



ABOUT YOUR PROFESORA

¡Hola! Soy Arely Isela Briones Cruz de Mattson. I live in Texas, but I have lived in and traveled to many parts of the world, including Spain, France, Macedonia, and Germany. I am originally from Mexico and truly enjoy sharing about my ancestral country's incomparable beauty and cultural wealth. I also completely fell in love with Spanish culture while living in Madrid. I'm looking forward to sharing this journey with you!

¡Bienvenidas y bienvenidos a clase!

EDUCATION

I have Bachelor's degrees in Religious Studies and English with a minor in Spanish from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas and a Masters in Theological Studies in Religion, Ethics and Politics from Harvard Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

HOBBIES

I enjoy a spectacularly quiet existence in the company of my family, our many books, our pets, and my flower and vegetable gardens. I also love camping and hiking and travelling to remote parts of the world. I am currently trying to learn Nahuatl.

TRADICIONES, MITOLOGÍA Y CONVERSACIÓN

LORE, MYTHOLOGY, AND CONVERSATION

A COMPANION COURSE FOR YOUNG SPANISH STUDENTS

OBJECTIVOS (Objectives)

1. To learn about Mesoamerican and Colonial culture through the mythology and lore of these periods.
2. To learn and practice Conversational Spanish.

By engaging in the ancient practice of listening to and collaborating in the telling of stories, songs, and poetry from Pre-Colonial and Colonial times, students will learn and rehearse the correct use of fundamental conversational Spanish as spoken in Mexico and Spain. While the vocabulary may differ, we will make use of the grammatical knowledge acquired in Young Spanish classes.

DETALLES GENERALES (General Information)

Horario de Clase

Class Schedule

Class will meet once a week for 1 hour over the course of 10 weeks. Students should expect to spend 15-30 min preparing for each class.

Lo Que Necesitas

What You [Will] Need

Most of all, you will need all your valor and courage aka the incredibly brave willingness to make mistakes in front of others. I will personally join you in this academic exercise when speaking in English. You will also be expected to make consistent use of your most refined manners and be respectful of others' mistakes and different opinions.

Show up to class on time, with a kind and positive attitude, a dedicated binder to be used only for this class, plenty of wide ruled paper and printouts as necessary, a pencil or two (never a pen!) with eraser and sharpener or extra lead, and colored pencils, thin-point markers or pens in purple, green, orange, and brown for underlining. If you choose to do an art project at the end of the semester, you will need the materials of your choice.

EVALUACIÓN OPCIONAL (Optional Grading)

This conversation class is designed as a Pass/Fail course. Participation and the completion of the final project are essential to your success. I will also be giving points during class (more on that later) which are just for fun, unless you are taking this class for a grade, in which case points will count towards your final grade. Grading is optional and available upon request.

Es Opcional Pero No es Opcional

It Is Optional, But It Isn't

While evaluation is optional, personal achievement couldn't possibly be. Therefore, please commit to following all my guidelines, so that you and your class may reap the rewards of joining in this scholarly endeavor.

Participación

Participation

Participation is most important. To receive full participation credit for the day, you are expected to:

1. Be respectful of yourself and others.
 - a. Please allow me to correct you or other students. I may choose not to correct a mistake.
 - b. Please help me make this a safe place for us all, by only laughing at kind jokes, and never at someone's mistakes or unkind jokes.
 - c. Please be kind and helpful.
2. Be timely and fully present.
3. Interact with other students in Spanish only.
4. Respond if you are called to answer a question. If the question is asked in Spanish:
 - a. "No sé, profesora." Or saying IN SPANISH that you do not know the answer, is acceptable.
 - b. Incorrect answers in Spanish are acceptable.
 - c. Correct answers in Spanish are most definitely acceptable.
 - d. Spanglish is acceptable, but Spanish is best. No other language is acceptable.
 - e. Wanting time to think of an answer or an opinion is acceptable. I will come back to you!

Extreme lack of participation or acceptable behavior may mean irreversible dismissal for the day or the semester.

