

Spanish language

STUDY GUIDE – Spring 2020

Updated 02.12. 2019
Changes may occur

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Dates and Deadlines

Changes will occur

| Week | Dates | Academic activity | Exams and deadline Papers |
|------|-----------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | 13 jan - 7 Feb | Self-studies | Deadline self-study papers |
| 2 | | | Philosophy 7 Feb |
| 3 | | | CSR 7 Feb |
| 4 | | | |
| 1 | 10 Feb - 29 May | Lecture, seminars, workshops, writing papers | Diagnostic test Spanish |
| 2 | | | |
| 3 | | | |
| 4 | | | |
| 5 | | | |
| 6 | | | Mid term exam History |
| 7 | | | |
| 8 | | | |
| 9 | | | |
| 10 | | | |
| 11 | | | Paper History 24 April |
| 12 | | | |
| 13 | | | Paper CSR 8 May Paper Philo 8 May |
| 14 | | | Spanish writing skills 11-15 May |
| 15 | | | Paper Lit 22 May |
| 16 | | | Spanish grammar 28 May |

1. Introduction

This Study Guide is a supplement to the Course Description. It will give information about the course and advice on how best to study and carry out the different tasks.

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2. Course Content

This section provides information about the different sections of the course and guidance on how the students should work in collaboration with each other and the teachers. As part of the course, students will complete one paper before the program starts in Buenos Aires, as well as a written and an oral exam in Buenos Aires. The students hand in the home exam after the classes have finished in Buenos Aires.

Part 1 – Self-Study Period

Most of the teaching will take place in Buenos Aires, but the learning should start before that, and the program starts with five weeks of self-studies. It is vital that you use these weeks well in order to follow the progression of the program once the classes start in Argentina. It is expected that you make yourself well acquainted with the curriculum during this period. You will get more out of the lectures if you have looked at the material beforehand, and a slow start to the semester will make the stay unnecessary overloaded with work.

Self-studies can be a challenge. It requires discipline to spend enough time reading and reflecting, but it will also help you develop an individual understanding of your curriculum. If you have questions, lecturers will be available to answer them during these five weeks.

Self-study *Introductory Spanish and Spanish Writing skills 0 (Spanish 0)*

Study the material you will receive for the self-study period well! In Spanish the verb have different endings depending on the person (I, you, he/she/it, we, they) the verb relates to. Many students need a bit of time to understand this concept, and we want you to study this before you come to Argentina, so you can better follow and understand the lectures. You can find a good explanation of the present tense in Spanish here;

<http://www.studyspanish.com/verbs/lessons/pireg.htm>.

You should work with the three different categories of Spanish verbs on this page, as well as do the exercises until you know it by heart. In Argentina, the second person plural of the verb is not used, so there's no need to focus on that. You should know how to use the verbs before you arrive in Argentina. In addition to this, you should study attentively the material you will receive when the self-study period starts. The material can be downloaded from kulturstudier.org when the self-study period starts on July 23rd.

In addition, we advise you to use www.duolingo.com to practice your Spanish. You should have completed "people" on the Spanish course at duolingo before the course starts.

Self-study *Use of Spanish (Spanish 1) and Spanish Writing Skills 1*

You should already have a basic understanding of Spanish when you start *Use of Spanish*. Whether you have had Spanish in college, you have taken a pre-course or have learned it another way, it is important that you repeat what you have learned before. You should make sure that you know well how to conjugate the verb in the present tense, and are familiar with

the basic forms of the compound past tense (pretérito perfecto). Here is a page that can be of help;

<http://www.studyspanish.com/grammar>

You should work with the three different categories of Spanish verbs on this page, as well as do the exercises until you know it by heart. In Argentina, the second person plural of the verb is not used, so there's no need to focus on that. The present tense is one of the things we expect you to know well before you arrive in Buenos Aires.

In addition, we advice you to use www.duolingo.com to practice your Spanish. You should have completed "past tense" on the Spanish course at duolingo before the course starts.

In addition to this, you should work on several other topics during the self-study period. Below we have given you an overview of the topics you should cover on your own during the self-study period. You will receive reading material when the self-study period starts, that covers most of these topics.

The topics covered are: presente de indicativo (verbs, present tense), el sustantivo (nouns), El artículo – indeterminado y determinado (articles), el adjetivo (adjectives), los adverbios (adverbs), la comparación (comparison) y las preposiciones (prepositions).

Spanish Grammar (Spanish 2) and Spanish Writing skills 2

Considering you know Spanish already, the first phase in Buenos Aires will not be as critical for you as for the beginners. However, remember there is a lot of course literature to get through and you will work your way up to a high level of Spanish comprehension. Study material will be provided to you at the start of the self-study period, and you should study that material carefully.

Part 2 - Studies in Argentina

The largest advantage of studying Spanish in Buenos Aires is that you study and live in the area where the language is spoken. We have the possibility to gain a positive influence from the social arena. The contact with your neighbours will become easier the more Spanish you learn. In addition, your lecturers will be available throughout the program, something that will give you a closer academic follow-up. You will also be a part of a small student body that can make the learning easier and create a common involvement.

