



Elementary Spanish I SPAN 1134 Section X30
Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences
August 24 – December 4
Online

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Claudia Montoya

E-mail: claudia.montoya@msutexas.edu

Class meeting: Online

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, 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

In order to purchase your online book and materials, go to [Vista Higher Learning](#) and create your password. It will be the same that you will be using each time you do your homework. After creating your password and gaining access, you will see different offerings of the same book 'Aventuras 7th. edition'. I recommend you buy the 'Digital Access Only' version that costs \$113.29. If you are going to take Spanish 1234 in the Spring, you can purchase in the Spring an extension code. Make sure your package has the Supersite Plus w/ vText and the Online Student Activity Manual Workbook (WebSAM)

Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance

At least two hours of study are required on a daily basis for this course, including weekends. 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](#), in addition, you will find slides on D2L for each grammar topic. If you have a problem during the course, please email your professor immediately.

Instructor Class Policies

This class covers one semester of content, prepare your homework and study daily if you want to be successful. The following are rules you will need to take seriously in order to pass this class:

1. You are responsible for going over the section 'Read Me First' on d2l to understand how this course is going to work. Make sure to take the Quiz in order to be allowed to move to chapter 1.
2. In order to be successful in this course and be able to absorb the material it's important to devote up to two hours of study daily, consistency matters.
3. Any kind of cheating, plagiarism, or collusion will result in penalties going from a zero in a particular activity to a zero for the entire course. Be aware that using a translation app or having a 'friend' doing your work is cheating. The decision to drop you from the course is at the discretion of the professor: do not risk your grade!
4. On d2l, there are no make ups for any assignment, once the deadline has passed, d2l automatically will assign you a zero.
5. On Vhl, you can submit late homework with a 10% deduction from your assignment grade per missing day. Grades will be collected at the end of each chapter when grades are entered on D2L. There will be homework assigned for every day of the week, and occasionally on

weekends; that will help to reduce the number of assignments per day.

6. The final grades are the ones entered on D2L and not the ones on Vhl.
7. You are responsible for learning how to use the d2l and the vhl program by following your professor's instructions on the 'Read Me First' section. If you fail an assignment under the excuse that you didn't understand how the technology works, there will be nothing your professor can do to help you. If you have questions always contact your professor ahead of an exam, never on the day of the exam, because you are risking for her not to see your email on time.
8. This class covers one semester of content, prepare your homework and study daily if you want to be successful. The Final Exam is comprehensive; thus, it covers the content of the entire semester, chapters 1 to 5. There is also a Midterm Exam covering chapters 1 to 3.
9. Your professor is willing to give you guidance if you are struggling with a particular topic, but she is not going to become your personal tutor throughout the summer session. If you need constant assistance with your Spanish, please consider visiting the tutoring center:
<https://msutexas.edu/academics/tasp/on-campus.php/>
10. You are responsible for checking d2l and Vhl daily for assignments and daily email communications. You have chosen to take this course online, so please make sure you have a computer with a camera and microphone able to record, with a speaker able to play sound, and a system that can carry d2l and zoom. Important to note that Chromebooks are NOT recommended for this course since they are not compatible with d2l.

If you need to contact the professor, please send her an email to claudia.montoya@msutexas.edu You will receive an answer the same day, or 24 hours after, the latest.

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 instructor.

Table 1: Elements of the Course Grade

Elements of the Course Grade	% of Course Grade
Homework Assignments (VHL Central Supersite)	15%
Vhl Quizzes	10%
D2L Quizzes (at the end of each chapter)	12%
Writing Assignments D2L (at the end of the chapter)	5%
Speaking Assignments D2L (at the end of the chapter)	10%
Participation vhl (at the end of the chapter)	5%
Midterm Exam (Lecciones 1-3)	15%
D2L Vocabulary Quizzes	8%
Comprehensive Final Exam (Lecciones 1-5)	20%
Total	100%

Table 2: Total percentages for final grade.

