



## 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](http://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:

Foreign Service Institute

Reviewed by:

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Institution:

Cañada College

Title/Position:

Professor

Format

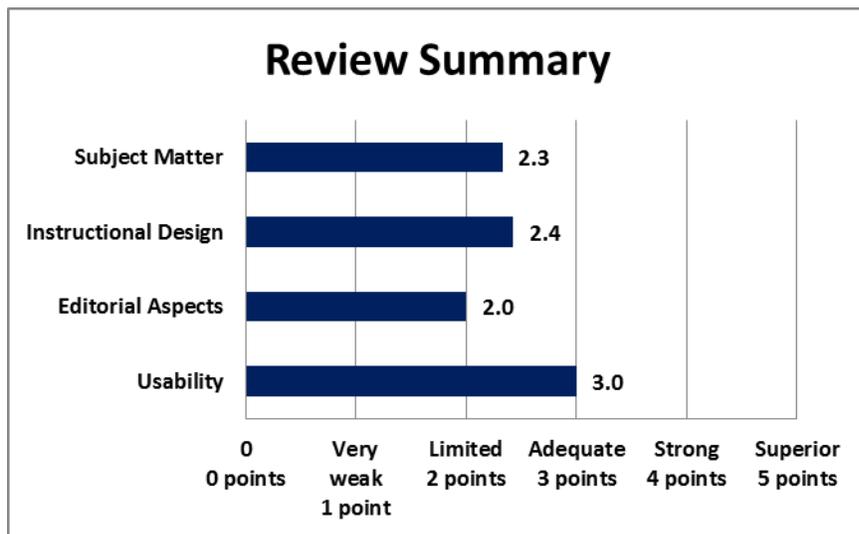
Reviewed:

[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	X					

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?)						
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Total Points: 14 out of 30

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

- Latin American Spanish only; does not address Spain and the dialect. Covers nothing of culture; only language. The text is almost 50 years old, and completely out of date with current pedagogy.

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: 17 out of 35

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

- Offers no consideration for modality or learning styles. It can be used for self-paced learners, but the instruction is very dense and not approachable. It is clearly meant for government officials who are highly educated, not the average college student. The textbook is almost 50 years old, and completely out of date. There is a workbook, written nearly 30 years ago, which offers practice in the topics, but it is also out of date with current pedagogies in how to practice elements with students. There are no audio or video clips for authentic language; the instructor is expected to read to the students from the instructor's manual and provide the 'authentic content' on their own. The PDFs are searchable; the .txt files are not.

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: 10 out of 25

Please provide comments on any editorial aspect of this textbook.

- Generally free of errors. The PDF is somewhat legible, but it is clearly a scanned copy of a printed text, and at times is not easy to read. There are no multimedia elements.

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: 15 out of 30

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

- PDF was downloadable and searchable. .Txt file was not usable by the average user. There is no interaction in the PDF file, so there were no UI issues.

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?

- None

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

- This is not an acceptable textbook. It is completely out of date with current pedagogies. In fact, not even the FSI nor the DLI use this text, and haven't done so in many, many years. It fails in all areas.

We invite you to add your feedback on the textbook or the review to [the textbook site in MERLOT](#)  
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For questions or more information, contact the [CA Open Educational Resources Council](#).



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