



Elementary Spanish I
Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences
SPAN 1134 Section 105
Fall 2024 August 26 – December 7th.

Contact Information

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Course Description

The language teaching community agrees that learning language and culture are inextricably connected. 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 Spanish, orally and in writing, 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.

Skills and Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will have developed solid competencies in each of the five goal areas (the five C's): Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities. Main objectives include:

1. Ability to comprehend and respond to basic conversational patterns
2. Proficiency and knowledge of basic grammatical structures and terminologies
3. Basic proficiency in reading and writing the language
4. Knowledge of significant cultural practices and historical events from the Spanish-speaking world
5. Ability to use technology for e-mail and research of selected topics in Spanish
6. Ability to use the Supersite for oral and written practice of Spanish.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Please, visit this website, and create a log in, it will be the same log in that you will need to access your materials to do homework, so make sure you write down your log in credentials

[Link to purchase book](#)

Once you access the site go to Spanish Language and open the options, you will see several options, you can purchase the option for \$190.00 but remember that this version is only online, if you want a book, you can buy the version for \$178.00. I know you will be tempted to buy the cheapest option, but don't do it because that one is missing the entire platform of homework exercises.

Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance

At least one hour of study is required on a daily basis for this course, including weekends. Be aware that if you need tutoring, please contact the [Academic Support Office](#). Also, your online component has tutorials about grammar and vocabulary embedded in each chapter: [VHL Central Supersite](#). Your professor is also available for a zoom consultation in case you need some clarification, but she will not act as a tutor for you, there are resources available for you to use.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

For this particular class, the professor considers cheating the act of using any kind of help to do the homework, answer exams, write compositions, and do any work with assistance either from another person or from an app such as a translation app or a chatGPT app. If the professor considers the student work is beyond the level of Spanish 1134 the professor reserves the right to give a zero for the work submitted. If the student keeps repeating the same behavior despite written warnings from the professor, the professor reserves the right to give the student a zero for the entire course. If the student challenges the professor's decision, the student has the obligation to demonstrate in person their writing skills by creating similar content to that of the offense.

The university defines Academic Dishonesty as: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given).

Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

Instructor's Class Policies

The following are rules you will need to take seriously in order to pass this class:

- This class covers one semester of content, prepare your homework and study daily if you want to be successful.
- Participation in class is mandatory and not optional since it's the best way to improve your abilities in Spanish. If you are very uncomfortable speaking in class, maybe this is not the right class for you.

- Any act of cheating will not be tolerated; you can either receive a zero for the assignment/exam, or, if the offense is repeated you can be dropped from the course. Do not risk it. Cheating in this class goes from using an app to translate your work, to using help from somebody else, or copying material from someone else's work.
- If you need to contact the professor or want to make an appointment with her, please send her an email to Claudia.Montoya@msutexas.edu you will get an answer on the same day.
- The use of cell phones is not allowed in the class, unless you don't have a laptop to access your online materials. However, if the professor suspects you are using your phone for activities other than the class work, that privilege will be revoked at risk of losing your participation points for that day.
- Attendance in this class is mandatory, you are required to be in class for the entire period. Arrive on time. You will be counted absent if you miss more than 15 minutes of class time. You are allowed to miss 6 classes, in case of emergencies; after those, the professor can drop you from the class without further notification. Be aware, the more classes you miss the more your participation grade is affected, since you can't participate when you are in class. However, if you participate consistently in class, you can always catch up with the rest of the class.
- Absences due to official university functions or documented illness will be dealt with on an individual basis and should be discussed with the instructor outside of class time. It is the student's responsibility to keep up with his/her own absences. There are no "excused" absences from regular class periods.
- You can only bring water to the classroom, in a bottle, with a lid on it.

Grading

Course Grade: The following components make up the course grade. The number of quizzes and graded homework assignments will vary according to the discretion of the professor.