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

Assignments

Vhl Homework and Tutorials

You will have daily assignments from the VHL Central Supersite. This supersite is the one that comes with your textbook. Once you enter the section with its online activities you will see they divide them in several sections:

1. Preparación: is the section for vocabulary, each chapter of the book comes with a vocabulary section (your book in the package is called vText, use it to study before you do the homework). Also, for homework, a section title 'Tutorial' pertaining to vocabulary where you can practice pronunciation and memorization of words, will be assigned each chapter on vhl, there is nothing to do in these tutorials but to watch them as you were in the class watching your professor repeating vocabulary.
2. Pronunciación: is the section with some pronunciation activities.

3. Aventuras: this section is very important, it is a mini-series like a soap opera, and it comes with activities for after viewing each video. They are also part of your Speaking activities on D2I.
4. Cultura: is a small reading about a cultural topic.
5. Flash Cultura: is a brief video about a cultural topic, different than the Aventuras video.
6. Gramática: please study this section in the vText (the book), but I have also prepared slides that I have posted under content on D2I. The grammar points are organized by chapters. We start the course with chapter 1, so the first grammar topic of chapter 1 is 1.1, the second one 1.2 and so forth. Each chapter has about three or four grammar topics.

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

Only for the homework you will have a chance to submit the same activity up to three times, being the third time your last chance; but make sure that what you are completing is homework, because for quizzes and participation you will have only one attempt, the first one, so pay attention to the kind of activity you are doing. Also, ONLY FOR HOMEWORK, you will be able to turn in late work, but you will receive a 10% deduction of your grade for EACH late day. Also, once your professor places the grades on D2I, no more late homework is accepted for that chapter, so ***if you have missed homework by the time your professor has entered the grades on D2I, you will receive a grade of zero with no possibility to change it.**

Vhl Quizzes

On Vhl you will have, besides the homework, quizzes. You will find them the same way you find the homework, but they will say quizzes. Make sure you have studied and done your homework to practice before you take these quizzes, because ***you only have ONE attempt at taking them, if you fail the quiz, you cannot re-take it, unlike the homework. Also, you have to take the quizzes on the due date, failing to do this will grant you a zero for the quiz.**

D2L Vocabulary Quizzes

On D2I you will always have a vocabulary quiz at the beginning of the chapter, after you have done the vocabulary section on vhl. The due date will be just right after you have completed your vocabulary practice on Vhl. These vocabulary quizzes will be designed by your professor, and will be true

or false, multiple choice, matching, etc. These D2L quizzes have to be taken within the established dates, there are no make up quizzes here either.

Participation

Participation is made up of a section called "Repaso" on Vhl at the end of each chapter, for each chapter you will have two reviews: Repaso de gramática and Repaso de vocabulario. You will have only one chance at each answer, so make sure you have completed the chapter before doing these activities. You will be allowed to turn participation activities late, but you will be deducted 10% of the grade each day that you are late on each single activity you are late. Also, once your professor places the grades on D2L, no more late participation is accepted for that chapter, and the repasos, which count towards participation, come at the end of the chapter, close to when the professor 'collects' the grades.

Writing Activities

At the end of each chapter you will be asked to submit a small composition on D2L, related to the content of each chapter. Students at this level will make some mistakes and that is fine. If the professor finds the language and grammar you use to be way more advanced than Elementary Spanish I, your professor will give you a zero for the activity under the suspicion you have used an app to translate/write your work. If you challenge the professor's decision, you will have to write a similar composition in front of her to demonstrate you have the level of Spanish you show in your work, you also will have to answer to oral questions on the spot, to demonstrate you have the level of Spanish your writing shows. These evaluations will be conducted on zoom, and you will have to find the time to meet up. Do not risk it!