Just for fun, you can accumulate POINTS. You can earn:

1. One Impressive Point:
 - a. Answer a question IN SPANISH with impressively correct grammar and vocabulary, or insight.
2. One Extra Credit Point:
 - a. Take advantage of the extra credit opportunities I will give randomly.
3. One Extraordinary Point:
 - a. Do something out of the ordinary -go above and beyond.
4. One or Two Extra Effort Points:
 - a. Memorize any of the provided verses, even if imperfectly, recite and upload your video to Canvas. You can do this once weekly at any time.
5. One Speaker Point:
 - a. Volunteering to read or answer when I ask the class for a volunteer speaker. I will try to rotate by having a list of recent Speakers handy.

Preparación

Prep Work

In order to receive full credit, please do any readings, writing, and listening exercises I will post as weekly homework. They will not take very long to view or complete, but repetition/rehearsal is key to conversational Spanish. Please bring any materials previously and reasonably requested of you. Please do communicate any perceived lack of reasonableness ahead of time.

If you would like your absence or tardiness excused, please converse with me separately.

Arte y Poesía,

Art and Poetry

All students are required to participate in this final evaluation project. Please memorize one of the five poems or songs provided. Alternatively, you may write a 2 min essay about one of these poems and read it out-loud. One final option is to make art, especially directly related to either the Pre Hispanic or Colonial periods, and record a 2min video presenting and explaining it in Spanish. Record and submit at any time before the end of the semester on December 10th. I appreciate creativity! Further instructions to come. Parents, please proctor the recording to ensure academic honesty. Gracias.

CALENDARIO ESCOLAR (Class calendar)

OTOÑO

FALL

Please watch introductory video before our first in-person class.

Please Note: Because this is a participation-focused course, the following is a general topic-based sketch of the class and is subject to change. In most cases, classes will be vocabulary heavy and lessons will informally/organically teach grammar.

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| Semana 1 Week | Septiembre September | En el Principio (In the Beginning) The Creation Stories of the Popol Vuh Personal and possessive pronouns Articles El, La, Los, Las The Verbs Ser & Estar in Present Tense Basic conjugation skills |
| Semana 2 | Octubre October | La Fundación de Tenochtitlán The Foundation Story of [the Great City-State of] Tenochtitlan Simple past tense of Ser & Estar Some adjectives Regular and Irregular Verb Conjugation |
| Semana 3 | | Netzahualcóyotl: El Rey Poeta Netzahualcóyotl: The King Poet Words In Spanish that come from the Náhuatl |
| Semana 4 | | Calaveras Skeletons (Poems and rhythmic chants) Colloquial Speech, Sayings, the art of comic relief |
| Semana 5 | | Día de Muertos: El Primero de Noviembre en México Day of the Dead: The First of November in Mexico Spanish Vocabulary around the tradition of Día de Muertos |
| Semana 6 | Noviembre November | Día de Muertos: Cuando el Reloj Marca las Doce Day of the Dead: When the Clock Strikes Midnight Cuando, Numbers, Various verbs and vocabulary Conditional sentences |
| Semana 7 | | Noche de Luna Llena: La Historia del Conejo en La Luna Full Moon Night: The Story of the Bunny on the Moon Questions and Responses in past and present Question words Linking words |
| Semana 8 | | Día de Gracias y Dia de la Raza Yo pienso que, Use of Por, porque, Por qué Argumentative texts, Infinitive verbs |
| THANKSGIVING BREAK | Noviembre 22 al 26 | |
| Semana 9 | Diciembre December | Tonantzin Coatlique: Nuestra Madre Tonantzin Coatlique: Our Mother The story of Juan Diego and la Virgen de Guadalupe Past Participles, Adjectives, Review of Past Grammar |
| Semana 10 | | El Quinto Sol: Los Dioses del Sol y de la Luna The Fifth Sun: The Sun and Moon Gods Subjunctive Tense, Reflexives Review of Past Grammar |