



## **Course Syllabus: Spanish 1134 Syllabus World Languages and Cultures**

Fall 2020

Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences

### **Contact Information**

Instructor: Dr. Claudia Montoya

Office hours: By appointment via zoom

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### **General Announcement**

Originally this course was planned as a face-to-face course, but due to me having an underlying health issue that puts me at high risk, heart problems, I will not be able to be with you physically in the classroom. We will do remote learning using zoom. If you don't have a private space where to watch the class, you can still show up to the classroom with your computer or cellphone and headphones; this is particularly important for those who don't live on campus and need to go to another class after this one. However, although I will not be present, if you go to the classroom, you still need to wear a mask and keep social distance. Attendance to this course is mandatory since it is not an online course, but rather a virtual class. However, I understand these times are strange, so if you have concerns about your attendance or something comes up forcing you to miss some classes, remember to immediately contact me via email. If everything goes as planned the university will go fully online after Thanksgiving, this will not affect our class, we will continue in remote teaching to the end of the semester, on December 4th. Be aware that the tools we use in this classroom: D2L and VHL, are tools you would still have to use in a Face-to-Face class.

### **Course Description**

Learning a second language is a process inextricably connected to the culture or cultures in which the language is spoken. Thus, this course focuses on developing students' Spanish-language proficiency through modes of communication that reflect real life communication in the varied

cultures of the Spanish-speaking world. By employing interpersonal, interpretive and presentational communicative modes in the target language, students will explore the ideas, values, beliefs and other cultural aspects of Spanish-speaking peoples across the world and how these aspects work together to affect human experience.

**Textbook & Instructional Materials**

Textbook: Aventuras, 5th edition ISBN 978-1-68004-972-5: Full color, loose leaf, 3 hole punched (binder ready) version of Aventuras 5th edition with full VHLcentral.com supersite plus & websam technology. Please note the code with this package lasts for 36 months. Visit the website: vhlcentral.com or the MSU bookstore to get your book and online access code.

The following recommendations from the Student Life Subcommittee Report of the MSU Task Force to Return to Campus Report:

[https://msutexas.edu/return-to-campus/\\_assets/files/return-to-campus-taskforce-8-4-20.pdf](https://msutexas.edu/return-to-campus/_assets/files/return-to-campus-taskforce-8-4-20.pdf):

**Desire-to-Learn (D2L)**

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage.

Recommended equipment specifications to access D2L and VHL; however, you can still access both platforms from your cellphone, but you may not be able to do all the classwork from your cellphone:

PC Desktops and laptops Minimum Specifications	Mac desktops and laptops Minimum Specifications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intel Core (i3, i5, i7) processors; 4<sup>th</sup> generation or newer</li> <li>• 4 GB of RAM, 8 GB of RAM is highly recommended</li> <li>• 256 GB SSD Storage</li> <li>• Dual band spectrum (2.4GHz and 5 GHz with 802.11ac or 802.11n</li> <li>• Use Windows' Operating System and PC Info to find</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intel Core (i3, i5, i7) processors; 4<sup>th</sup> generation or newer</li> <li>• 4 GB of RAM, 8 GB of RAM is highly recommended</li> <li>• 256 GB SSD Storage</li> <li>• Dual band spectrum (2.4GHz and 5 GHz with 802.11ac or 802.11n</li> <li>• Use Apple's About this Mac feature to find your</li> </ul>

PC Desktops and laptops Minimum Specifications	Mac desktops and laptops Minimum Specifications
your hardware information	hardware information

Chromebooks are not recommended as they will not work with D2L.

### **Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance**

The amount of study required to be successful in this course varies from student to student, according to your previous knowledge of the language. However, to be successful in an introductory course such as this, a minimum of a daily hour of study is needed. Tutoring would be available through the World Languages & Cultures Department (WLCD) and with the MSU Tutoring Center (McCullough Hall). As soon as I have the tutoring information offered by the WLCD I will pass it to you. You can also email our department's secretary if you want to have this information: [emilie.allsup@msutexas.edu](mailto:emilie.allsup@msutexas.edu) .

