



The Florida State University
College of Medicine

MEL 6117

**Medical Spanish I
Elementary Level**

Fall 2010

Table of Contents

Instructors.....	3
Course Director.....	3
Course Overview.....	3
Course Goals.....	3
Learning Objectives.....	4
Policies.....	4
Americans with Disabilities Act.....	4
Academic Honor Code.....	5
Attendance Policy.....	5
Medical Spanish Course Specific Attendance Policy.....	5
Required Materials.....	5
*Translation Source.....	6
Grading.....	6
Assignments and weights.....	6
Pass/Fail.....	7

Instructors

Course Director

Dr. Carmen Sualdea

Office 1310 Q Phone 645-7368

Email carmen.sualdea@med.fsu.edu

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 1:30 – 3:30 and by appointment

Course Overview

Course Goals

This Medical Spanish Course, MEL 6117, addresses the needs of medical students with little or no experience in Spanish. Students develop communicative proficiency and accuracy in the use of the Spanish language in medical settings with Spanish speaking patients. Students are exposed to pertinent information about Hispanic cultures as well. Students also participate in language tasks through listening, reading, writing, and conversation.

This medical Spanish Course consists of:

- a. **Formal instruction:** The primary goal of the Medical Spanish Course, MEL 6117, is to make it possible for students to communicate in Spanish with patients whose dominant language is Spanish. The best way to learn a language is to practice as often as possible. From the onset of this course, students are encouraged to use their Spanish language skills in class in situations similar to those they may encounter in a medical environment with Spanish speaking patients. There are in-class activities, such as role-playing, brief conversations, interviewing, and history taking. Students also expand their Spanish vocabulary with emphasis on medical terminology. The students review the essentials of Spanish grammar to enhance their ability to communicate. Furthermore, the Medical Spanish Course, MEL 6117, includes informal presentations about different aspects of Hispanic culture to both enhance the quality of the relationship with Spanish-speaking patients and to avoid misunderstandings about certain cultural values and expectations. This course includes group medical interviews with Spanish native speakers to put into practice the oral skills practiced formally in the classroom. This course offers a half hour session as a tutorial for students in need of additional practice.

b. **Independent study** via internet resources as a supplement to class instruction: This syllabus includes a series of medical, cultural and Spanish language tutorial websites for students to practice Spanish independently outside of the classroom. They are able to engage in Spanish learning activities between class meetings. They are able to utilize these internet educational resources to fit their individual learning style to complement their in-class instruction and their particular medical interests. This is a significant component of this course and it is critical for its success. It allows students to practice the Spanish skills they need at their own pace managing time constraints and using time efficiently.

Learning Objectives

The main objective of this Medical Spanish class is for the medical student to communicate in Spanish with a Spanish speaking patient at an elementary level. By the end of the semester, students should be able to communicate in simple Spanish using mainly the present tense, regular past tenses and different expressions to indicate future actions. They should be able to utilize specific medical terms learned in class as well as high frequency Spanish vocabulary words. Students should be able to communicate with Spanish speaking patients by asking basic personal questions as well as questions about their health. They should be able to sustain a conversation about a specific medical problem as presented by a native speaker of Spanish and to give advice and recommendations to the problem. Students should be able to read a medical history or specific medical case in Spanish as well as write pertaining medical information in simple terms.

Policies

Americans with Disabilities Act

Candidates for the M.D. degree must be able to fully and promptly perform the essential functions in each of the following categories: Observation, Communication, Motor, Intellectual, and Behavioral/Social. However, it is recognized that degrees of ability vary widely between individuals. Individuals are encouraged to discuss their disabilities with the College of Medicine's [Director of Student Counseling Services](#) and the FSU Student Disability Resource Center to determine whether they might be eligible to receive accommodations needed in order to train and function effectively as a physician. The Florida State University College of Medicine is committed to enabling its students by any reasonable means or accommodations to complete the course of study leading to the medical degree.

[The Office of Student Counseling Services](#)

Medical Science Research Building

G146

Phone: (850) 645-8256 Fax: (850) 645-9452

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:

Student Disability Resource Center

97 Woodward Avenue, South

Florida State University

Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167

Voice: (850) 644-9566

TDD: (850) 644-8504

sdrc@admin.fsu.edu

<http://www.fsu.edu/~staffair/dean/StudentDisability>

Academic Honor Code

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at <http://www.fsu.edu/~dof/honorpolicy.htm>.)

Attendance Policy

The College of Medicine has detailed attendance policies as they relate to each cohort and events that conflict with course schedules. See pages 27-29 of [FSUCOM Student Handbook](#) for details of attendance policy, notice of absences and remediation.

Medical Spanish Course Specific Attendance Policy

Given the emphasis that must be placed on participation and interaction in foreign language courses, students need to attend all formal instructional classes.

Required Materials

Jarvis, Lebrede. Basic Spanish for Medical Personnel, Second Edition. Heinle Cengage Learning. ISBN 978-0-495-90266-9.

Jarvis, Lebrede, Mena-Ayllón. Basic Spanish (Grammar), Second Edition. Heinle Cengage. ISBN 978-0-495-89704-0.

The purchase of a good Spanish-English, English-Spanish dictionary for professional reasons is recommended. However, a concise or pocket version is sufficient for this course. The following website

provides a list of Spanish-English, English-Spanish dictionaries to select from.
http://spanish.about.com/library/reviews/aatp-top-span_eng_dictionaries.htm

*Dictionaries: Spanish-English and English-Spanish on line

http://education.yahoo.com/reference/dict_en_es/

<http://www.wordreference.com/es/translation.asp?tranword=welcome>

<http://www.spanishdict.com>

***Translation Source**

<http://translate.google.com/#>

*Dictionary of Health Terms to be used on line. Students can order a hard copy.



Spanish=Eng=Diction.pdf

Grading

Assignments and weights

The students' work is evaluated using the following criteria:

- **Preparation of and participation in in-class discussions and activities.** Participation is important because there is no better way to improve conversational skills than to practice them in class and outside of the class. There are homework assignments to reinforce and to further practice class activities. Sometimes homework is completed with other students as a pair/group activity. Students do an informal cultural oral presentation (about 5 minutes long) on the topic of their interest relating to the Hispanic World, not necessarily related to medical issues. The instructor provides a variety of information resources to carry out such presentations.

List of links helpful to class presentations

<http://www.espanole.org/pais> : The Hispanic world. Explore its countries (English and Spanish)

<http://www.latinworld.com/regions/index.html> : General information about different Hispanic countries (English and Spanish)

<http://www.espanole.org/lite> Multiple links to Hispanic literary sites (English and Spanish)

<http://www.espanole.org/cocina> Hispanic culinary world by countries (English and Spanish)

http://www.gospain.org/WWW_Spain/ : Categorical index of Spain-related external resources

<http://info.lanic.utexas.edu/> Latin American Network Information Center: In depth information and resources on all Latin American countries (English and Spanish)

<http://college.cengage.com/languages/spanish/resources/students/links/index.html> : Multiple links to History, Culture, Music, Literature. Link "Country City Tours" can be helpful. (English and Spanish)

<http://www.sispain.org/english/otherweb.html>: Websites in or about Spain

NOTE:

This syllabus includes a series of websites for the students to practice Spanish on their own. This enables them to built on the regular class instruction during the week. This is a very important component for the success of this course.

Pass/Fail

Class participation 40%

Attendance 60%

This course is on a Pass/Fail basis.

Note: A passing grade is 70 %.