

TITLE: LANGUAGE PLAYING, LANGUAGE LEARNING

LANGUAGE: English

TOTAL HOURS: 45 hours

CREDITS: 3 credits

DESCRIPTION:

Language Playing and Language Learning is a course for intermediate and advanced SSL students which helps to improve and enhance knowledge through creativity.

Language is a creative act: every time we speak or write, we create new meanings and new realities. The use of creativity in the process of learning helps students to face new and unpredictable experiences, and makes them feel more motivated. Thus, the work in the classroom becomes richer, wider and nicer, and both students' and teachers' talents, ideas and thoughts flow in a better way. On the other hand, creativity enhances student's self-esteem and helps them to feel confident in order to solve linguistic issues by themselves. Finally, creative thinking is an important tool for real life. It is a major survival strategy and a force that pushes personal growth and the development of our culture and society.

How is creativity practised in this course? We use several procedures focused both in oral and written skills: storytelling, creative writing techniques, fast and automatized writing techniques, drama, debate and multiple games focused in communication.

Language Playing and Language Learning provides students with the necessary tools to use language in a communicational way and face different social interactions outside the classroom. Through texts, songs, poems and oral and written games students will learn to:

- Express in a fluent and effective oral and written Spanish.
- Overcome hard or challenging linguistic situations with creativity.
- Use language in order to express unique and personal meanings.
- Understand different, poetic, subversive uses of language, beyond grammatical correction which are part of creativity.
- Use previous knowledge of language to create and innovate, thus developing self confidence and new expressive and communicative abilities.
- Be functional and develop successfully in a culturally diverse environment.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Knowledge skills

- Amplifying and deepening the knowledge of the language (grammar, vocabulary, syntax) through a playful and communicational focus.
- Develop oral and written skills.

Critical Thinking Skills

- Estimulating critical thinking and the creation of texts as powerful and personal

means of communication.

- Understanding the uses of the language as it is spoken “in the streets” or used in literary texts, far beyond grammar

Attitudinal Skills

- Achieving an effective cultural integration.
- Learning to use linguistic abilities to understand the global village and communicate in it.
- Getting familiar with the language’s means of information (newspapers and websites)

METHODOLOGY:

The course will use a combination of guided lectures, classroom interaction, field visits, research, case studies, student presentations and individual assignments.

EVALUATION:

Attendance to classes and field trips are mandatory; poor attendance will affect the final grade of the student as well as the everyday participation grade.

The final grade consists of:

Oral presentation	20%
Field Visits	10%
Creative Writing Assignment	20%
Midterm exam	25%
Final exam	25%

Class participation:

Active class participation includes coming to class prepared, having read the material for that day, answering questions from the professor, asking questions and engaging in group activities. Students are encouraged to express their opinions in class with the professor and the other students.

Exams:

Midterm exam may contain a mix of short answer and essay questions aimed to test the students’ full comprehension of facts and the ability to argue his/her opinions. Final exam will be consist in a Final Project which will be defined by the teacher during the course.

The guidelines for exams are as follows-

- Any student found cheating will automatically fail this examination. Additional sanctions may be imposed.

- Talking or communicating with other students during the examination is forbidden.
- Desks must be cleared of all books, notes and papers. All unauthorized materials must be put away and remain out of sight throughout the examination.
- All telephones and electronic devices must be turned completely off during the exam.
- Students arriving later than 15 minutes will not be allowed into the classroom to take the examination, subject to the decision of the instructor.
- At the end of the examination students will remain seated until their papers are collected. No one may leave the room until excused.
- Should assistance be required, students will attract the attention of the instructor.
- Failure to follow these rules will automatically lead to failure of this examination.

FIELD STUDIES

Each course will include a minimum of 2 field studies. These field studies will be directly related to the course work, and may include visits to monuments, companies, government buildings, or museums

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

SIS programs foster critical thinking and intellectual development of its students. In doing so, SIS requires that students introduce their original thoughts, opinions, and ideas in all of their assignments with the support of cited sources. Any violations of academic integrity- such as cheating, plagiarism, self-plagiarism, academic misconduct, fabrication, misuse or misrepresentation of research, and noncompliance- may result in an automatic F or immediate dismissal from the program if the student falls below the minimum number of credits required for the term; 12 credits during the semester, or 3 hours during the summer.

Cheating- Any action that violates the rules and guidelines given by the instructor for submitting assignments or exams.

Plagiarism- Any action that presents the ideas, opinions, research, etc. of another as your own.

- Directly copying another's work without citing sources
- Submitting another person's work into your own without properly citing the source(s) used.
- Paraphrasing another person's work without providing appropriate citations

Self-plagiarism- Submitting a piece of one's own work to receive credit for multiple assignments in one or more class.

