



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 etextbooks 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:

Destinos: An Introduction to Spanish



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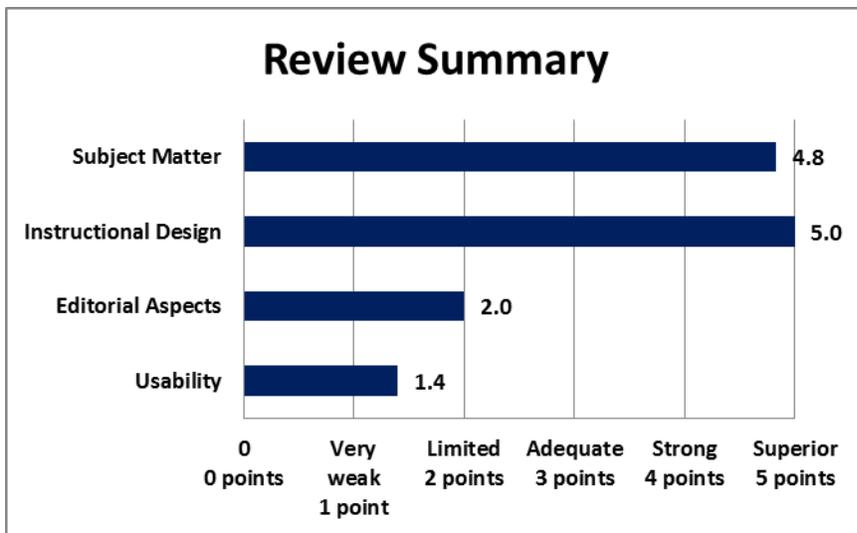
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 Professor

Format
 Reviewed:
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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: 29 out of 30

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

- The material that I am reviewing is a video program for beginners. It is a very well done program that builds nicely the proficiency level from basic structures and vocabulary to more complex ones. However the cultural content (which is an essential part of the video) is somewhat outdated. The video was filmed in 1992 in several countries (Mexico, Spain, Argentina, etc.) and some cultural pieces need to be updated. The way the characters dress is also outdated. Nonetheless, the cultural information pertaining to each country is excellent and country specific.

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: 35 out of 35

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

- The ancillary materials: the video program contains Practice Activities that can be done after visioning each chapter. These activities are level appropriate and interactive. They contain vocabulary, grammar, dictation, post cards with cultural information in Spanish (new words are glossed) and a quiz that gives the score and the correct answers once taken. These Practice Activities are excellent in enhancing the learning and the comprehension.
- An added bonus are the additional practice activities taken from real website like the ONCE (from Spain) where students can practice numbers from the lottery drawings.
- Each chapter offers close captions if needed and the comprehension questions at the end of the 30 minute videos are written on the screen as well as the answers rather than just hearing them, students are able to see them as well.
- The chapter's goals are specified at the beginning of each chapter and the narrator provides a brief summary (in English) of past episodes.

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.

- Since this material is a video program some of the answers above were not applicable. However the language provided in the activities and in the episodes is level appropriate and free of errors.
- Comment: The quality of video could be improved (I tried different browsers) and often the image was blurred.

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: 7 out of 30

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

- The video program's website for Destinos provides many different tabs with resources, lesson plans, news and blogs, added activities, and teachers' tips. The website is extremely user friendly and contains a wealth of information without being overwhelming.

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	
How willing would you be to adopt this book?	Not at all (0 pts)	Strong reservations (1 pt)	Limited willingness (2 pts)	Willing (3 pts)	Strongly willing (4 pts)	Enthusiastically willing (5 pts)
				X		

Total Points: 7 out of 10

Overall Comments

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

- The pace is sensitive to students' proficiency level (the level of difficulty is adequate from beginning to the end) and the story line is interesting and engaging. The Practice Activities are useful and effective in targeting different skills.

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

- The culture needs to be updated. The cultural content is clearly from the nineties.

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



For questions or more information, contact the [CA Open Educational Resources Council](#).



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