

## Department of Spanish and Portuguese

### **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR UNDERGRADUATE COURSES**

Please take a few minutes to review our policies. They are designed to guide your academic progress.

**Temple E-mail:** All students are required to obtain a Temple e-mail address. The departmental policy establishes your Temple e-mail account as an approved channel of communication for sending official course notifications and important information. Students must check their e-mail messages everyday in order to be sure to receive key announcements regarding their courses. If you prefer to receive messages at a non-Temple e-mail address, use the forwarding function in your Temple email account to have your e-mail messages forwarded to the e-mail address of your choice. In addition, please be advised that it is your responsibility to maintain and monitor your e-mail account(s) in such a manner that enough free space is available to receive incoming messages. If you do not receive e-mails from your instructor due to your e-mail account(s) space being over the allotted quota – thus causing the message to be returned to your instructor –, it is **not** his/her responsibility to seek alternative means through which to contact you. For that reason, it is crucial that your e-mail account be maintained so that there is always enough free space for you to receive incoming e-mails.

**Registration:** Students must be appropriately registered for all courses. Instructors are not responsible for student registration. Please make sure you are in the course **and** section corresponding exactly to what is listed on your official course schedule. Students not on the published grade list may not receive a grade or credit for the course.

**Course Placement Policy:** Students who have studied a foreign language in the four years prior to admission to Temple must take a placement exam in order to enroll in the correct course. If a period of four or more years has elapsed between a student's graduation from high school and admission to college, he/she may be eligible to enroll in level 1 of the language studied in high school.

If a student enrolls in a course level lower than the placement score indicates, the student will not receive credit for the course or will be dropped from the course by the Spanish Department. In order for a student to receive credit for a course lower than the placement score, he/she must receive permission from a Spanish Department advisor.

**Non-Course Work Knowledge of Foreign Languages:** Native Spanish or Portuguese speakers or students exhibiting proficiency in Spanish/Portuguese as per the assessment and discretion of the instructor must see an advisor in the Spanish/Portuguese Department for appropriate placement in a skills class, and in order to receive credit for a Spanish/Portuguese course. A student with pre-existing language skills (family background, travel or study in a foreign country, participation in noncredit summer language programs, etc.) who has not followed the proper procedure will not receive credit for the course.

**Regression in Course Work:** Students who have completed 4000-level coursework may enroll in a 3000-level course, but not lower. Students who have completed 3000-level coursework may enroll in a 2000-level course, but not lower. Students who have completed 2000-level course may NOT enroll in a 1000-level course. Exceptions to those course regressions will require permission from a Spanish/Portuguese advisor.

**Blackboard:** If you are registered in a course that uses Blackboard, you are responsible for downloading and printing out the course syllabus, homework assignments and any other materials assigned by your instructor. Technical difficulties with printers, computers, Internet connections, incorrect browser settings, etc., are not acceptable reasons to submit late work, whether you are submitting work electronically or in printed form. Therefore, you will not receive credit for the assignment. Be sure to plan ahead in order to be able to use the computing resources on campus in the event that you encounter difficulties with personal computer equipment and to ensure that you are able to submit all work by the deadline indicated by your instructor.

**Prerequisites:** Before enrolling in any course, make sure you have completed all of the established course prerequisites or received written permission and properly documented and filed authorization from the appropriate faculty advisor(s) to be enrolled in the course. Prerequisites are listed within each course syllabus and are also available in Banner. The University reserves the right to cancel the registration of any student who has not satisfied the prerequisites for any course in which the student has enrolled. If you have questions or doubts regarding course prerequisites, consult with your instructor or with the departmental Associate Chair for Undergraduate Studies: Dr. Patricia Moore-Martinez (pmoore04@temple.edu)

**Withdrawal from Courses:** Students thinking about withdrawing from a course should consult with their instructor and must receive approval from their academic advisor (Temple policy #02.10.14). A student may not withdraw from the same course more than once. Anyone who withdraws from a course after the drop/add period during the first two weeks of the semester is responsible for full tuition payment. No student may withdraw from a course after the ninth week of classes. Students who are registered for a course after the ninth week of the semester will receive the letter grade earned in that course. Any exceptions to this policy must be approved by the Director of Academic Advising for the College of Liberal Arts, in conjunction with the appropriate faculty member(s), after reviewing the circumstances under which the request to withdraw is made.

**Official Language Policy:** As a general rule, Spanish, Portuguese or Catalan are the languages of instruction and communication during class hours. We do have a limited number of courses taught in English.

**Mandatory Attendance:** Departmental policy requires that students attend classes on a regular basis, doing so is crucial to the successful attainment of the course objectives. In a semester, you may miss the number of classes equivalent to the number of times your class meets in a one-week period without penalty. For example, if your class meets on

MWF, you are permitted to miss three (3) classes throughout the semester without it negatively affecting your final grade. If your class meets on TR, you may miss two (2) classes without penalty. Be advised that these are not “free days,” rather they are to be used to cover any absences you are anticipating, such as weddings, interviews, religious holidays, etc. However, any work (i.e., quizzes, exams, compositions, homework assignments, etc.) missed during these allotted absences or at other times (i.e., additional absences incurred beyond the allotted number described above) may **not** be made up without providing documentation duly certified by a physician or other appropriate official excusing your absence.