Academic Misconduct- Any act that impedes or threatens the open exchange, expression, or flow of information or fair evaluation of students. This includes intimidation and complicity in any acts or attempts to interfere with the ethical and fair submission and

evaluation of student work.

Fabrication- Providing inaccurate or false information, including research findings, quotes, and cited sources, etc.

Non-compliance- Failure to comply with the values, objectives, and procedures contained in this policy.

As SIS is accredited by Jacksonville University, students are held accountable to JU's [Academic Integrity and Code of Conduct](#). You are expected to read and understand the JU terms and regulations of Academic Misconduct.
(<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PyZmN0EAH1o4bKVZdZXVYKw-wdiwXewx/view>)

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Semester: Students are allowed THREE absences throughout the semester without penalty. Starting with the fourth absence, the student’s FINAL GRADE will be lowered by a fraction of a letter (1/3 of a letter grade). For example, if a student has 4 absences and a final grade of B+, the grade will be lowered to a B, if 5 absences the grade is lowered to B-.

Summer: Students are allowed TWO absences throughout the summer without penalty. Starting with the third absence, the student’s FINAL GRADE will be lowered by a fraction of a letter (1/3 of a letter grade). For example, if a student has 4 absences and a final grade of B+, the grade will be lowered to a B, if 5 absences the grade is lowered to B-.

**January Term students are allowed TWO absences as well.*

There are NO excused absences. If a student misses class because s/he is sick, that counts as one of the allowed absences. No excused absences and no excuses. Quizzes, exams and participation points that are missed because of an absence cannot be made up for.

Students that arrive late 5 minutes or more will receive a 0 for participation for the day.

COURSE CONTENT:

Session (date)	Content	Class activity	Student assignments



1	Course description, Introduction: Language Learning, Language Playing	-Introduction of each student -Each student will create a cloud of words in order to show who he/she is (adjectives, places he/she has visited, favorite foods..)	
2	Seeing in the imagination: description.	William Blake's Method: Hypnagogic imagery is a rich resource. During this class we will work the power of mental images and descriptions.	
3	The Graffiti Affect: The ideal Spanish Lesson and I.	Creating a collective graffiti on our likes, issues and needs concerning the learning of Spanish	
4	Proverbs: Wisdom tales without a plot	Choose a familiar proverb and develop a story that can surround and carry that thought.	
5	Local Historians: narrating the past.	Collect stories about our town from older people.	
6	Words aren't always what they seem: connotative and denotative language.	Writing a text with different connotations	
7	The Pechakucha Style	Show 20 slides for 20 seconds	
8	Producing micro-stories: the art of brevity.	-Analysis and Reading of micro-stories -Writing micro-stories	
9	Oral presentations		
10	Oral presentations		



11	Adopt another Perspective: POV and character	Create a character and give him/her a voice Production of a written monologue.	
12	Preparing Writing Assignment 1	Collaborative working on writing assignments.	
13	MIDTERM EXAM		
14	Mix up metaphors: the figurative language	Mixing metaphors and similes and changing them into something different and unusual.	
15	Objective/ Subjective language	Exploring the expression of our subjectivity through small oral and written assignments	
16	Reading and writing poems	Writing a poem based on the simple repetition of sentence patterns.	
17	The benefit of drama: the art of improvisation	An improvisational process-oriented drama.	
18	The classics go down to the street: the art of dramatic writing	Recreating a Shakespeare's drama in the modern Spanish context.	
19	Songs and Story telling: what music tells us	Listen and draw what you feel. Then make up a story	
20	Arguing with conviction	Preparation of a debate on a topical issue	
21	Am I missing something? the art of ellipsis and substitution	When we don't understand something that we read or hear, this often is because of the words that aren't being used. In this last lesson we will practise these two main abilities which are capital for our comprehension	

22	Oral Presentations		
23	Oral Presentations		
24	Preparing Writing Assignment 2	Collaborative working on writing assignments.	
25	Review		
26	FINAL EXAM		

**Number of sessions changes depending on term.*

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Mandatory Readings:

Participants are also encouraged to read these texts to be discussed in class:

- “Escrito por una gallina” and “Instrucciones para dar cuerda a un reloj” by Julio Cortázar
- “El ahogado más hermoso del mundo” by Gabriel García Márquez
- “Obras completas y otras historias” by Monterroso.
- Poems by Gloria Fuertes, Gonzalo Rojas and Mario Benedetti
- “A oscuras” by Vera Giaconi
- Writers’ tips for writers