IN A SPANISH CONVERSATION COURSE
(AND MAYBE IN YOURS)

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But first, some important notions

A Tweet is a 140-character message posted via Twitter

A Retweet is someone else's Tweet that you chose to share with all of your followers

You follow people to read their tweets

People follow you to read your tweets

The # symbol, called a hashtag, is used to mark keywords or topics in a Tweet
For example
For example

"That vote could take place today. The shutdown would be over."
—President Obama OFA.BO/FTLirH cc @SpeakerBoehner

"It's time @SpeakerBoehner ended this shutdown. Tell him to #JustVote: OFA.BO/NqxoJn"

"It hurts our credibility around the world. It makes us look like we don't have our act together." —President Obama on the #shutdown
What are students required to do?

Follow each other in the class & four native speakers from Spain

Follow famous people or institutions (that they choose)
What are students required to do?

Write ten tweets per week
What are students required to do?

Write ten tweets per week

Include one Re-Tweet
What are students required to do?

Write ten tweets per week

Include one Re-Tweet

Have a “conversation”
How is it used?

To practice vocabulary (in class and outside)

To read native speakers’ Tweets

To observe culture in action through Twitter’s “trending topics” and popular hashtags
How is it used?

But also:

To ask questions about the class

To collaborate

To keep practicing Spanish in an easy way
How can you use it in your class?

Create a hashtag for your class

Ask students to tweet interesting links

Use Twitter as a backchannel during your lectures
Example

Professor Jason Farman’s course
American Studies 260:
American Culture in the Information Age
University of Maryland, College Park

Hashtag: #amst260

Students have to tweet DURING lectures.
Alex Rifkin @ruitycar
We perform different selves based on our cultural environment. That doesn't mean that we change who we are. #amst260
Expand

Matthew Beinart @mattbeinart
sites like tumblr warn users against allowing anonymous questions on their site, for the purpose of avoiding harsh comments #amst260
Expand

Grace Jones @appriAMST
#amst260 This is actually really interesting but also little bit frightening. blogs.wsj.com/digits/2013/09...
Hide summary
• Reply • Retweet • Favorite

Wall Street Journal

Facebook Woes TV Networks With Data - Digits - WSJ
Facebook says it will begin sending weekly reports to America's largest television networks, offering a glimpse of how much their shows are generating on the social network.

Ben Wright @Wrighty_Bulger
#Amst260 getting a Facebook was like a right of passage in the transition from middle school to high school
from College Park, MD

Alice Mercer @aliceNWondrinc3
I can't believe how much the MySpace website has changed since the last time I've been on it. #amst260
Expand

Dez Wells @Dez32Wells
The idea of Facebook being exclusive to only invite and college only at the start was genius by Mark Zuckerberg #amst260
Expand
What did my students think of Twitter?

Why?

Because *just memorizing words isn’t enough*, applying them to real parts of your day helps the words to stick in your head forever, not just for a quiz.

Twitter is something that *relates to our life* since it is similar to other *social networking sites* and it was *easy* to use.

I was able to see the different ways vocabulary words were used and *seeing it from someone else’s perspective* and not just mine was very helpful.
What did my students think of Twitter?

Why?

I liked twitter because it allows you to incorporate Spanish in your every day life. It is easy to manage and really does help with your Spanish and using the vocabulary from the class.

I like it because it was a way to continue thinking in Spanish outside of the classroom. Instead of only talking in Spanish for 2 1/2 hours a day, it was continued throughout the week.

I enjoyed Twitter because it was an easy way to contact my classmates and the professor. It also allowed me to practice my Spanish outside of the classroom and with my classmates. Twitter was also easy to use and I recommend it for other Spanish classes or just regular classes so that they can contact one another.
¡MUCHAS GRACIAS!!

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