

HISPANIA JOURNAL REVIEW
Hispanidades Textbooks, Workbooks & Study Guides
Based upon the DVD series, El Espejo Enterrado

Source: HISPANIA
DECEMBER 2012

Based on the books and DVD series written and presented by Carlos Fuentes, *El espejo enterrado/The Buried Mirror: Reflections on Spain and the New World* (reviewed in *Hispania* 76.4 [1993]), the two textbooks reviewed here, *Hispanidades: España, la primera hispanidad* and *Hispanidades: Latinoamérica y los EE.UU.*, and their accompanying workbooks expertly utilize excerpts from the aforementioned DVD series to present an excellent cultural and historical framework of Spain, Latin America, and the United States. Drawing on key segments from *El espejo enterrado*, the textbook chapters from the two volumes revolve around the film series' cultural themes (for example, the *Hispanidades* textbook on Spain includes such interesting, historically-based cultural themes as: “La Semana Santa, la religión y el estado,” “Conflicto y coexistencia: Árabes, cristianos y judíos,” and “Franco y la Guerra Civil,” while the *Hispanidades* Latin America and USA textbook includes “La independencia: Bolívar y San Martín,” “La Revolución Mexicana y el muralismo,” and “La frontera: La inmigración y los EE.UU.,” adding related literary readings, short essays, and brief and concise grammatical, orthographical and cultural explanations, with provocative summary questions at the end.

The well-organized chapters in both *Hispanidades* textbooks contain the sections “Gramática y ortografía,” “Literatura,” and “Notas de lengua.” The “Literatura” section, with excerpts from major works by major Hispanic authors—



A journal devoted to the teaching of Spanish and Portuguese, published by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, Inc.

For more information, visit
www.Hispanidades.INFO

such as Cervantes, Federico García Lorca, Ana María Matute—, displays a varied literary selection, as does the Latin America and United States textbook, with works by Pablo Neruda, Sor Juana, José Martí, Mariano Azuela, Rudolfo Anaya, and Sandra Cisneros. These short literary readings provide rich linguistic and cultural contexts in which to practice the grammar and vocabulary presented, reinforced by the well-structured activities in the accompanying grammar review workbooks.

Each *Hispanidades* textbook chapter contains a brief grammar section with its accompanying complementary grammar review workbook chapter. The Spain *Hispanidades* textbook and workbook review such problematic grammar points as: “*por y para*,” “los usos de *se*,” and “pretérito e imperfecto,” with four chapters devoted to “el subjuntivo.” The Latin America and United States textbook and grammar review workbook reviews the following essential grammar points: “pretérito,” “imperfecto,” “el participio pasado,” “el verbo *gustar* y otros semejantes,” “el presente de subjuntivo,” “el imperfecto de subjuntivo,” and “mandatos formales y familiares.” They also include a well-presented “La ortografía” section, focusing on such issues as: “las letras *c, s, z*,” “las letras *c, k, q*,” “las vocales,” “las letras *v y b*,” “las letras *r y rr*,” and “las letras *h, g, j*,” which prove very helpful in the teaching of writing skills, especially to heritage learners. Both *Hispanidades* Grammar Review Workbook chapters parallel those in the *Hispanidades* textbooks, offering a more extensive and complete grammar review with practice exercises and a neatly presented answer key.

The “Notas de lengua” in both *Hispanidades* textbooks explore very interesting sociolinguistic aspects of the Spanish language: in Spain, for example, “El andaluz y el caló” and “La censura y la supresión de las lenguas regionales”; and, in Latin America and the United States, “El español de las Américas: Influencias indígenas,” “Los dialectos del español en EE.UU.,” and “El cambio de código.” These textbook chapter sections lend themselves very well to further sociolinguistic language research and study.

The sociocultural study of any language is essential to the understanding of its diversity, development and change, in its linguistic structures and in its cultural identities. Through historical and sociocultural analysis, Carlos Fuentes emphasizes this point throughout his now canonical essay, *The Buried Mirror*, in which he explores the crucial relationship between language and cultural identity, the two inseparable dimensions reflected in the two textbooks reviewed here: *Hispanidades*:

For more information, visit
www.Hispanidades.INFO

España, la primera hispanidad and *Hispanidades: Latinoamérica y los EE.UU.*, with their workbooks. These high quality multimedia course materials most definitely offer intermediate and advanced students of Spanish in both high school (AP & IB) and college levels an excellent opportunity to continue their study of the Spanish language, its cultures, and its literary heritage through an exploration of cultural identity. And who better to accompany them on their journey through three continents than Carlos Fuentes, eminent novelist and social commentator?

Consuelo Sigüenza-Ortiz
University of Southern California, USA

Authors & Publications
Microangelo Educational Media LLC

Curland, David, Robert Davis, and Luis Verano.

Hispanidades: España, la primera hispanidad.

Pacific Palisades, CA: Microangelo, 2009. Pp. 126.

ISBN 978-0-9822217-0-9.

Marlow, Terri. z

Hispanidades: España, la primera hispanidad. Grammar Review Workbook.

Pacific Palisades, CA: Microangelo, 2010. Pp. 73.

ISBN 978-0-9822217-5-4.

Curland, David, Robert Davis, Francisco Lomelí, Sonia Zúñiga-Lomelí, and Luis Leal.

Hispanidades: Latinoamérica y los EE.UU.

Pacific Palisades, CA: Microangelo, 2009. Pp. 148.

ISBN 978-0-9822217-1-6.

Zúñiga-Lomelí, Sonia.

Hispanidades: Latinoamérica y los EE.UU. Grammar Review Workbook.

Pacific Palisades, CA: Microangelo, 2010. Pp. 58.

ISBN 978-0-9822217-3-0.

For more information, visit

www.Hispanidades.INFO