Table 1: Grading Components

Elements of the course grade	Percentaje
Participation	15%
Homework Assignments (VHL Central Supersite)	15%
Online Quizzes / In class Quizzes	10%
In-class Writing Assignments	10%
Language Lab Quizzes (Bea Wood 128)	5%
Oral Activities (One per chapter)	10%
Midterm Exam (Lecciones 1-3)	15%
Comprehensive Final Exam (Lecciones 1-5)	15%
Personal Reflection essay (In English)	5%
Total	100%

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	90 - 100
B	80 - 89
C	70 - 79

Grade	Points
D	60 - 69
F	Less than 60

Vhl Homework

You will have daily assignments from the VHL Central Supersite daily. This supersite is the one that comes with your textbook.

On vhl you can find your homework under 'calendar' so you can see the amount of homework that has been assigned every day.

***Only for the homework** you will have a chance to submit the same activity up to three times on the same day. That is, you will have up to three attempts to complete your homework correctly, but make sure it says homework, because for quizzes you don't have this chance. With vhl quizzes you will only get one attempt. So make sure before doing your exercises that you pay attention if you are doing homework or quizzes. Be careful with doing your homework late, for each late day you will receive a 5% reduction on your grade for that activity, until the professor enters the chapter's grades on d2L.

D2L and Vhl Quizzes

One D2L quiz will be given at the end of each chapter on D2L, and it will cover vocabulary, grammar, and culture. These quizzes will prepare you for the Midterm and Final exams, which will be in person. No late work is accepted, and no make-up quizzes are given. No grades will be dropped in this category. You have received the dates of each quiz ahead of time, make sure you complete the quizzes on time.

Also, you will have frequent quizzes on vhl, pay attention because you can submit a vhl quiz only once. Be careful with doing your quizzes late, for each late day you will receive a 5% reduction on your grade for that quiz, until the professor enters the chapter's grades on d2L.

At the end of the course one vhl quiz grade will be dropped; but none of the D2L quizzes will be dropped.

Participation

Please note that participation contributes 15% towards the final grade in this course. Participation in class is mandatory. Your participation grade will be based on the "points system". During the class you will do activities and exercises, individually or as a group. Each time your professor asks you a question, or we do an oral activity, you should answer in Spanish for which you will receive points. The professor will register the participation of each chapter individually. You will have a total of five participation grades. Notice that you will have to speak Spanish during the class. Don't worry about speaking perfect Spanish, accuracy will come with practice. There will be frequent group work for which the entire group will receive participation points as well. No grades will be dropped from this category. Hence, your attendance is fundamental for your success in the class, if you are not in class, you can't participate.

Composiciones

There will be writing assignments according to your level of Spanish at the end of each chapter. The writing of these 'composiciones' is an in class activity, if you are not in class to write on the given dates, you will be given a zero for the activity of that day. At the end of the course, the lowest grade will be dropped. The purpose of these activities is to help you to form sentences, and then paragraphs in order for you to become more confident in your writing and general expression.

Oral Activities

There will be one major oral activity per chapter, every activity will be related to the vocabulary of the chapter, but it will recycle material from other chapters since a language is a building process. Sometimes the activities will be interviewing another classmate and reporting on your findings, and sometimes they will be about expressing your own ideas or producing a creative piece. Your lowest grade on this assignment will be dropped.

Language Laboratory

You will take a quiz based on videos you will have to watch at the World Languages Laboratory in Bea Wood 127. There are a total of five lab quizzes to complete, one for each chapter covered this semester. Please give your MSU Student ID to the lab attendant in order to receive your quiz. You will receive a quiz and a Scantron. You are not allowed to use books, notes, or any other materials when completing the quiz. However, you can preview the videos on your [VHL Central Supersite](#). When you arrive to the lab, please sign out at the lab attendant's desk in order to retrieve your student ID. ***Write your name on the scantron, the lab chapter, and the date.** Do not write on the test. Make-up and/or late quizzes are not permitted. Your lowest lab grade will be dropped at the end of the semester.