D2L Speaking Practice

The speaking practice will take place on D2L, and it will be posted under assignments, you will be given a set of questions based on the Aventuras mini- series that is part of your Vhl package, and some open questions. You will be assigned a video of the mini- series each chapter, and you will have regular online homework for it; but also, the questions of the oral practice will be based on the video you see for the chapter. There will be a total of five oral practices: some of the questions will be directly about the mini-series and other questions will be prompted by the mini-series. For this section you need to use the tools provided on D2L to record yourself answering the questions (do not use an external app to record or you will receive a zero since most of the time D2L can't open those files), you will need to submit a video of yourself and voice recording to prevent cheating, so you have to have a functional camera, and your face should be clearly visible. Also, ***you should record all your answers at once and submit**

only one file: under no circumstances you can submit a file for each answer. Do not use an app for recording, use the recording tools that exist on D2L. If your professor can't open the file because you failed to follow the instructions, you will receive a zero for the activity, late work is not accepted.

D2L Chapter Quizzes

These chapter quizzes come at the end of each chapter and they will help you to review for the midterm and final exams: you will have one chapter quiz at the end of each chapter. You will have a total of five chapter-quizzes with a total value of 12 percent. The chapter quizzes will be extensive, they will cover vocabulary, grammar, and culture, they will have multiple choice, matching, true or false, fill in the blank activities, listening activities, but also it will have open questions and writing sentences. If you are suspected of getting help when you answer these chapter quizzes, you will receive a zero for the quiz and if the behavior persists, you will be dropped from the course. However, for these chapter quizzes you can use your textbook or notes if you wish, just be aware of the pass of time because you can run out of time while looking for an answer. You can definitely ***NOT** use a translation app or a 'friend' to help you... trust me, it shows.

Midterm Exam

There is a Midterm exam that covers chapter 1 -3. You will be tested on vocabulary, grammar, writing and culture. 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. Neither for the Midterm exam nor for the final exam are you allowed at any time to use your book or class notes. If you challenge the professor's decision, you will have to write in front of her similar activities (but not the same) than those on the exam to prove you really know the material. The Midterm Exam is 15% of your total grade. The Midterm exam will last one hour, it will be given on a specific date, and it will be open for you to take it from 8am to 11pm. There are no make ups; so, be prepared.

Final Exam

The final exam is scheduled for Saturday, December 5th. It will be open from 2am to 11pm., and it will last two hours. Make sure you mark your calendar because if you miss the exam you will receive a zero. You have the date and time in advance, plan ahead to avoid any problems since there are no make ups. The final exam covers the content of chapters 1 to 5 and it's 20% of your total grade. Be aware you are not allowed to use help of any kind: textbook, class notes, translation, apps, a friend, etc., are all considered

cheating, and you can receive a zero for the entire exam, especially if you have been warned before about such behavior.

Important Dates

Classes begin: Monday, August 24.

Last Day for "W", 4:00pm: November 23 (Drops after this date will receive grades of "F.")

Deadline for August graduates to file for graduation: September 21.

Final examinations begin: December 5.

Extra Credit

There will not be opportunities offered for extra credit in this course; if at any point you are concerned about your performance in the class, please contact the professor as soon as possible to help you develop strategies to reach your goals.

Make up Work / Tests /Dropped Grades

There will be no makeup quizzes, make up exams, or make up homework. Be aware that **ONLY** Homework and Participation on vhl can be turned in late, but 10% from your grade will be deducted per each late day on each assignment you are late. Once grades are collected for the chapter you can't submit late homework nor Participation for that chapter anymore; other than that, ANY late assignment will receive automatically a zero, including those on D2L. At the end of the semester, the lowest grade of vocabulary D2L quizzes, Vhl quizzes, homework, participation, and writing will be dropped, one on each category. There will not be dropped grades on speaking activities nor chapter quizzes. You will receive the dates of the Midterm and Final Exams in advance, plan accordingly, missing these exams will grant you a zero.

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.

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) exists 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 application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Student Wellness Center, (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](#).

