



Faculty Review of Open eTextbooks

The [California Open Educational Resources Council](http://www.cool4ed.org) has designed and implemented a faculty review process of the free and open etextbooks showcased within the California Open Online Library for Education (www.cool4ed.org). Faculty from the California Community Colleges, the California State University, and the University of California were invited to review the selected free and open etextboks using a rubric. Faculty received a stipend for their efforts and funding was provided by the State of California, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Textbook Name:

FSI – Spanish Programmatic Course



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Find it: [eTextbook Website](#)

Textbook Authors:

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Reviewed by:

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Institution:

California State University, San Marcos

Title/Position:

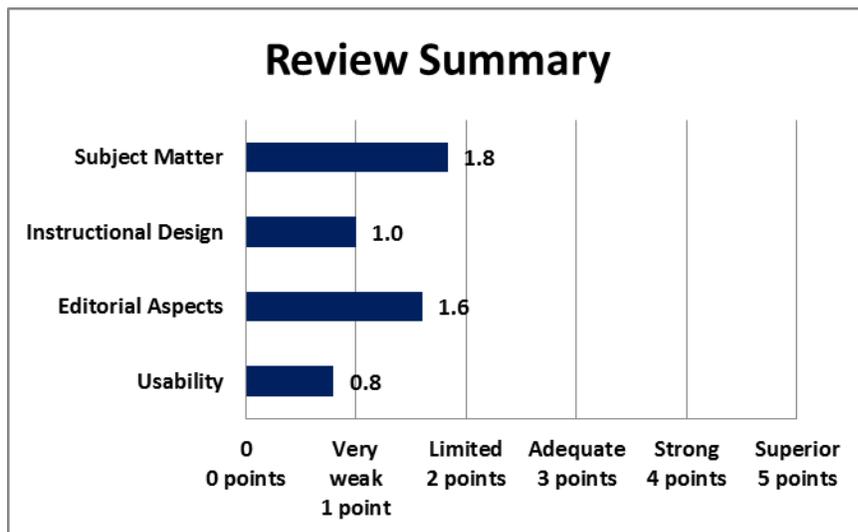
Professor

Format

Reviewed:

[Online](#)

A small fee may be associated with various formats.



Date Reviewed:

March 2015

California OER Council eTextbook Evaluation Rubric

CA Course ID: [SPAN 100](#)

Subject Matter (30 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the content accurate, error-free, and unbiased?				X		
Does the text adequately cover the designated course with a sufficient degree of depth and scope?		X				
Does the textbook use sufficient and relevant examples to present its subject matter?		X				
Does the textbook use a clear, consistent terminology to present its subject matter?					X	

Does the textbook reflect current knowledge of the subject matter?		X				
Does the textbook present its subject matter in a culturally sensitive manner? (e.g. Is the textbook free of offensive and insensitive examples? Does it include examples that are inclusive of a variety of races, ethnicities, and backgrounds?)		X				

Total Points: 11 out of 30

Please provide comments on any aspect of the subject matter of this textbook:

- Volumes 1 and 2 of the Spanish Programmatic Course were published in the sixties and seventies. Since then, the field of Second Language Acquisition has much evolved. New approaches have emerged and have been tested from the Natural Approach to the Communicative Approach to Experiential Learning. The five C's (Standards for Foreign Language Learning: Communication, Cultures, Comparisons, Communities, Connections) were created in the nineties. Therefore, this method (Spanish Programmatic Course) does not adhere to today's best teaching practices.
- There is no cultural content, no visuals, and although the grammar is accurate the way it is presented is not. There are no communicative activities, and of course no multimedia content.

Instructional Design (35 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Does the textbook present its subject materials at appropriate reading levels for undergrad use?		X				
Does the textbook reflect a consideration of different learning styles? (e.g. visual, textual?)		X				
Does the textbook present explicit learning outcomes aligned with the course and curriculum?		X				
Is a coherent organization of the textbook evident to the reader/student?		X				
Does the textbook reflect best practices in the instruction of the designated course?		X				
Does the textbook contain sufficient effective ancillary materials? (e.g. test banks, individual and/or group activities or exercises, pedagogical apparatus, etc.)		X				
Is the textbook searchable?		X				

Total Points: 7 out of 35

Please provide comments on any aspect of the instructional design of this textbook:

- The material is presented in a very dry manner. There are no visuals and no color. The lack of dialogues, readings and engaging activities makes it unappealing. The methodology is outdated and is clearly not geared towards the digital, 21st Century learner. The activities are all the same (fill-in the blanks, close-ended and translations).

Editorial Aspects (25 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the language of the textbook free of grammatical, spelling, usage, and typographical errors?				X		
Is the textbook written in a clear, engaging style?		X				
Does the textbook adhere to effective principles of design? (e.g. are pages laid out and organized to be clear and visually engaging and effective? Are colors, font, and typography consistent and unified?)		X				
Does the textbook include conventional editorial features? (e.g. a table of contents, glossary, citations and further references)			X			
How effective are multimedia elements of the textbook? (e.g. graphics, animations, audio)		X				

Total Points: 8 out of 25

Please provide comments on any editorial aspect of this textbook.

- The font shows that these two volumes were written on a type writer. There are no visuals and no color. Although there is a table of content, chapter goals (or unit goals) are not specified. The books mention audio tapes to go along however there are not accessible from the website.

Usability (30 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the textbook compatible with standard and commonly available hardware/software in college/university campus student computer labs?	X					
Is the textbook accessible in a variety of different electronic formats? (e.g. .txt, .pdf, .epub, etc.)		X				
Can the textbook be printed easily?				X		
Does the user interface implicitly inform the reader how to interact with and navigate the textbook?	X					
How easily can the textbook be annotated by students and instructors?	X					

Total Points: 4 out of 30

Please provide comments on any aspect of access concerning this textbook.

- There is no technology involved.

Overall Ratings	Not at all (0 pts)	Very Weak (1 pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3 pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
What is your overall impression of the textbook?		X				
	Not at all (0 pts)	Strong reservations (1 pt)	Limited willingness (2 pts)	Willing (3 pts)	Strongly willing (4 pts)	Enthusiastically willing (5 pts)
How willing would you be to adopt this book?	X					

Total Points: 1 out of 10

Overall Comments

If you were to recommend this textbook to colleagues, what merits of the textbook would you highlight?

- I would not recommend these textbooks (Volumes 1 and 2).

What areas of this textbook require improvement in order for it to be used in your courses?

- Too outdated to be improved.

We invite you to add your feedback on the textbook or the review to [the textbook site in MERLOT](#)
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