Midterm Exam

There is a Midterm exam that covers chapters 6 -8. You will be tested on vocabulary, grammar, writing and culture. The exam is in person, not on d2l. Remember, the best way to retain the material is to come to class, participate, and do your homework consistently. There is no make-up Exam, so please be in class.

Final Exam

The final exam is scheduled for Saturday, December 7th from 10:30am to 12:30pm. There are no make-ups for the exam, so make sure you plan ahead to take it during the required time and date, make sure you mark your calendar because if you miss the exam you will receive a zero. The final exam covers the content of chapters 1 to 5.

Reflective Essay

Towards the end of the semester, you will write a personal reflective essay related to a sociocultural aspect. The cultural topic will present the student with an ethical dilemma or issue for resolution. Students should demonstrate that

they have adequately researched and considered the topic in the framework of the core curriculum objectives. The essay will be written in English, and it will be an opinion type of essay of no more, but no less than three pages. It should be typed, and it should follow the guidelines given on d2l. The Personal Reflective Essay serves as an assessment of the student's performance of the core curriculum objectives in the specific context of this course. The essay will be due towards the end of the semester.

Midterm Exam

There is a Midterm exam that covers chapter 1 -3. You will be tested on vocabulary, grammar, writing and culture, as well as a listening section. Be careful not to use translation apps or any other type of help because if you are suspected of cheating, you may receive a zero for either the section of the exam where cheating is suspected or for the entire exam if the cheating seems pervasive. If you challenge the professor's decision, you will have to write in front of her similar activities than those on the exam to prove you really know the material.

Late Work /Make up Work / Tests

When it comes to your online homework and quizzes you have up to two days to submit your work late without penalty, but if you exceed this time you will automatically receive a zero. Other than the previous, there is no late work or exams accepted. You have the schedule of activities, please do them on time, and if you have a serious impediment such as an accident or illness, please contact your professor immediately, so arrangements can be made, provided you have medical documentation and at the discretion of your professor.

At the end of the semester, the lowest grade of vhl quizzes, labs, homework, and Vhl participation will be dropped, one grade per category, except for in-class participation, d2L quizzes, and Exams.

If you have to miss an exam due to an official university function, please make arrangements with your professor prior to the exam and as soon as possible. If you are absent from an exam, you must present documented proof of illness or university activity to your instructor before an early or make up exam will be scheduled. Be aware that scheduling a make up examination is up to the discretion of your professor.

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: August 29 Check the [Academic Calendar](#).

Deadline to file for graduation: December graduates September 23 / May graduates October 4th.. Check the date on the [Academic Calendar](#).

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" October 9th. Check the date on the [Academic Calendar](#).

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

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. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor. ***Important: Chromebooks DO NOT work with D2L.***

Counseling

If you think you may be experiencing depression, anxiety, substance abuse or any other situation for which you think counseling may help, please visit the [Counseling Resource Page](#) where you can find great online apps and assistance that can connect you to a real counselor.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees, and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. However, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans, and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

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 an 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 [Disability Support Services](#).

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibit the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state, and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License-to-carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by the MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled "Run. Hide. Fight." which may be electronically accessed via the University police department's webpage: ["Run. Hide. Fight."](#)

Obligation to Report Sex Discrimination under State and Federal Law

Midwestern State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. State and federal law require University employees to report sex discrimination and sexual misconduct to the University's Office of Title IX. As a faculty member, I am required to report to the Title IX Coordinator any allegations, personally observed behavior, or other direct or indirect knowledge of conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination or sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating violence, or stalking, involving a student or employee. After a report is made, the office of Title IX will reach out to the affected student or employee in an effort to connect such person(s) with resources and options in

addressing the allegations made in the report. You are also encouraged to report any incidents to the office of Title IX. You may do so by contacting:

Laura Hetrick
 Title IX Coordinator
 Sunwatcher Village Clubhouse
 940-397-4213
 laura.hetrick@msutexas.edu

You may also file an online report 24/7 at

[File a report here](#)