Student athletes, band members, and members of other official Temple University organizations must bring an official letter (on Temple University letterhead) from the supervisor of your program indicating the dates which you will miss class and providing an explanation for the absence(s) from class. Such documentation, in all cases, must be presented to your instructor in **original** form. If you miss more than one day of class, the documentation must contain a list of ***specific dates*** that you are to be excused from class – **not** a range of dates. Your instructor will make a photocopy of your documentation for his/her records and return the original to you during the next class period. You must present documentation to your instructor **the day that you return to class**. Your instructor reserves the right to refuse any documentation submitted late and, therefore, not allow you to make up any missed work, resulting in a grade of zero (0) for any and all assignments missed. In addition, if you must miss a considerable number of consecutive class periods due to an illness or other justifiable circumstances, you **must** keep your instructor informed and up to date concerning your situation. In other words, do not “disappear” for an extended period of time and “reappear” to class without 1) having kept your instructor duly informed via e-mail, telephone, or sending a friend/classmate to talk to the instructor on your behalf and 2) without the documentation containing the specifications listed above. Again, failure to carry out either or both of the aforementioned procedures will result in your instructor’s reserving the right to not allow you to make up any missed work, thus resulting in a grade of zero (0) for any and all missed work during your absence.

Beginning with the first additional absence beyond the allotted number of absences, you will be penalized points from your final grade calculation for **each** absence over the allotted number. The number of points your final grade will be lowered is determined by the number of class meetings per week. For example: If class meets two times a week: 3 percentage points per absence. If class meets three times a week: 2 percentage points per absence. If your class meets three days in a week, for example, and you have an 82% average or a B- at the end of the course and you have five unexcused absences past your allotted number of absences, your final grade average would be reduced to a 72% or a C-.

**Be on Time:** You are also expected to be on time for class. Repetitive tardiness (i.e., arriving to class 10 minutes late or more) for a week’s worth of classes will count as one (1) absence.

**Homework and Exams:** There will be NO MAKE-UP EXAMS, COMPOSITIONS OR QUIZZES due to unexcused absences. Make-ups may be given only in cases of serious illness or other properly documented extreme circumstances.

**Extra Credit Work:** No extra credit work will be given. Therefore, it is important that you do not miss any homework and study for all your quizzes and exams.

**Cell Phones:** They must be turned off and out of view during class. This policy applies as well to other electronic devices. Any telecommunication device visible to the instructor or seemingly being used by a student (cell phones, tablets, etc.) during a quiz or an exam, without the permission of the instructor, will automatically be construed as an incident of academic dishonesty and, therefore, will result in an automatic failing grade for the quiz or examination. Such incidents are also subject to further action under the University Code of Conduct.

**Eating in Classrooms:** There is no eating allowed in the classrooms. Drinking (water, coffee, tea, juice or any soda) is permitted except during class periods in which quizzes or exams are administered. In these class periods, all drinks must be concealed and out of view both from the student and the instructor.

**Code of Conduct:** Plagiarism and academic cheating will not be tolerated in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of another individual's ideas, words, labor, or assistance. All coursework submitted by a student, including papers, examinations, laboratory homework, and oral presentations, is expected to be the individual effort of the student presenting the work. Although the consultation of resources -such as journals, books, or other media- is generally appropriate, material in the form of direct quotes or the incorporation of ideas requires the student to acknowledge his/her sources using an appropriate citation form. Failure to cite borrowed material from the Internet is a common form of plagiarism. Academic cheating includes, but is not limited to, falsifying data; submitting – without the instructor's approval – work in one course that was done for another; helping others to plagiarize or cheat from one's own or another's work; or undertaking the work of another person. The use of online translation programs to do compositions, essays or other assignments is a form of academic cheating. Use of these programs for any part or for the entirety of the composition/essay will result in a grade of “0” for the entire assignment and will be considered an incident of academic dishonesty. The penalty for plagiarism or academic dishonesty can vary from a reprimand and receiving a failing grade for a particular assignment, to a failing grade in the course, to suspension or expulsion from the University. The penalty varies with the nature of each offense. Disciplinary action will follow the policies outlined in Temple University's statement on Academic Dishonesty.

**Incomplete Grades:** Instructors can assign a grade of incomplete ("I") only when both of the following conditions are met: a) The student has completed the majority of the work for the course (at least 51%) at a passing level or higher; and b) The student is unable to complete the remaining portion of the work of the course due to circumstances beyond

his or her control (e.g., illness, family emergency). Instructors must provide a description of the remaining work a student has to complete, indicate a default grade if work is not completed by a deadline date, obtain the student's signature and provide their own instructor signature. Instructors must submit incomplete contracts – no later than when course grades are submitted – to the departmental office (to Annette Vega). The Department must have a copy of the contract on file for all cases that are approved by Academic Advising Center.