

Spanish for Government Officials

4-5 May 2020

Stafford County Government Center

See the course description and syllabus on the following pages.
May 5 is Cinco de Mayo; find out all about this important Mexican holiday

Course: Elective for Deputies; Treasurers may take for points only.
Elective for COR and Deputy Commissioners

For more information see the *Certification Handbook*.

If you have questions on certification, contact Al Spengler at aws@virginia.edu

Instructor: Dr. Patricia Strait, Founder, Loco for Language

Registration Site: <https://commerce.coopercenter.org/ccps/login.php>

Registration Fee: \$185 Member (TAV and CRAV members)
\$235 Non-Member (all others)

Registration Deadline: 22 April 2020

Fee includes course material, lunch day one, and breaks.

Mexican food will be served for lunch in keeping with the theme of the course.

If you need a special meal (vegetarian, vegan, gluten free), please indicate your dietary needs during the registration process in the special dietary or physical accommodation text box.

A \$20.00 processing fee will be assessed for cancellations. No refunds for cancellations received less than 48 hours before the course unless your space is filled. **After you select your event, don't forget to check the box before the class in order to complete your on-line registration.**

Payment: On-line with a credit card
Check, electronic transfer or LPO also accepted

To make payment using a method other than credit card, please print out your registration form and enclose a copy with your check. If paying via electronic transfer or via LPO, please include the invoice number with your payment.

Make checks payable to: **University of Virginia**

Mail to: Treasurers' Association of Virginia
c/o Cooper Center for Public Service
PO Box 400206
Charlottesville, VA 22904-4206

Spanish for Government Officials Language, Culture and Business Practices

Professor: Dr. Patricia B. Strait

E-mail: locoforlanguage@yahoo.com

General Course Description:

The course allows the participant to develop his/her understanding of Hispanic culture and language in order to develop stronger and more meaningful relationships with clients and co-workers who originate from Spain, Mexico, South and Central America. While the emphasis of the course will be placed on understanding cultural differences, ample opportunities will be given to learn important vocabulary and phrases in order to develop basic conversational skills in Spanish, which pertain to both business settings and personal interactions. Consideration will be given to developing the skills necessary in order to travel in Spanish speaking countries.

Course Expectations:

It is expected that all students will have fun! Participate in class discussions – in Spanish or English (¡por supuesto!) as much as possible. Learning a new language and culture is always an adventure, and making errors is expected. Be patient with yourself. Our main objective is to enjoy ourselves and learn something about Hispanic culture and the Spanish language. ***So relax and have fun!***

Readings:

Readings, internet links, and presentation materials will be made available in class and noted in your syllabus that will be given to you on the first day of class.

Suggested Internet site: duolingo.com

General Course Objectives

- To improve the student's skills in speaking and listening in Spanish
- To increase Spanish vocabulary especially concerning business matters
- To gain an understanding of the issues facing Spanish speaking nations
- To improve the student's understanding of Hispanic culture

Seminar Schedule

Day One:

- A. How the Spanish influence began
- B. Case Study: Hampton Roads
- C. Hispanic influences on business practices
 - a. Titles
 - b. Greetings
 - c. Relationships (personal and professional)
 - d. Power differentials
- D. Language Practice -essential differences between English and Spanish

Day Two:

- A. Language Practice (pronunciation, vocabulary, and structure)
- B. Written Communication (documents and business letters)

Patricia B. Strait, Ph.D.

