

***Student Comments from the Erasmus Academy
Spanish Course Online of Summer 2018
Taught by Mr. William Andrews***

The flexibility of taking the course on line is primary for me. Beyond that Will was very well prepared and seems to have a reservoir of experiences of past students in the class that he uses to help subsequent classes. He treated the class like he was a student in the class; taking his time when we needed it, but also pushed and pressed forward when we were all on board. He is an excellent instructor.

Having a small class (while not always possible) really helped us move through the material and gave each of us more time to hear questions and ponderings of the other students which invariably helped me.

The course really helped me get a grasp on both vocabulary and verb tenses. While I'm not there yet I am light years ahead of where I was a few weeks ago. I'm capable now of "muddling" my way through an article in a Spanish daily newspaper as well as academic works like those we have translated as a part of the class.

Will was available to me even before I registered for the class. He made getting the assignments simple by using Drop Box and spent class time making sure that we were all on the same page. Part of that was having a small class, but he seems adept at staying "present" with the class.

Daryl B.

July 18, 2018

I definitely enjoyed the real-time aspect of the class. Much more enjoyable than non-real-time online classes I have taken.

I think this was a perfect course for what it is. It was a fairly painless way to meet my PhD language requirement. If it was not a requirement I would not have taken the course. I would have instead tried to find a conversation course where you have to listen and speak a lot more and you learn by just doing it. Will knows his stuff, he is enthusiastic, he picks interesting readings, and he tells good side stories about Latin American Culture.

John F.

July 21, 2018

Will Andrews is very knowledgeable, understanding, and makes the course accessible. There were times where I missed the presence of others and being in a classroom, but it was also convenient to learn from home. One minor thing I would suggest is to spend a bit more time in class working on the vocabulary and maybe repeating words together.

I learned a lot about reading Spanish. As long as students put in the time outside of the course, it is quite manageable. The worksheets were good, except some were much heavier in vocab than others.

Will tailored the assignments to our fields so I was learning a lot while also reading Spanish too!

Josh E.

July 12, 2018

The course is excellent for language prep and overall refreshing. I liked how the class was structured. I was able, as the other students were, to ask Will Andrews questions in real time. That influenced how I translated difficult passages.

Other than having a handout for common Spanish phrases, I can't think of any areas of improvement necessary. It was a very engaging course. I learned how to quickly translate Spanish passages—looking for context. The speed is something I wasn't expecting to gain, and did. I'm not particularly changed by the course, but it was a good experience.

As mentioned above, Will was patient and understanding. He was very helpful and listened to class suggestions for readings. He was also willing to spend time with a student during class until he or she understood how to translate a passage.

Will should maintain conversational authority—not letting students get too far off track with other topics. That would be my only critique. He was an excellent instructor.

As it was in the summer, I had time to focus on the language course instead of doing it during the semester. This was a HUGE draw for me. It also gave me the ability to “do” the course while I wasn't at home. The translations were

sometimes difficult, but I'm grateful that Mr. Andrews gave us harder passages than we'd have to translate for our exam.

Will was very affirming and that motivated me to keep trying—even when I couldn't find the exact vocab or get the exact structure correct.

Tomeka J.

July 10, 2018