

# Spanish House

How to Do Things  
with Words

# Casa Hispánica

Cómo hacer cosas con  
palabras



## Spanish House:

*How to Do Things  
with Words*

**Course code:** SPAN-180

**Meetings:** MW, 7-8pm  
at Gregory College House  
(Class of 1925 building)

**Instructor:**

**Víctor Sierra Matute**

(Spanish & Portuguese Dept.)

**email:** [vics@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:vics@sas.upenn.edu)

## Course description

*¡Bienvenidxs a la Casa Hispánica de Gregory College House!*

The Spanish House (or La Casa Hispánica) is a series of scheduled meetings for students interested in developing their Spanish skills. Moreover, it is an opportunity for Gregory residents to earn credit while practicing their Spanish through **conversation** and cultural activities. The students will learn about Latinx, Latin American, and Spanish cultures in an **informal environment**.

All Gregorians (both advanced speakers and beginners) are welcome to participate in *Casa*. As a consequence, students arrive with varied interests, skills, motivations, goals, and backgrounds. This **multi-level** and **multi-cultural** environment recreates real-life situations and fosters collaboration between students.

This semester's theme is "How to do things with words".

## Class structure

### Regular meetings (25 sessions):

Monday: **Café con Goyo** (13 sessions)

Wednesday: **Acción** (11 sessions)

Last day: **Cena fin de semestre** (1 session)

### Additional meetings (24 sessions):

Friday: **Hora de estudio** (13 sessions, by appt.)

Sunday: **Pequeño Libro-Club** (9 sessions)



## Requirements (for 0.5 cu)

Students who choose to participate in *Casa Hispánica for credit* will accumulate **1 point** for each event that they attend. Each enrolled student **starts with 75 points** (C grade). Mandatory meetings worth a total of 25 points. In addition to regular events, supplementary meetings (*Hora de estudio* and *Pequeño Libro-Club*) work as arrangements to make up for missing events (totaling 24 extra points).

Students must accumulate a minimum of 94 points in order to receive an A in the course. You **will not receive** points if: you are late to class; you are attentive but not at all active; you are disruptive to the class. Good participation is an opportunity to practice your Spanish in a communicative context!

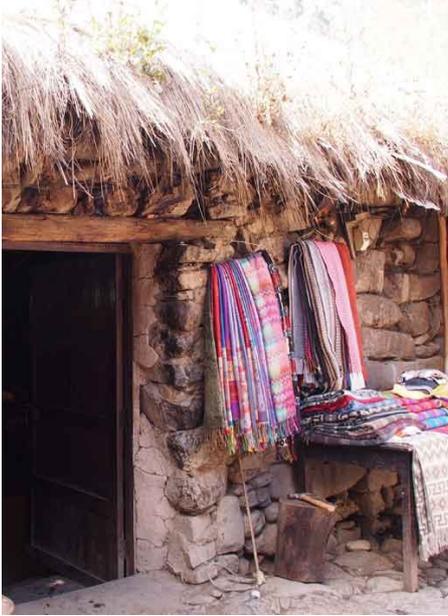
**Registering for the course:** notify me as soon as possible in order to secure permit from the Department of Spanish and Portuguese!



## Grading Scale

<b>A+</b> +100*	<b>B</b> 87-84
<b>A</b> 99-94	<b>B-</b> 83-80
<b>A-</b> 93-90	<b>C+</b> 79-78
<b>B+</b> 89-88	<b>C</b> 77-75





## Regular meetings

### Café con Goyo:

"Goyo" is the Spanish diminutive of Gregorio. This nickname captures the essence of our Spanish conversation table: we will have casual talks about a wide variety of topics. In the first part of the meeting, we will divide the class into small groups (they provide an intimate environment). In the second, students will share their ideas with the whole class.

### Acción:

"Acción" means 'action', so these events are the core of the theme "How to do things with words". We will have four different series:

- 1. Community.** We are designing and hosting a workshop for *Mighty Writers El Futuro*, an organization that works with children and young adults from the Latino community in South Philadelphia.
- 2. Guests.** Yoga, dance classes, a magic show, lectures... in Spanish.
- 3. Creative writing workshops.**
- 4. Cooking.** And of course, eating.



## Additional meetings

### Hora de estudio:

Specially designed for beginners and intermediate speakers, this extra meeting will be an opportunity to review grammar and vocabulary through explanations and activities. If you are taking a class, bring your book and we will work together to prepare your next exam.

### Pequeño Libro-Club (PLC):

For intermediate and advanced speakers. PLC is a *flash fiction* book club: we will read short-short stories and discuss them over a cup of coffee and donuts.



# This Is What Our Month Looks Like

## *Regular meetings*

## *Additional meetings*

<b>MONDAY</b> 7 pm	<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 7 pm	<b>FRIDAY</b> (by appt.)	<b>SUNDAY</b> 2 pm
CAFÉ CON GOYO	ACCIÓN (1. Comunidad)	HORA DE ESTUDIO	PLC
CAFÉ CON GOYO	ACCIÓN (2. Invitadx)	HORA DE ESTUDIO	PLC
CAFÉ CON GOYO	ACCIÓN (3. Taller literario)	HORA DE ESTUDIO	PLC
CAFÉ CON GOYO	ACCIÓN (4. Cocina)	HORA DE ESTUDIO	

