

Development of Written Expression Level 1

Course load: 96 hours

Course Description

The conception and teaching of the writing process are mainly based on the contributions of cognitive sciences and psycholinguistic studies, which consider the act of writing as a complex human activity which involves linguistic, physiological, psychological and social aspects all of which interact in the creation of meaning. At the same time, the act of writing is considered an interactive process, it goes from an addresser to an addressee, the addresser combines and provides context or world knowledge which is received by the addressee who will finally builds up the meaning. In other words, knowledge is generated in the interaction between each of the variables found in a written text which contributes to the construction of meaning. Finally, in order to achieve this construction of meaning in the written composition and in order to be successful, one should be able to achieve: • development and connection of ideas or clauses; • the recognition of the hierarchical relationship between ideas, and • the recognition of the global organization of the text.

Therefore, **Development of Written Expression- Level I** stems from the concept that writing is a process with no definite element, on the contrary, it should be constantly exercised. In this process we begin with planning and this implies applying cognitive abilities such as analysis, deduction, synthesis, etc. Then, the ideas must be reflected in a process called writing and finally, there are two elements which need to be applied to the resulting text: proofreading and editing.

In this course students will display their communicative competence in the written expression realm, but, at the same time, they will continue practicing the other linguistic skills, i.e.: oral and written production and oral comprehension, which will be benefited by the writing practice.

During this course, the students will develop the ability to write a variety of texts, from greeting messages to more formal texts of an informative nature. They will be capable of writing official, private, formal and informal texts applying the necessary stages of the writing process.

Objectives

The main goal of this course is that students become autonomous writers at a B1 level (CEFR) of Spanish as a foreign language so they will be able to apply this knowledge not only in their studies but in social contexts as well. Therefore, they must achieve the following specific objectives:

- a) To develop a high level of independence in the writing of different texts types.
- b) To learn about the different text typologies.
- c) To appropriately apply the rules of pedagogical grammar in written texts.

- d) To apply writing composition strategies efficiently (the text addressee characteristics, the message intention, its content and the written channel will be taken into account).
- e) To employ cohesion and coherence concepts in the writing of any text.
- f) To simultaneously maximize the other linguistic skills: reading comprehension, listening comprehension and oral expression which will provide the students with more knowledge about a topic and will enable them to convey their ideas in a written text in the best possible way.

REFERENCE TEXTBOOKS FOR THE TEACHER

Cassany, Daniel, *La cocina de la escritura*, Barcelona, Editorial Anagrama, 2000. ISBN 84-339-1392-1

Cassany, Daniel, *Reparar la escritura. Didáctica de la corrección de lo escrito*, Barcelona, Editorial Graó, 1998. ISBN: 84-7827-050-7

Cassany, Daniel, *Describir el escribir*, Barcelona, Empúres, 1987.

Cohen, Sandro, *Redacción sin dolor, aprenda a escribir con claridad y precisión*, México, Ed. Planeta Mexicana, 2004. . ISBN 9706908692

Cremer, Phyllis & Lea, Mary R., *Escribir en la universidad*, Barcelona, Editorial Gedisa, 2000. ISBN 84-7432-698-2

Nueva Gramática de la Lengua Española, Madrid, Espasa, Libros, 1999.

Ortega, W., *Redacción y composición. Técnicas prácticas*, México, McGraw Hill, 1992.

Rojas Soriano, Raúl, *El arte de hablar y escribir, experiencias y recomendaciones*, México, Editorial Plaza y Valdés, 2002. ISBN 968-856-892-9

Sefarini, M., *Cómo redactar un tema*, Barcelona, Paidós, 1989.

Serafina, M.T., *Cómo se escribe*, Barcelona, Paidós, 1994.

Textos académicos, Universidad Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona. Extraído de <http://parles.upf.edu/llocs/cr/casacd/index.html>

TEXTBOOKS FOR THE STUDENT

- Study Material prepared by the academic coordinators from Argentina.
- *Nueva Gramática de la Lengua Española*, Madrid, Espasa, Libros, 1999.

CONTENTS & COURSE CALENDAR

This calendar could be subject to modifications. The teacher will announce in class any necessary changes.

WEEK 1: human communication: the addresser-addressee model; intentionality of the message; context and background knowledge. The written channel: different means/resources.

READINGS

For the student: Texts and practice of Unit 1 of the Development of Written Expression I class booklet.

For the teacher: Cassany, Daniel, *La cocina de la escritura*, Barcelona, Editorial Anagrama, 2000. ISBN 84-339-1392-1

WEEK 2: composition process: We will approach this process in a practical way, learning about the necessary elements to delineate a written piece (brainstorming, order of ideas, sketches), how to write a composition, proofreading and editing the text.

Short public messages (signs, graffitis, posters) and private messages (invitations, orders, instructions)

READINGS

For the student: Texts and practice of Unit 1 of the Development of Written Expression I class booklet.

