

The *proYectO* cultural

The *proYectO cultural* is designed to provide you with an opportunity to develop and showcase your ability to communicate in Spanish based on your individual interests, strengths, and motivations. It also promotes realistic self-expression in Spanish, encourages reflective learning, multicultural understanding, and empowers you to set your own goals and monitor your progress in Spanish. It is designed to meet the following goals¹:



- To communicate effectively in Spanish
- To understand the cultures of the Hispanic world
- To connect the study of foreign language with other university studies and the world beyond UT
- To make informed comparisons of language and culture as a whole
- To participate in the larger community of Spanish speakers
- To demonstrate your creativity and topics of interest related to culture.

It is important that the *proYectO cultural* be your own work. You may not copy and paste information from a website, for example, into your *proYectO*, nor should you use online translators or request help from advanced students or native speakers. For more information, see the “inappropriate assistance” area of your syllabus. You will need to simplify your language; use what you know. Your instructor does not expect “perfect” work and will take into account your expected level of accomplishment as a first-year language learner.

Equipment such as video recorders, cameras, editing equipment and software, etc., is available in [The Studio](#) of Hodges library, on the second floor behind the OIT help desk. You should check for accessibility before proceeding too far on your chosen topic. You can also ask questions about how to use the equipment at [The Studio](#).

*It is very important that you read the rubric associated with the *proYectO* to fully understand the requirements.*

You may work on this project alone or with up to three other students, but length requirements vary according to how many are working on the project. Also, be aware that if you are working alone, you will likely need a tripod or a friend to help you film. Every person working in a group is expected to have approximately the same amount of “speaking time.” Every person working in a group is expected to contribute equally to writing the script and other aspects of the production. Each person in the group will fill out a form (found in the *ProYectO cultural* content area on Blackboard), evaluating the other group members’ quality of participation. If a person in your group shows early in the process that s/he will not fully participate because of scheduling or other difficulties, you may need to suggest to the person that working alone or with another group may be more appropriate. Grades may be adjusted according to the feedback received from your peers; failing to fill out the form will cause your grade to be lowered 50%.

You do not have to memorize your script, but you should not be reading it either. Delivery of lines should be natural and made in such a way that it is obvious that you understand what is being said. “Cue cards” and/or notes should be well-hidden from the viewer.

¹ These are the standards developed by the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages.

The final *proYectO* is expected to be in Spanish.

Minimum requirements

Your video must include the following elements:

- 1) The theme of your video must focus on an aspect of Hispanic culture. If you are unsure about what this means, you should get in touch with your instructor as soon as possible.
- 2) Length requirements:
 - a. individual (one person): 200-250 words; 3-5 minutes
 - b. two students: 325-400 words; 4-7 minutes
 - c. three students: 450-525 words; 4-8 minutes
 - d. four students: 500-550 words; 5-10 minutes (groups may not be bigger than four students)
- 3) Review the video ideas provided below which correlate with chapter themes of our textbook.

Video Ideas

(Keep in mind as you consider your topic and expand your ideas that you will want to use the *present tense* for the majority of your project.)

1) **Reportaje** (special report).

Your *reportaje* can deal with any subject that affects the Hispanic community in your area. You can contact local Hispanic organizations to learn about topics that would be appropriate to explore. Listen to the radio, read the newspaper, or watch the news to find out what issues are affecting the local Hispanic community and prepare your own report. Your report can include interviews with those involved in the issue. If the people you interview do not speak Spanish, you will need to subtitle their interviews. You may role-play an interview.

The following chapters will be especially helpful for this topic: 3 and 6.

2) **Programa de entretenimiento** (Entertainment TV)

Do you like music, movies and entertainment in general? If you have access to Spanish channels, such as Univisión, Telemundo, etc. watch an entertainment program, such as “La gordo y la flaca.” You can model your video on any current entertainment TV show or produce a documentary-style show on a particular theme. Some ideas:

- An E! news segment about Hispanic celebrities. Find news about these Hispanic celebrities. Describe what they do and their role in Hispanic culture (fashion, music, film, sports, etc.) Talk about their scandals, their fashion images, and other news-related information about him/her/them.
- A Fashion Police show regarding Hispanic fashion (you could compare and contrast anything from *haute couture* to native dress).
- View 3-4 Spanish movies available in the library or a streaming service and critique them.
- Do a documentary-style video after investigating typical dances from different Hispanic regions or countries, on Hispanic music (popular or folk, but no “cross-over artists” please; we want you to learn about some new artists), or fine art (but not artists we study -- check with your instructor to be sure).

The following chapters will be especially helpful for this topic: 3, 4, 5, 7, 8.

