

¡A su salud! Spanish for Health Professionals (PUBH 613)

This course has been specifically designed to meet the needs of students in the health professions. It is one of the first university courses anywhere in the country to interweave culture, language instruction, and health care material. As such, you will be performing a variety of exercises and activities designed to strengthen each of these areas.

As health care professionals, you will face a three-fold difficulty in communicating with non-English speaking patients and clients. Perhaps the most obvious is the language barrier. Successful communication with any patient, however, requires much more than being able to converse in a shared language. You will also face cultural differences that could significantly impact communication. This course will help you develop strategies to recognize these differences and use them to improve your patients' and clients' care. Finally, all health care workers face the difficulties inherent in communicating with people who are frightened, sick, and under stress. *¡A su salud!* will primarily address the first of these two communication barriers. You will learn about the third as you progress in your field.

Instructors

Section #	Instructor	E-mail	Office Hours
Section 613	Beatriz Lomas	lomas@email.unc.edu	

Course Textbook:

- *¡A su salud!*: Spanish for Health Professionals, Classroom Edition

Course Assignments

Class participation (10%): Oral participation is the most important part of the course. Each week you will be expected not only to attend class, but to participate actively in it. Active participation means that you come prepared to ask and answer questions, work in small groups with your classmates, and participate in role-plays. Your instructor will assess you based on the following criteria:

- Preparedness—How well did you study the material? Did you watch the relevant episode or section of the DVD?
- Comprehension and comprehensibility—Do you understand your instructor and can he understand you?
- Fluency and pace—Do you speak at a normal pace with little hesitation?
- Vocabulary—Do you use and comprehend each chapter's vocabulary? Have you learned vocabulary needed to discuss the topic at hand?
- Grammatical sophistication—Do you attempt to use the grammatical structures featured in each chapter and even to go beyond them? Do you speak with grammatical accuracy?
- Improvement—Is your spoken Spanish improving from week to week?

Weekly Homework (15%): You will have a short written assignment each week, **due Sunday by 10:00 pm**. See your syllabus for due dates. Some of these homework assignments might be

brief essays that you will submit to your instructor via the Sakai Drop Box. Others will be grammar worksheets that you will complete and submit to your instructor. Even though other work will not be required for a grade, you are expected to keep up with the work in the book and in the online activities.

Weekly independent readings, write-ups, and mini-presentations (15%): The goal is for you to familiarize yourself with terminology in your specific area of interest within the health sciences. For instance, if you are interested in pre-natal or maternal care, you could find newspaper (or journal) articles, in Spanish, that deal with this topic. You can, of course, also choose to broaden your scope, so that you expand your vocabulary in other related areas.

Each week **you will need to upload and then update to your Drop Box** a single word document with: i) a link to an article of your choice for the given week; ii) a summary of the article, in your own words, of 100-150 words; iii) a list of five words or expressions of interest. Keep it all in ONE file, which you keep uploading, with the entries for every week.

After this preparation, you should be able to give an informal, improvised, 1-2 minute presentation about your article for the week, so as to both practice your speaking skills, and to foster some informal in-class discussion.

Discussion forums (5%): Five times during the semester you will be required to respond to a question in the discussion forum. These questions have been designed to challenge you to think not just about linguistic structures, but about culture and healthcare and how they interact with language. Respond thoughtfully and don't worry if your grammar is not perfect. Your grade in this section will be based more on the quality of what you say than how you say it.

Hot topic or disease of the week (10%): almost every week, a group of two of you will investigate either a disease or another topic related to the health professions, preferably, but not necessarily, related to the situation of Hispanics in Latin America or the USA. You will present the basics of the disease or issue in question to the class in 5-6 minutes, while highlighting relevant vocabulary, controversies or other relevant issues. You may do so formally, with a Powerpoint, or you may introduce the issue in an acted or filmed skit, or you can think of something else! Then you will be responsible for planning another activity for the class – you may lead discussion, in small groups, and in-whole class format, or play a game, or bring handouts or props, or whatever it is that gets other students involved in some way. If it is fun, even better! Total time for follow up activities is flexible, from 10 to 20 minutes. If you need more, let me know!

Quizzes (30%): After each of the first three *Unidades*, there will be a quiz designed to last 50 minutes. These quizzes will test whether you can **apply** the information you have been learning and use the grammatical structures and vocabulary studied in the previous units. The final unit will be tested on the final exam. Your instructor will grade you both on the content of what you say and on how you say it (your use of grammar and vocabulary).

Final exam (15%): The final exam for the course is the same as the quizzes in structure and objectives. The only difference is that the final will be comprehensive and longer. You will have 90 minutes to complete the final.

Grading Scale

You will be given percentage grades for your work, based on the following scale:

92 – 100	A
90 – 91	A-
88 – 89	B+
82 – 88	B
80 – 81	B-
78 – 79	C+
72 – 77	C
70 – 71	C-
68 – 69	D+
60 – 67	D
Under 60	F

All students will receive a final grade of A, A-, B+, B, B- (etc.) except for graduate students in the schools of Allied Health, Dentistry, Nursing, Public Health, and Social Work. These students will receive a final grade of H (90 – 100), P (80 – 89), or L (below 80). Graduate students in the school of Pharmacy will receive a grade of A, A-, B+, B, B- (etc.). Medical students will receive a grade of High Pass or Pass. These grades are assigned in accordance with each school's individual policy. Students wishing to take the course pass/fail must follow their departments' policies.

Honor Code and Non-Discrimination Policy

Academic dishonesty in any form is unacceptable. Any breach in academic integrity, however small, strikes destructively at the University's life and work. Any form of cheating on assignments or exams is in violation of the honor code, and all exams should contain the written pledge: "I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this exam." Students may not work together or seek any help on homework assignments; "homework" includes any written contributions to the class electronic discussion forum. You must write your own assignments without help from friends, tutors, native speakers, or anyone else. It is in violation of the honor code for your assignments or any portion of them to be written by another person. It is also in violation of the honor code to copy, translate, paraphrase or transcribe your assignments or any portion of your assignments from any source. For more information about the University's honor code, please visit <http://honor.unc.edu/honor/code.html>. If you have questions about what constitutes an honor violation in this course, please contact your instructor.

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