For the teacher: Cassany, Daniel, *Describir el escribir*, Barcelona, Empúres, 1987. Ortega, W., *Redacción y composición. Técnicas prácticas*, México, McGraw Hill, 1992.

Week 3: coherence and cohesion in the texts. Description of people and landscapes

READINGS

For the student: Texts and practice of Unit 2 of the Development of Written Expression I class booklet and *Nueva Gramática de la Lengua Española*, Madrid, Espasa, Libros, 1999.

For the teacher: *Nueva Gramática de la Lengua Española*, Madrid, Espasa, Libros, 1999.

WEEK 4: dictionary uses. Strategies and activities for the use of the dictionary in class. The stress in Spanish

READINGS

For the student: Texts and practice of Unit 3 of the Development of Written Expression I class booklet and *Nueva Gramática de la Lengua Española*, Madrid, Espasa, Libros, 1999.

For the teacher: Cassany, Daniel, *Reparar la escritura. Didáctica de la corrección de lo escrito*, Barcelona, Editorial Graó, 1998. ISBN: 84-7827-050-7

WEEK 5: text typologies: non-literary texts: expository, advertising, informative, instructional and argumentative. My personal blog.

READINGS

For the student: Texts and practice of Unit 3 of the Development of Written Expression I class booklet.

For the teacher: Creme, Phyllis & LEA, Mary R., *Escribir en la universidad*, Barcelona, Editorial Gedisa, 2000. ISBN 84-7432-698-2

WEEK 6: narration. Types and structure of narration.

READINGS

For the student: Texts and practice of Unit 4 of the Development of Written Expression I class booklet and *Nueva Gramática de la Lengua Española*, Madrid, Espasa, Libros, 1999.

For the teacher: Serafina, M.T. , *Cómo se escribe*, Barcelona, Paidós, 1994.

WEEKS 7: the students will have this week of self-practice and study in which they will be able to catch up with all the readings and practices of this subject.

They will also have tutoring classes and workshops for writing during the whole week .

WEEK 8: the expositive text, characteristics and examples. Instructions for the mid-term exam

READINGS

For the student: Texts and practice of Unit 5 of the Development of Written Expression I class booklet.

For the teacher: Sefarini, M., *Cómo redactar un tema*, Barcelona, Paidós, 1989.

WEEK 9: mid-term exam

WEEK 10: how to write formal letters and curriculum vitae

READINGS

For the student: Texts and practice of Unit 6 of the Development of Written Expression I class booklet.

For the teacher: Academic texts. Universidad Pompeu Fabra. Barcelona. Extraído de <http://parles.upf.edu/llocs/cr/casacd/index.html>

WEEK 11: grammatical appendage exercises

READINGS

For the student: Texts and practice of the Grammatical Appendage

WEEK 12: propaganda and advertising texts.

READINGS

For the student: Texts and practice of Unit 7 of the Development of Written Expression I class booklet.

For the teacher: Sefarini, M., *Cómo redactar un tema*, Barcelona, Paidós, 1989.

WEEK 13: preparation outline for the term final assignment, idea-sharing session. Doubt clearing session.

WEEK 14: tutoring classes and workshops for the writing of the term final assignment

WEEK 15: delivery of final paper

WEEK 16: individual feedback of the final assignment-Final grade

Evaluation & Grading Policy

A) Evaluation Criteria and requirements:

Students must read the required readings and complete the established assignments for each class. There will be a mid-term written assignment during the semester, which they will have to pass before the end of classes. The course load of this subject will be completed with tutorial classes, workshops for writing and mandatory practical tasks every week during the course.

The course grade consists of

- 10% class participation
- 20% mid-term written assignment
- 20% practical tasks
- 50% final exam

B) Attendance Policy:

It will be required an 75% class attendance, the student who does not meet that percentage will automatically receive an “F”. In this class, 0.5 points will be deducted from your Attendance grade for every unexcused absence or if the student does not hand in the written assignments and homework in due time or any other task given by the teacher.

Missed Exams: “Make-up” exams are a privilege, one to be extended only to students who have missed an exam with prior arrangement (one week notice) with the instructor or due to extenuating circumstances.

Participation: We attach great importance to participation as a learning experience. A student’s grade will suffer changes because of actions which might disrupt the group experience. For this reason **all cell phones must be turned off before the class begins**. If you have a unique circumstance for which you must leave the phone on, consent from the instructor is required beforehand. Students will have a significant point total deducted from their class grade if they do not adhere to this regulation.

C) 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
3 (F) Failure	59-0
2 (W) Officially withdrawn	Academic Advisor's approval
1 (I) Incomplete	Academic Advisor's approval

Plagiarism: An important objective of this course is to get students to learn how to write expository, informative and advertising texts. Therefore, students are expected to write their own work. Plagiarism not only undermines this learning process but also represents a serious breach of College policy and of academic honesty.

Outside sources should always be referenced in the essay's bibliography. Plagiarized work will receive an automatic F. If you have any doubts on what constitutes plagiarism, do not hesitate to ask the Instructor.