### **Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures**

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism is prohibited. Whenever taking exams you are not allowed to use your book or any other materials to pass the exam/quiz. You are also not allowed to ask for help from anyone when taking exams or working with your VHL materials. Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct. Your professor will randomly monitor your work on VHL when it comes to taking quizzes and exams on VHL. Refer to: [Student Handbook 2018-2019](#)

### **Important Dates**

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" December 4, 2020  
Final Exam: Saturday, December 5, 2020 (10:30 am-12:30 p.m.)

### **Professor's Class Policies**

Students are responsible for checking their email, D2L, and VHL daily in order to stay informed of what happens in the class. The professor reserves the right to check the student's identity when s/he is doing homework or taking quizzes and exams on either D2L or VHL. This will be done with the chat tool on VHL. It is the student's obligation to contact the professor immediately if a problem of any kind emerges that poses a difficulty for the student to do her/his classwork.

Keep in mind that you should check D2L for your official grade. The grades on the [VHL Central Supersite](#) (VHI) are only partial.

In this class attendance is mandatory; hence, you will have to show your face during the zoom meetings, you will also have to participate in order to be graded for participation. It is not enough to turn on your zoom meeting and leave a photo of you there, that doesn't confirm your attendance. If you decide to drop the course, you must follow university procedure for dropping a course in order to receive a W. If the instructor drops you, you will receive a WF or F.

### **Services for Students With Disabilities**

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Student Life Disability](#).

If you have a visual, aural, or linguistic disability, which may difficult your learning process, please talk to the disabilities office or your professor immediately; so your professor can make accommodations:  
<https://msutexas.edu/student-life/disability/>

Please do not hesitate to contact me by email, if you have questions and want to talk to me, we can have a meeting using zoom.

### **Grade Appeal Process**

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog](#)

## Grading Components

Assignments	Percentage
VHL Homework	10%
VHL Quizzes	5%
VHL Lab Quizzes	10 %
Participation: VHL chat, VHL activities, Virtual classroom zoom	15 %
Exam I (Lessons 1 & 2)	15%
Exam II (Lessons 3 & 4)	15%
Exam III (Lessons 5 & 6)	15%
Comprehensive Final Exam	15%

Total percentage for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	90 to 100
B	80 to 89
C	70 to 79
D	60 to 69
F	Less than 60

### Lectures

The lectures will be given via zoom, just like in a regular classroom. During our class sessions you will be required to stay engaged and participate, sometimes orally and sometimes via chat, using the chat tool in zoom.

For more review of the lesson's topics, go to the 'tutorials' on the [VHL Central Supersite](#) where you can find explanations for grammar and vocabulary. These will be assigned for homework, but won't be graded.

### Homework

Online homework assignments will be made from the [VHL Central Supersite](#) daily. Each assignment is to be completed by 11:59 p.m. on the due date. Homework completed after the deadline will not be accepted and will result in a grade of zero for the given assignment. Some of the assignments are for the presentation of vocabulary and/or tutorials for grammar topics. When doing homework, if you get the answers wrong, you will have a chance to a second attempt, but not to a third one. Usually activities that include writing

sentences only have one chance, it's the way the program is designed. The lowest grade for this category will be dropped at the end of the semester.

### **Quizzes**

Frequent quizzes based on homework and class work will be given. They will be part of your VHL activities; so whenever you complete a VHL activity, make sure you know if you are working with homework or with quizzes. If it is a quiz, make sure you answer right at the first attempt, since there will not be opportunities to re-do the quiz. Be aware of the due dates, because once they pass you can't go back to take the quiz. The lowest grade of this category will be dropped at the end of the semester.

### **Lab Quizzes**

Every chapter there will be a couple of short videos to watch. They are part of your VHL program; so they will be programmed within your VHL activities. You will watch the videos and answer a brief quiz also part of VHL. Be aware of the due dates, because once they pass you can't go back to take the quiz. The lowest grade of this category will be dropped at the end of the semester.