Should you wish to visit with someone about your experience in confidence, you may contact the MSU Counseling Center at 940-397-4618. For more information on the University’s policy on Title IX or sexual misconduct, please visit [Title IX Office](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

***Notice:** Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Schedule:

Dates		Chapter	
Week 1, August 26 – August 30 th .	N/A	Chap. 1	Introduction to the course Preparación 1: Words related to meeting, greeting, and saying goodbye Preparación 1: Courtesy expressions Cultura: Saludos y espacio personal. Gram. 1.1 Nouns and articles Gram. 1.2 Numbers 0-30 Pronunciación
Week 2, Sep 2 nd .. – Sep 6 th .	N/A	Chap. 1	Lectura: Cognados Gram. 1.3 Present tense of ser Gram. 1.4 Telling time *Lab 1 Oral Activity Writing activity (Composición) *Chapter Quiz 1

Dates		Chapter	
Week 3, Sep 9th – Sep 13	N/A	Chap. 2	Preparación 2: Words related to people, places, and classes at the university Preparación 2: Days of the week Pronunciación Cultura: La elección de una carrera universitaria Gram. 2.1 Present tense of –ar verbs
Week 4, Sep 16 - 20	N/A	Chap. 2	Gram. 2.2 Forming questions Gram. 2.3 Present tense of estar Gram. 2.4 Numbers 31-100
Week 5, Sep 23 to 27	N/A	Chap. 2	Lectura: La Universidad... *Lab 2 Oral Activity Writing activity (Composición) *Chapter Quiz 2
Week 6, Sep. 30th - Oct. 4th	N/A	Chap. 3	Preparación 3: Words relating to family and professions Pronunciación Cultura: ¿Cómo te llamas? Gram. 3.1 Descriptive adjectives
Week 7, Oct 7 th . – 11 th .	N/A	Chap. 3	Gram. 3.2 Possessive adjectives Gram. 3.3 Present tense of regular -er and -ir verbs Gram. 3.4 Present tense of tener and venir
Week 8, Oct 14 - 18	N/A	Chap. 3	Lectura: Las familias *Lab 3 Oral Activity Writing activity (Composición) *Chapter Quiz 3
Week 9, Oct 21 – 25	N/A	Chap 4	Monday Oct 21 *Midterm Exam Preparación 4: Words related to pastimes and sports Preparación 4: Places in the city Gram. 4.1 Present tense of ir Pronunciación Cultura: Real Madrid y Barca
Week 10, Oct 28 – Nov 1 st .	N/A	Chap. 4	Gram. 4.2 Present tense of stem-changing verbs: e→ie, o→ue Gram. 4.3 Present tense of stem-changing verbs: e→i
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Dates		Chapter	
Week 11, Nov 4 - 8		Chap. 4	Gram. 4.4 Verbs with irregular yo forms Lectura: Guía para el fin de semana *Lab 4 Oral Activity Writing activity (Composición) *Chapter Quiz 4
Week 12, Nov 11 - 15	N/A	Chap 5	Preparación 5: Words related to vacationing, travel, weather, seasons, months, ordinal numbers. Cultura: El Camino Inca Gram. 5.1 Estar with conditions and emotions Gram. 5.2 The present progressive
Week 13, Nov 18 - 22	N/A	Chap. 5	Gram. 5.2 The present progressive Gram. 5.3 Comparing ser and estar
N/A Week 14, Nov 25 - Nov 29	Thanks Giving 27 - 29	N/A	Gram. 5.4 Direct object nouns and pronouns Lectura: Turismo ecológico en PR *Lab 4 Oral Activity Writing activity (Composición) *Chapter Quiz 4
Week 15, Dec 2 nd . - 6		Chap. 5	Personal Reflective Essay (Drop off assignment on d2L). Due date Monday, December 4th. *Lab 5 Oral Activity Writing activity (Composición) *Chapter Quiz 5 Review for Final Exam
December 7th.	Final Exam	Chaps. 1 to 5	From 10:30am to 12:30pm Location: TBA