When studying Spanish with Kulturstudier you will experience that we have an academic approach to the studies. This will by no means say it is not a practical course, on the contrary, we wish to develop your language skills so you can use the language in different settings. What it means is that by completion of the course you should be able to talk, read, write and understand the language satisfactory. Spanish grammar students will go deeper into the structure of the language to gain teaching skills.

How to study a language?

Those of us who have not learned Spanish from childhood have to take the longer way and work actively to learn and understand the language. There are no set answers on how to do this the best way, but regardless it will take a lot of effort from you. In Kulturstudier we think we have laid a good foundation for your learning by giving you guidance and instructions in the language at the same time as you live in a country where it is the mother tongue. Nevertheless it is just a starting point, and it is your responsibility to participate actively in

classes and discussions. However, we do have some useful tips on how you can get the most out of your studies:

1. Work actively from day 1

When you are learning a language there is no good in postponing the reading till the last few weeks, something that is more doable with typical reading subjects. What you learn will build on what you have learned previously, and if you do not have control on the key themes you will quickly reach a point where you do not understand what is being explained. In the beginning there will inevitably be a lot of reading, but if you put in some well-spent time here it won't be long until you can cruise the town practicing your Spanish.

2. Practice what you have learned immediately

The best way to remember what you have studied is to use it immediately. If you are learning the different verbs, make sentences where you get use of the things you have learned.

3. Find a study buddy

When you are learning a new language you can always talk to the wall, however, far more interesting (and educational!) is it to find someone to study with. Get together two or three, listen to each other and make conversation in Spanish.

4. Talk to the other students

It is never natural for people with the same mother tongue (i.e. Norwegian, German, English) to talk together in a different language. But: it is very useful! Arrange with some of your fellow students to only speak Spanish certain times of the day. For instance, start by only speaking Spanish during breakfast, and then maybe expand to lunch after a while. It takes a bit of discipline, but it works!

5. Look for situations where you can use the language

You are in Argentina – a Spanish speaking country. Argentineans are easy to get in contact with, but if you only hang around your fellow foreign friends, it is hard for the locals to get in contact with you. Find activities and go to places where you can meet the locals. Make sure you do not let one person in your student group always take the word in Spanish. That person will learn a lot, but you should be practicing your Spanish too! Try to avoid going to places where you mainly will find tourists, and if you find foreigners who want to speak to you, speak Spanish to them too!

Visit to Argentinean organisations

All students are attending different visits to Argentinean organisations. The students will work in groups in preparations for the visits and each student will have a presentation of maximum ten minutes explaining the visit.

Part 3 - Exams in Argentina

There will be written and oral exams for all levels.

Spanish writing skills exam

Spanish written exam in Buenos Aires – all levels

Date: 11th-15th May

- 1 week home exam

Spanish grammar exam

Spanish written exam in Buenos Aires – all levels

Date: 28th May

- Individual written exam
- UNSAM uses the following grading:
- 4 hours

Spanish exam

Spanish oral exam in Buenos Aires – all levels

Date: To be announced

- Oral exam
- 15–20 minutes
- UNSAM uses the following grading:

Grading Scale

| Description | Percentage |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 10 (A) Excellent | 100-95 |
| 9 (A-) Very Good | 94-89 |
| 8 (B) Good | 88-83 |
| 7 (B-) Above Average | 82-77 |
| 6 (C) Average | 76-71 |
| 5 (C) Below Average | 70-65 |
| 4 (D) Lowest Passing Grade | 64-60 |
| F Failure | 59-0 |
| W Officially withdrawn | Academic Advisor's approval |
| I Incomplete | Only with Academic Advisor's approval |

3. Reading Lists

Please refer to www.kulturstudier.org for updated readings lists.

Internet resources

In addition to preparing for the studies in Argentina we suggest that you become familiar with the country and the continent before you travel. There are many good internet pages that will give you good introductions to what the country has to offer. Some of the pages are:

Facts on Argentina (more or less non-political):

Public site: <http://www.argentina.gov.ar/argentina/portal/paginas.dhtml?pagina=356>

Newspapers:

An overview of different newspapers with their own website:

<http://www.prensaescrita.com/america/argentina.php>

Latin America groups (in Norwegian):

<http://www.latin-amerikagruppene.no/Medieklipp/index.html>

The Economist (Political magazine with focus on economic news, there is a section of news about Latin America): <http://www.economist.com/world/la/>

Tourist websites:

Official website side: <http://www.turismo.gov.ar/>

Private website: <http://www.enargentinaturismo.com.ar/>

Lonely Planet: <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/worldguide/argentina/>

We have also gathered some websites that can be useful for the Spanish studies before and during the program in Argentina:

Dictionaries:

Tritrans (Norwegian-Spanish-English): <http://www.tritrans.net/>

Word reference (English-Spanish): www.wordreference.com

Lexin (Norwegian-English): <http://decentius.hit.uib.no/lexin.html>

Jergas de habla hispana (local slang from the different Spanish speaking countries, check out the site for Argentina): <http://www.jergasdehablahispana.org>

Grammatical exercises:

Spanish home (has everything regarding grammatical exercises and explanations): <http://www.spanishhome.com/>

Spanish Language and Culture: <http://www.colby.edu/~bknelson/SLC/index.php>

GREI – grammatical interactive game: <http://www.tekstlab.uio.no/grei/>

Others:

University of Buenos Aires; <http://www.uba.ar>