### **Participation**

Your participation grade will be made of VHL chat activities, VHL general activities, Participation in Virtual classroom zoom

#### **1. VHL Partner Chat and Virtual Partner Chats**

Even though this course is online, you will be required to practice speaking Spanish and listening to Spanish using [VHL Central Supersite](#) Partner and Virtual Partner Chats. These chats are due weekly, but you can complete them as soon as they are assigned.

The **virtual partner chats** are designated with this icon:



The **partner chats** are designated with this icon:

The **virtual partner chats** are completed on your own with an online "avatar" asking you questions. The **partner chats** are completed with one of your fellow classmates. Each chat can earn you 10 points toward a 100 for the Participation Grade category. Thus, you need to complete 10 chats (minimum of 2 weekly) and earn 10 points for each to earn a 100 for that

grade category. Your Spanish does NOT have to be perfect, but please follow the directions and answer all questions in complete sentences.

**\*\*\*No grades under participation will be dropped\*\*\***

## **2. VHL General activities**

There will be some VHL activities that will be counted as participation. They will be about culture, and they are part of your VHL program.

### **Exams**

There are three major exams, one every two lessons. Each exam consists of a multiple choice, matching, and/or true false portion, a written/short answer portion, and a listening part. Each exam will be on the scheduled at the time of your class. You will have an hour to complete the exam. Your exam will appear in D2L, but you will write your answers on VHL. The exams are monitored and you need your camera and mic working, this can be done either from your cellphone or your computer. No exams grades will be dropped.

**No notes, textbooks, phones, websites, friends etc. should be used. Please do your own work and adhere to the MSU Student Honor Creed.**

#### Student Honor Creed

***"As an MSU Student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else do so."***

As students at MSU, we recognize that any great society must be composed of empowered, responsible citizens. We also recognize universities play an important role in helping mold these responsible citizens. We believe students themselves play an important part in developing responsible citizenship by maintaining a community where integrity and honorable character are the norm, not the exception.

Thus, We, the Students of Midwestern State University, resolve to uphold the honor of the University by affirming our commitment to complete academic honesty. We resolve not only to be honest but also to hold our peers accountable for complete honesty in all university matters.

We consider it dishonest to ask for, give, or receive help in examinations or quizzes, to use any unauthorized material in examinations, or to present, as

one's own, work or ideas which are not entirely one's own. We recognize that any instructor has the right to expect that all student work is honest, original work. We accept and acknowledge that responsibility for lying, cheating, stealing, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty fundamentally rests within each individual student.

We expect of ourselves academic integrity, personal professionalism, and ethical character. We appreciate steps taken by University officials to protect the honor of the University against any who would disgrace the MSU student body by violating the spirit of this creed.

### **Final Exam**

The Final Exam is comprehensive, and there is no make-up exam. The final exam will be on **Saturday, December 5, 2020 from 10:30 am to 12:30 p.m.** You will have a total of two hours to complete the exam. This date has been given in advanced, there are no make-ups, please plan ahead. The date has been set up by the Registrar office, so there should not be interference with another exam at the same time.

**No notes, textbooks, phones, websites, friends etc. should be used. Please do your own work and adhere to the MSU Student Honor Creed.**

### **Extra Credit**

No extra credit assignments are given to individuals that are not offered to the entire class. As the semester moves forward there will be extra credit opportunities for which your professor will ask you to watch a movie, or visit the local museum, etc. These activities are not mandatory, but if you can't do them, there are no other activities to substitute the ones you may have missed. extra-credit is given at the professor's discretion.

### **Make Up Work/Tests**

There will be no makeup quizzes, make up exams, or make up homework. However, at the end of the semester, the lowest grade of quizzes, labs, and homework will be dropped, one grade per category.

