



## ELEMENTARY SPANISH I

Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences

SPAN 1134.103 - MTWR 11:00am - 11:50am (PY 203)

SPAN 1134.105 – MTWR 12:00pm - 12:50pm (DB 328)

FALL 2021

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Instructor:** Dr. Philip Allen

**Office:** Bea Wood 105

**Office Hours:** Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00am - 10:50am *or by appointment*. (face-to-face), and by appointment via *Zoom* or *Skype* (e-mail to reserve a time).

**Office Phone:** (940) 397-4029

**E-mail:** [philip.allen@msutexas.edu](mailto:philip.allen@msutexas.edu)

**NOTE:** This course has been planned as a fully face-to-face course for Fall 2021. The class will meet in its regularly scheduled room but will utilize social distancing, face coverings and an assigned seating chart. I will use D2L for posting syllabi, course communication, course schedule, attendance, and gradebook. You should regularly check D2L and the email hosted via D2L for important course information. This course is considered medium-risk according to the MSU Texas Return to Campus Task Force Academic Subcommittee's Report: [https://msutexas.edu/return-to-campus/\\_assets/files/december-2020-reopening-taskforce-report.pdf](https://msutexas.edu/return-to-campus/_assets/files/december-2020-reopening-taskforce-report.pdf) If you have health concerns that may affect your ability to participate in this face-to-face course, according to the guidelines set forth in the linked report, please consult with Disability Support Services as soon as possible: <https://msutexas.edu/student-life/disability/covid/student-concerns.php> Scroll to the bottom of the linked page and open the section titled: What is the process for working with the DSS on this issue? You may also call their office at 397-4140.

## 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. Please check the D2L dashboard for this course and your MSU Texas email account daily. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

In SPANISH 1134, you will begin to communicate in Spanish using practiced words and phrases to talk and write about familiar topics related to school, home, and the community. We will specifically focus on knowing *how, when, and why to say what to whom* using interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational communicative modes in Spanish to explore the ideas, values, beliefs and other cultural aspects of Spanish-speaking peoples across the world and how these aspects work together to mold and influence the human experience. We will communicate and interact with cultural understanding, using Spanish to function appropriately in basic personal, academic, and career-related situations in multilingual communities at home and around the world. In this course, we will develop linguistic proficiency by addressing each of the five World-Readiness Standards (the five C's): Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities.

## SKILLS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of SPANISH 1134, you will be able to understand and express ideas in Spanish at the novice-mid level. This includes, but is not limited to:

1. Developing the ability to comprehend and respond to simple conversations and correspondence about yourself and others.
2. Applying elementary grammatical structures and lexicon in spoken and written form.
3. Reading small texts and excerpts of texts and being able to understand their overall meaning with no external aid.
4. Writing small texts to narrate events in the past and present tenses and to describe items related to yourself and others.
4. Acquiring a knowledge of and appreciation for cultural perceptions, practices, and products across the Spanish-speaking world.
5. Using authentic resources and technology to research information and complete tasks in Spanish (individually and in small groups).
6. Making meaningful connections between your previous knowledge of Spanish and Spanish-speaking peoples and cultures and the material learned in this course.

Some specific skills that will be developed in this course include:

- Introducing yourself, greeting and saying goodbye to others, learning courteous expressions, talking about yourself and others, spelling, performing simple math operations, asking and telling time.
- Describing your university and classroom, exchanging information about courses of study, talking about the calendar and dates, asking and responding to simple questions.
- Talking about your family and friends, describing yourself, other people and things, saying how old you and others are, talking about things that belong to you and others.

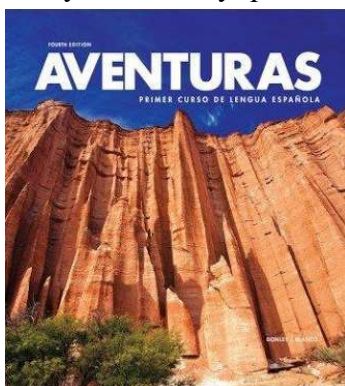
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- Talking about hobbies, weekend activities and sports, talking about what you are going to do, planning activities, extending invitations, apologizing.
- Talking about your vacation plans, describing a hotel, talking about how you and others feel, negotiating and paying for items, describing your daily routine.
- Describing and illustrating aspects of the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries and making connections and comparisons among cultures using elementary linguistic structures and vocabulary in the target language.
- Evaluating personal values, behaviors, and worldviews on the socio-cultural topics presented and comparing them to those of some Spanish-speakers.

## REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGY

1. The following package is required for all Elementary Spanish language courses. These materials will be used for both SPAN 1134 and SPAN 1234: ***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 [VHL Central Supersite](#) plus & Websam technology. \*Please note **the code with this package lasts for 36 months**. Please contact your instructor or World Languages & Cultures at 397-4309 if you have any questions.



2. Ten (10) sheets —two (2) packages— of long scantrons.
3. The following technology recommendations are taken 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):

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> </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> </ul>

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PC Desktops and laptops Minimum Specifications	Mac desktops and laptops Minimum Specifications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use Windows' Operating System and PC Info to find your hardware information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use Apple's About this Mac feature to find your hardware information</li> </ul>

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

## STUDY HOURS AND TUTORING

Your success and learning require substantial commitment, self-discipline, and study both in and out of class. The level of proficiency and cultural competence you attain depends largely on what YOU put in to your learning. As such, you should expect to dedicate at least one hour of daily study outside of class time in order to be successful in this course. You are encouraged to come to my office or meet with me via *Zoom* or *Skype* when you have questions about topics presented in class. Typically, tutoring is also available for free with our departmental tutor and/or with the MSU Tutoring Center (McCullough Hall). Keep an eye out on D2L for further information!

## ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Academic Dishonesty is defined 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.

### 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

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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.”

For more information on proper student conduct and university-wide expectations, including additional guidelines on the procedures mentioned above, please refer to the most recent edition of the [MSU Texas Student Handbook](#).

## GRADE COMPONENTS

Category	Percent of Final Grade
Preparation and Participation	10%
VHL Homework	10%
D2L Quizzes	7.5%
Lab Quizzes	7.5%
Exam I	15%
Exam II	15%
Exam III	15%
Final Exam	17%
Reflective Essay	3%

### I. PREPARATION AND PARTICIPATION (10%):

SPANISH 1134 requires you to practice **Active Learning**; that is, rather than being a passive consumer of the material, you must become a participant in the learning process. In class, you and your classmates converse and collaborate on tasks, activities, and exercises in Spanish based on what you prepared beforehand. Your active participation is essential to your progress to proficiency in Spanish and, in turn, being successful in this course. There will be opportunities for you to contribute to the conversation, volunteer answers, share your work with your classmates/the whole class, and ask thought-provoking and content-related questions *in each class meeting*. The best starting point for good participation is to read the pages of the book and watch the tutorials regarding upcoming material **before the start of class** (when possible).

You will receive a grade for participation each week except for the first and last weeks of class. This grade will be available for you to see in the G2L grade book. Please refer to Addendum I: “Rubric for Grading Participation” below in order to understand the expectations and maximize your score in this category. For weeks in which you have an absence, your participation grade will be based on your performance for the days you were present. If you should happen to miss a week (excused), your participation grade from that

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week will be calculated at the end of the semester as your semester participation average.  
**Note:** Attendance is not participation!

## II. VHL HOMEWORK (10%)

We will be learning and practicing a lot of material in this course and, naturally, practice makes perfect. Before each lesson you should read the corresponding pages in the book and watch the appropriate tutorials. There will be homework assigned to accompany each item we cover in class. You will have access to the week's tutorials and assignments one (1) week before the due date. Although I highly recommend completing the assignments on the day we learn and practice the material in class, you will have until 11:59pm on the Sunday of that week to complete and submit all assigned VHL activities for the week. There will be a 10% penalty per day that each assignment is late after this deadline. Otherwise, no late VHL homework will be accepted for credit. You will have three (3) attempts on activities with more than two possible answers and one (1) attempt on activities with only two possible answers (e.g. "true/false").

## III. D2L QUIZZES (7.5%)

There will be weekly quizzes on D2L that will become available on Thursdays from 5:00pm and will close at 11:59pm on the following Sunday. These assessments will be comprised of a variety of different types of questions and/or prompts—multiple choice, short answer, and open-ended mini-compositions. Quizzes will be worth ten (10) points each and will be geared towards reinforcing the material learned during the week with the goal of helping you to be better prepared for the exams. You will have three (3) attempts at the multiple choice and short answer questions, and mini-compositions will be graded and available for your review before the next quiz becomes available on the following Thursday. No late quizzes will be accepted after the 11:59pm Sunday deadline and no make-up quizzes will be allowed.

