This course is designed to guide students in meeting the following objectives:

- The improvement of Spanish language skills through in-depth study of grammar, syntax and semantics of the language;

- To support the construction of knowledge about reading and writing processes in the field of academic practice;

- To encourage the reflection on the individual process of language learning and cultural understanding;

- To facilitate critical thinking about the experience of immersion in local culture.

- To transform cultural and learning experiences that take place outside the classroom in an essential part of the curriculum through the practice of writing;

- To support the proper enforcement of the language pledge

Course Description

a) Two language tests (10%)
Both at the start and at the end of the program, students take a placement test to accurately assess their language level. According to the level obtained in the oral and written test, students will be divided into working groups, and those who have Spanish as their native language will work in a special group or individual tutorials. Additional evaluations will be conducted at mid-semester if necessary.

b) Class attendance (30%)

b.1. Acquisition / proofreading
The groups resulting from the initial assessment will meet every two weeks for class during 90 minutes at Junín 224. There, the professor will address students’ specific concerns in all aspects of the acquisition of Spanish and at the same provide students with the necessary skills to produce written texts in different registers. These meetings are mandatory.

b.2. Individual tutorials / monitoring of cultural production
These meetings are mandatory and will take place every two weeks. To facilitate deeper communication between student and teacher, a schedule of all the meetings will be given to students at the beginning of the course. During these meetings, students are expected to discuss their cultural research and their immersion process.

c. Cultural Portfolio (30%)
This is an individual investigation on a chosen aspect of the host culture (e.g., education system, health care, sports, etc.) The course will provide a theoretical framework for discussion and research.

During the semester, students are expected to write five papers that account for this process and mail them according to a calendar that will be distributed along with this syllabus. They can add multimedia material (video, photography, music) as pleased. Each of the five papers must have a minimum length of 800-900 words. The papers will be read, discussed, and corrected by the teacher via email and individual meetings.

d. Final project (20%)
At the end of the semester, each student must submit an individual portfolio-like folder along with a final paper of no less than 4 pages. The folder will include: a) the final reflections on their cultural research and b) reflection on their experiences, conducting research and experiencing the cultural immersion that their research required. In the folder, students must include the corrected version of their texts and all the extra material they consider necessary for their project.

e. Respect for the language pledge (10%)
Compliance with the language pledge is the key to the success of the experience of academic and cultural immersion. Failure in doing so will be assessed and evaluated by the professor, since the use of English systematically delays the process of learning and is reflected in the written and oral production of students.