Elements of Academic Style*.

Workshop Conference abstracts, panel proposals (submitted by students).

Optional Workshops (for advanced ABDs, date TBA):

1- Applying for jobs. Cover letters and CVs.

“What’s Wrong with Your Cover Letter”, “Tailoring with Dignity”, “Rules of the Academic CV”. *The Professor Is In*

8 Tips to Improve your CV

6 Tips to Improve your cover letter

Workshop Cover letters and CVs.

2- Mock interviews and preparing for campus visits.

Meeting future colleagues, preparing for the campus visit, planning for professional life and personal choices.

“Techniques of the Academic Interview” from *The Professor is In*.

“Additional Considerations”, *The Academic Job Search Handbook*.

Workshop Mock Interviews.

Additional Resources:

In Print:

Belcher, Wendy Laura. *Writing your Journal Article in 12 Weeks*. Sage, 2009.

Linda L. McCabe and Edward R.B. McCabe. *How to Succeed in Academics*. Berkeley, Los Angeles, London, 2010.

Cahn Steven. *From Student to Scholar: A Candid Guide to Becoming a Professor*. New York: Columbia UP, 2008.

Cassuto, Leonard. *The Graduate School Mess: what caused it and how we can fix it*. Cambridge: Harvard UP, 2015.

Cassuto, Leonard and Weisbuch Robert, *The New PhD: How to Build a Better Graduate Education*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2021.

Germano, William. *From Dissertation to Book*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2013.

Hayot, Eric. *The Elements of Academic Style: Writing for the Humanities*. New York: Columbia UP, 2014.

Kelsky, Karen. *The Professor Is In: The Essential Guide to Turning your PhD into a Job*. New York: Three Rivers Press, 2015.

Luey, Beth. Ed. *Revising your Dissertation: Advice from Leading Editors*. Berkeley, Los Angeles, London: UC Press, 2007.

Vick, Furlong and Lurie. Eds. *The Academic Job Search Handbook. Fifth Edition*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2016.