### **Course Schedule**

Notice:

Changes in the course syllabus, procedures, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor and/or required by the University.



Dates	Exams	Chapter	Topics
Week 1: 08/24- 08/28		Lección 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to the course</li> <li>• Words related to meeting, greeting, and saying goodbye</li> <li>• Courtesy expressions</li> <li>• Pronouncing the Spanish alphabet</li> </ul>
Week 2: 08/31- 09/04		Lección 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultura: <i>Saludos y besos en los países hispanos</i></li> <li>• Nouns and articles</li> <li>• Numbers 0-30</li> <li>• Present tense of ser</li> </ul>
Week 3: 09/07- 09/11		Lección 1 and Lección 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 09/07 Labor Day – No classes meet</li> <li>• Telling time</li> <li>• Words related to people, places, and classes at the university</li> <li>• Days of the week</li> </ul>
Week 4: 09/14- 09/18		Lección 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pronouncing Spanish vowels</li> <li>• Cultura: <i>La elección de una carrera universitaria</i></li> <li>• Present tense of –ar verbs</li> <li>• Forming questions</li> </ul>
Week 5: 09/21- 09/25		Lección 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present tense of estar</li> <li>• Numbers 31-100</li> <li>• Review of Chapters 1 and 2</li> </ul>
<b>09/28</b>	<b>Examen 1</b>	<b>Lecciones 1 and 2</b>	
Week 6: 09/29- 10/02		Lección 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Words relating to family and professions</li> <li>• Diphthongs and linking</li> <li>• Cultura: <i>¿Como te llamas?</i></li> <li>• Descriptive adjectives</li> <li>• Possessive Adjectives</li> </ul>
Week 7: 10/05- 10/09		Lección 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present tense of regular –er and –ir verbs</li> <li>• Present tense of tener and venir</li> </ul>
Week 8: 10/12- 10/16		Lección 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Words related to pastimes and sports</li> <li>• Places in the city</li> </ul>

Dates	Exams	Chapter	Topics
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Word stress and accent marks</li> <li>Cultura: <i>Real Madrid y Barça: rivalidad total</i></li> <li>Present tense of ir</li> </ul>
Week 9: 10/19- 10/23		Lección 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Present tense of stem-changing verbs</li> <li>Verbs with irregular yo forms</li> <li>Review of Chapters 3 and 4</li> </ul>
<b>10/26</b>	<b>Examen 2</b>	<b>Lecciones 3 and 4</b>	
Week 10: 10/27- 10/30		Lección 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Words related to vacationing, travel, weather, seasons, months, ordinal numbers</li> <li>Pronouncing b and v</li> <li>Cultura: <i>El Camino Inca</i></li> <li>Estar with conditions and emotions</li> </ul>
Week 11: 11/02- 11/06		Lección 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The present progressive</li> <li>Comparing ser and estar</li> <li>Direct object nouns and pronouns</li> </ul>
Week 12: 11/09- 11/13		Lección 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Words related to clothing and shopping</li> <li>Colors and other adjectives</li> <li>Pronouncing d and t</li> <li>Cultura: <i>Los mercados al aire libre</i></li> <li>Numbers 101 and higher</li> </ul>
Week 13: 11/16- 11/20		Lección 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preterite tense of regular verbs</li> <li>Indirect object pronouns Demonstrative adjectives</li> </ul>
Week 14: 11/23- 11/24			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of Chapters 5 and 6</li> <li><i>Last week to meet face to face</i></li> </ul>
<b>11/24</b>	<b>Examen 3</b>	<b>Lecciones 5 y 6</b>	
11/25- 11/29			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Thanksgiving Break</i></li> </ul>

Dates	Exams	Chapter	Topics
Week 15: 11/30- 12/4		Lecciones 1-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review for Final Exam</li><li>• Personal Reflection Essay due</li></ul>
<b>Saturday, Dec. 5, 10:30 am- 12:30 pm</b>	<b>Examen Final</b>	<b>Lecciones 1-6</b>	

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