3) **Documental** (Documentary)

Explore more “serious” issues if you like and present them in a form that you might see on PBS or the National Geographic Channel. You could investigate, for example, Hispanic demographics and their effects on politics (the vote), business themes (marketing to this population), immigration issues, etc. You can also profile a well-known living politician such as Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, president of Argentina. Consider doing a travel documentary of a country or area you would like to visit and talk about what the geography of the area is, what the weather is like, local foods, what there is to do there.

The following chapters will be especially helpful for this topic: 3, 4, 5, and 6.

4) Noticiero (NewsProgram)

Have you ever dreamed of becoming a news anchor? This is your chance. Produce your own news program with news about the Hispanic community or the Hispanic countries around the world. You can even try your hand at offering humorous insight into the Hispanic culture as Jon Stewart and others do on U.S. television.

The following chapters will be especially helpful for this topic: 3 and 6.

5) Telenovela (Soap Opera)

This is your chance to become a soap opera star. Watch a few *telenovelas* and note the various plots and subplots. What appears to be common in most? (i.e., a priest) You can then create a captivating story that will move the hearts of your classmates based on Hispanic telenovelas. You can even do a parody.

The following chapters will be especially helpful for this topic: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.

6) Programa de cocina (Cooking show)

Are you a closet Rachael Ray? Are you more like Alton Brown or Guy Fieri? Show us your cooking skills in Spanish. You can illustrate step by step how a Hispanic dish is made. You will need to research ingredients and discuss the role of the dish in Hispanic cultures as much as possible. You may want to insure that you can get the ingredients to use in the recipe. Check out some local Spanish grocery stores. It should be a dish that is new to you -- not available in typical Tex-Mex restaurants in our area.

The following chapter will be especially helpful for this topic: 5.

Following are the deadlines for the *ProYectO cultural*:

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| <p>February 8 (Friday) (Worth 0 or 5 points of total grade.)</p> | <p>- <u>Declare your working title and cultural focus.</u> Your instructor will pass around a sign-up sheet where you will indicate the working title you've chosen. You will also need to declare the cultural focus (e.g., <i>typical dances of Argentina, Perú, and Colombia</i>; or, <i>the problem of unemployment in Spain</i>). If it is a group project, the names of all members of the group should be indicated on the sign-up sheet. It is important to <u>fully read all instructions and the rubric for the final <i>proYectO</i></u> to make sure you know the requirements for the highest possible grade.</p> |
| <p>March 1 (Friday) (Worth 0-5 points of total grade.)</p> | <p>- <u>Turn in your outline on Blackboard.</u> Attach your thoughtful outline in the "assignment: outline" file inside the <i>proYectO cultural</i> folder on Blackboard. The outline may be in Spanish, mixed Spanish/English, or English. You do not have to follow a specific outline format, but you should provide your instructor with a fairly complete idea of what your final project will look like. As many details as possible should be included. Students who will receive the highest scores are those who <u>show they have thought the entire project through.</u> Working as a group? If it is a group project, one student must attach the outline making sure names of all the students in the group are on the outline. <i>All students of the group are responsible for having the outline attached on time. All students of the group will be penalized if it is not posted on time, regardless of who was to have the responsibility for the actual attachment. All students working in a group will receive the same grade for the outline.</i></p> |
| <p>April 3 (Wednesday) (Worth 0-10 points of your total grade.)</p> | <p>- <u>Turn in your script in class as a hard copy, double-spaced.</u> You should be turning in your <u>entire script, in Spanish</u>, at this point (do not start filming until you get feedback from your instructor). Working as a group? Only one person needs to turn in the hard copy, but ALL names of the group members need to be clearly indicated. <i>All students of the group are responsible for having the draft attached on time. All students of the group will be penalized if it is not posted on time, regardless of who was to have the responsibility for the actual attachment. All students working in a group will receive the same grade for the first draft.</i></p> |
| <p>April 22 (Monday) (Worth 0-80 points of your total grade.)</p> | <p>- <u>Provide your instructor with your completed <i>proYectO</i>.</u> This requires TWO separate steps: <u>Step 1.</u> You will need to upload your video to YouTube or Vimeo and provide your instructor with the URL (copy and paste it into the "section 2 - Assignment Materials" space in the "Attach your final <i>proYectO</i> here" file in the "<i>proYectO cultural</i>" folder on Blackboard on the assignment page). Don't forget to make sure the access for your video is set (on Youtube or Vimeo) so that your instructor can access and see it. <u>Step 2.</u> Upload your finished script to SafeAssign in the "<i>proYectO cultural</i>" folder.</p> |