Emergency Aid Resources for Basic Needs

Unexpected life circumstances can affect anyone. If you are experiencing challenges meeting basic needs—such as housing, utilities, food, transportation, healthcare, technology, textbooks or other life necessities, resources may be available to help. Visit the [Student Emergency Support and Resources webpage](#) to learn more, and explore emergency support opportunities through MSU and how to access them. For additional information, please contact the Office of Student Affairs: Clark Student Center #108, (940) 397-7500, student.affairs@mstuexas.edu.

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 prohibits 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 has 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 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."](#)

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

Notice

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Dates	Chapter	
Week 1, August 24 – August 28	Chap. 1	• Introduction to the course • Preparación 1: Words related to meeting, greeting, and saying goodbye • Preparación 1: Expressions of Courtesy • Cultura: Saludos y espacio personal. • Gram. 1.1 Nouns and articles • Pronunciación
Week 2, August 31 – Sep 4	Chap. 1	• Gram. 1.2 Numbers 0-30 • Gram. 1.3 Present tense of ser • Gram. 1.4 Telling time • *Aventuras video and Flash Cultura • Oral Activity • Lectura: Información importante • Writing activity (Composición) • *Chapter Quiz 1
Week 3, Sep 7 – Sep 11	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 14 - 18	Chap. 2	• Gram. 2.2 Forming questions • Gram. 2.3 Present tense of estar • Gram. 2.4 Numbers 31-100 • Lectura: La Universidad... • * Aventuras video and Flash Cultura • Oral Activity • Writing activity (Composición) • *Chapter Quiz 2
Week 5, Sep 21 to 25	Chap. 3	• Preparación 3: Words relating to family and professions • Pronunciación • Cultura: ¿Cómo te llamas? • Gram. 3.1 Descriptive adjectives • Gram. 3.2 Possessive adjectives
Week 6, Sep. 28 - Oct. 2	Chap. 3	• Gram. 3.3 Present tense of regular -er and -ir verbs • Gram. 3.4 Present tense of tener and venir

Dates	Chapter	
Week 7, Oct 5 – 09	Chap. 3	- Lectura: Las familias * Aventuras video and Flash Cultura - Oral Activity - Writing activity (Composición) *Chapter Quiz 3
Week 8, Oct 12 – 16 *Midterm Exam / TBA	Chap. 4	- Review for the Midterm - Preparación 4: Words related to pastimes and sports - Preparación 4: Places in the city
Week 9, Oct 19 – 23	Chap 4	- Cultura: ¡El fútbol es mi pasión! - Gram. 4.1 Present tense of ir - Pronunciación - Gram. 4.2 Present tense of stem-changing verbs: e→ie, o→ue * Aventuras video and Flash Cultura
Week 10, Oct 26 – 30	Chap. 4	- Gram. 4.3 Present tense of stem-changing verbs: e→i - Gram. 4.4 Verbs with irregular yo forms - Lectura: Guía para el fin de semana
Week 11, Nov 2 - 6	N/A Chap. 4/5	- Oral Activity - Writing activity (Composición) *Chapter Quiz 4 - Preparación 5: Words related to vacationing, travel, weather, seasons, months, ordinal numbers
Week 12, Nov 9 - 13	Chap 5	- Cultura: El Camino Inca - Gram. 5.1 Estar with conditions and emotions - Gram. 5.2 The present progressive - Gram. 5.3 Comparing ser and estar * Aventuras video and Flash Cultura
Week 13, Nov 16 – 24	Chap. 5	- Gram. 5.4 Direct object nouns and pronouns - Lectura: Turismo ecológico en PR - Oral Activity - Writing activity (Composición) *Chapter Quiz 5
Week 15, Nov 30 – Dec. 4	Chap. 5	Review for Final Exam, chapters 1 – 5
December 5 *Final Exam	Chaps. 1 to 5	Final Exam: From 2am to 11pm