\*I reserve the right to set timers on quizzes and to enable the Respondus Lockdown Browser.\*

## IV. LAB QUIZZES (7.5%)

You will take six listening comprehension quizzes in the World Languages Laboratory in Bea Wood 127/128. The quizzes are based on videos related to the vocabulary, grammar and cultural concepts presented in each lesson. You will need to access the site in the Language Laboratory to complete your quizzes.

Please show your MSU Student ID to the lab attendant 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. Also, do not write on the quiz. Please sign out at the lab attendant's desk. Make-up and/or late quizzes are not permitted. Your lowest lab grade will be dropped at the end of the semester. Please note the due dates below. A schedule of lab hours will be posted on D2L as soon as it is available. Also, please be aware that due to COVID-19

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restrictions, there will be fewer seats available in the Language Laboratory. Please plan ahead to avoid missing a deadline.

#### V. EXAMS (45%)

There will be three exams, one every two lessons. Each exam consists of a multiple choice, matching, and/or true false portion and a written/short answer portion. Each portion is worth approximately 50% of the exam grade. Each exam contributes 15% to the final course grade. You will be allowed one class period (50 minutes) for each exam. You will be penalized 0.25 pts. for incorrect or missing accent marks. **Note:** On sections in which you are required to answer in complete sentences, you must provide enough information to demonstrate your understanding of the meaning of all vocabulary terms in addition to their correct form.

#### VI. REFLECTIVE ESSAY (3%)

During the last week of classes, you will be required to answer a series of “Reflective Essay questions on D2L. The questions –which are aimed at providing you with an opportunity to demonstrate your critical-thinking skills regarding current events in the Spanish-speaking world– will be written in English and you are also required to provide your answers in English. Materials to prepare for this assessment and the rubrics that outline the instructor evaluation of this task will be made available to you prior to this evaluative event being made available to you online.

#### VII. FINAL EXAM (17%)

The comprehensive final exam covers all materials studied during the course. The exam consists of a multiple choice, matching, and/or true false portion and a written/short answer portion. Each portion is worth approximately 50% of the exam grade. The Final Exam contributes 20% to the final course grade. The final exam for this course is scheduled for **December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 from 10:30am-12:30pm** and the location will be announced during the last week of classes.

### GRADING SCALE

Grade	Percentage Range
A	90 - 100
B	80 - 89
C	70 - 79
D	60 - 69
F	59 and below

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## ATTENDANCE POLICY

You are expected to be in class during every meeting in order to practice your language skills by actively participating in each session. I will be taking attendance every day as I track your progress through participation. You must be present in class in order to receive participation points for that day, which will be calculated into your weekly grade. In the event of an excusable absence (university-sponsored sporting event, illness, religious observance, etc.), you must present proper documentation to your instructor as soon as you become aware of the absence in order to avoid losing participation points. If the excused absence is completely unpredictable, you have one (1) week to submit the documentation to your instructor.

## EXTRA CREDIT

There will be no extra credit offered to any student in this course. If at any time during the semester you feel concerned about your performance in this class, please consult with me as soon as possible to discuss strategies to help you improve your grade before the end of the semester approaches.

## LATE WORK AND MAKE-UP ASSIGNMENTS

No late work or make-up assignments will be allowed for this course, with the exception of the VHL Homework assignments that can be submitted late with a 10% per day penalty. Please be mindful of the weekly deadlines outlined in the Course Calendar below and plan ahead. If you know you will miss an evaluative event —exam, etc.— due to an official university function, please make arrangements with your instructor prior to the absence 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.

## STUDENT CONDUCT

Learning a new language and being expected to speak aloud in front of the class can be daunting, especially at first. Mistakes are natural and necessary to the learning process. There will be zero tolerance for any remarks or attitudes that do not contribute to a constructive, respectful, and supportive environment, both to your classmates and to your instructor.

Mobile phones and other devices should be silenced and put away during class unless permission is given to use them for an educational purpose. Text messaging, making phone calls, and being off task during class time in any other way will not be tolerated.

Eating and drinking —with the exception of water— is not allowed in the classroom.

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## 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](#).

Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary arrangements. Students must present appropriate verification from the University's Disability Support Services (DSS) Office during the instructor's office hours. Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodation(s) to a student until appropriate verification from DSS has been provided.

## UNIVERSITY 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.

### GRADE APPEAL PROCESS:

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

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