Dr. Patricia Strait has 30 years of state, private and federal university experience delivering educational programs that serve undergraduate, graduate, international, and nontraditional students. She is a recipient of Old Dominion University's Distinguished Alumni Award 2014, the University of Richmond's Distinguished Educator Award 2012, nominee for the State of Virginia's Outstanding Faculty Award 2013, and recipient of Old Dominion's University's Faculty Appreciation Award 2003. She was also elected as University of Richmond's Chair of the Faculty Council that represents approximately 400 faculty members. Recently served as Dean at the National Defense University from 2013-2016. A federal university, the National Defense University offers graduate programs in strategy and planning, information operations, cyber security, and resource management to national security professionals. As Dean, she oversaw approximately 120 full time faculty and 60 staff members. Her responsibilities included curriculum and assessment oversight, faculty recruitment and promotions, academic support services, outreach activities, accreditation, international student management, planning, and budgeting. Her previous work experience includes full time faculty positions at Virginia Tech, University of Richmond, Old Dominion University, and Christopher Newport University. Dr. Strait has extensive experience developing international partnerships, study abroad programs, teaching in a bi-lingual environment, research, and team building in international settings. Author of numerous publications focusing on topics such as rising nationalism, Muslim and Hispanic immigration, leadership, forced labor and ethical behavior. Active participant in several international organizations and associate editor for the *International Journal of Public Sector Management*, *International Journal of Diversity in Organizations Communities and Nations*, *International Journal of Interdisciplinary Social Science*, and the *Global Studies Journal* among others. She finished her university career as a professor and Associate Editor at the Institute of National Security Studies. Fluent in Spanish and a frequent presenter at international conferences including recent appearances in Berne, Athens, London, Brussels, Cambridge, Madrid, Quebec, Barcelona, and Vancouver. In 2019, Dr. Strait founded, Loco for Language in which private language instruction is offered for those desiring to learn Spanish or English. You may contact her at locoforlanguage@yahoo.com.

Class Schedule and Information

- Day One** **Registration & Continental Breakfast: 8:30 to 9:00 a.m.**
Class begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends around 4:45 p.m.
- Day Two** **Class Begins: 8:30 a.m. (subject in change on Day One)**
Exam will start before lunch about 11:00 a.m. **(1 Hour; Open Book)**

What to Bring to Class: Several #2 Pencils
Assorted Highlighters
Post-it and/or Sticky Notes

Grades: Grades are posted on line--usually within 10 days of end of class.

If you are **not** enrolled in the TAV certification program administered by the Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia, you must fill out an enrollment form to view your grade on-line. You can download the form at the Cooper Center web site: www.coopercenter.org and click on *Certification Programs* and then download the *Enrollment Form*.

Otherwise to check your grade, please call Beth Watson Bennett at the Center at 434-982-2144 and she can tell you your grade.

Dress casual, you learn best when you are comfortable.

Hotel Information

Comfort Inn Quantico

20 Salisbury Drive
Stafford, VA 22554

540-659-8999

<https://www.choicehotels.com/virginia/stafford/comfort-inn-hotels/va829?source=gyxt>

Room Block Name:	Stafford County
Group Number:	4012862
Cut-off Date:	4 April 2020
Room Rate:	\$93 single/double
Hotel Amenities:	free Wi-Fi, free breakfast, fitness center
Parking:	Free
Cancellation Policy:	48 Hours
Registration Link:	https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/NO82E2

Only a limited number of rooms have been blocked. If you try and they are full, contact AI at aws@virginia.edu and he can have them add more rooms to the block.

The hotel is approximately 3.6 to 5 miles from the Government Center depending on the route you take.

Stafford County Government Center
Activities Room #195

The **George Gordon Government Center** is located at **1300 Courthouse Road**, Stafford VA 22554.

Free parking is available.

Directions from I-95 Northbound:

Take exit 140 for county Rd 630 toward Stafford 0.3 mi

Turn right onto Courthouse Rd (Destination will be on the left) 0.7 mi

[1300 Courthouse Road, Stafford, Virginia 22554](#)

Directions from I-95 Southbound:

Take exit 140 for county Rd 630 toward Stafford 0.3 mi

Turn left onto Courthouse Rd (signs for County Road 630E) Destination will be on the left. 0.7 mi

[1300 Courthouse Road, Stafford, Virginia 22554](#)

Website can be found at:

<https://staffordcountyva.gov/1732/Directions>