



**Course Syllabus: Spanish 1234 Syllabus
World Languages and Cultures**

Spring 2021

Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Contact Information

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Office hours: By appointment via zoom

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General Announcement

Due to a heart problem that puts me at high risk, because of the virus, I will not be able to be with you physically in the classroom. Our class will be remote, and we will use zoom to connect during the class time. Some of you have already taken Spanish I with me last semester, but some of you are new, please everyone, read carefully: to be able to access the class, please go to D2L and click on 'Communication'. At the bottom of the list you will see zoom, click there and you will find a zoom link for our class, click on that link every time you have a class with me. There is also a link for office hours, if you need to see me for office hours we need to make an appointment by email first, and then meet on 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. Something extremely important, 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 that forces you to miss some classes, remember to immediately contact me via email: Claudia.Montoya@msutexas.edu. Remember, attendance is directly linked to participation, and if you are not in class, you can't participate, there is no make-up for lost participation. The same is for all your classes: communicate with your professors, so they know what you are going thru.

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.

Access to a computer is also vital for this class.

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:

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. We will also conduct the class using zoom via D2L.

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">• Intel Core (i3, i5, i7) processors; 4th generation or newer• 4 GB of RAM, 8 GB of RAM is	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Intel Core (i3, i5, i7) processors; 4th generation or newer• 4 GB of RAM, 8 GB of RAM is

PC Desktops and laptops Minimum Specifications	Mac desktops and laptops Minimum Specifications
<p>highly recommended</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 256 GB SSD Storage • Dual band spectrum (2.4GHz and 5 GHz with 802.11ac or 802.11n) • Use Windows' Operating System and PC Info to find your hardware information 	<p>highly recommended</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 256 GB SSD Storage • Dual band spectrum (2.4GHz and 5 GHz with 802.11ac or 802.11n) • Use Apple's About this Mac feature to find your hardware information

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

If you are not sure on how your system works, please contact d2lhelp@msutexas.edu for help.

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). The WLCD offer tutoring, the tutor's name is Thalia and the times of tutoring are M: 4-5T: 8-10 & 1-3 / W: 4-5 / Sun: 2-3. You will have to use Skype to contact her, and her Skype name is live:36462def77d53da4 —or search on Skype for thaliabravo31@gmail.com

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](#)

To avoid the temptation of cheating during an Exam, your professor will be using LockdownBrowser. She will post on D2L all the instructions in order for

you to successfully take your exam. She will also create a mock exam for you to practice on how to use Lockdown-Browser prior to a real exam, this mock exam won't count for a grade.

Important Dates

**Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" is April 23rd.
Final Exam: Monday, April 26 (1pm – 3pm)**

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](#) (VHL) are only partial, and they are not official, the grade that matters is on D2L.

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 procedures 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	10%
VHL Lab Quizzes	5 %
Participation: VHL chat, VHL activities,	5 %
Virtual classroom zoom	10 %
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.

Vhl Participation

Your participation grade will be made of VHL chat activities, and VHL practice quizzes at the end of each chapter. One of these grades will be dropped at the end of the semester.

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.

In class participation

Your participation during the class is always storage in the zoom chat, so I can keep count of your participation while in class. Please do not just turn on your computer and place a picture of yourself there, you have to be on screen, answering questions in writing or orally in order for your participation to count. Even if you are in class, if you are not writing your answers to the exercises, your presence doesn't count as participation.

Please note: in class participation is 10% of your grade, and no in-class participation grades will be dropped at the end of the semester.

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, but you will take the exam using lockdown-browser. You will have an hour and 20 minutes to complete the exam, the 20 minutes will be to make up for the time you may need when using lockdown-browser. The exams will be monitored and you need a computer with camera and microphone working. You will receive a copy of the instructions on what steps you should take in order not to be flagged by the system. If lockdown-browser flags your behavior while taking an exam, your sanction can go from losing points on that exam, to receive a zero for the entire exam, and in more severe cases, to be expelled from the class with a grade

of 'F'. use your common sense, come to class, and avoid getting yourself in trouble. if you are going thru a rough time, let your professor know, but don't try to cheat your way out of the class... it won't work.

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 **Monday, April 26 from 1pm to 3 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 mainly to attend zoom activities on campus. 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. There will also be a personal reflection essay in English for extra-credit.

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, homework will be dropped, and Vhl participation will be dropped, one grade per category, except for in-class participation and Exams.

Course Schedule

Dates	Exams	Chapter	Topics
Week 1: 01/11 - 01/15		Chapter 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the course • Words related to personal hygiene and daily routines • Sequencing Expressions • Pronouncing r and rr • Cultura: <i>La siesta</i>
Week 2: 01/18- 01/22		Chapter 7	<i>Labor Day Sep. 2 - No class</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflexive Verbs • Indefinite and Negative Words • Preterite or ser and ir
Week 3: 01/25 01/29		Chapter 7 and 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gustar and other verbs like gustar • Lectura • Words related to restaurants and meals • Adjectives that describe food • The letters ll, ñ, c, and z
Week 4: 02/01 - 02/05		Chapter 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultura: <i>Frutas y verduras de América</i> • Preterite of stem-changing verbs • Double Object Pronouns
Week 5: 02/08 - 02/12		Chapter 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saber and conocer • Comparatives and Superlatives

Dates	Exams	Chapter	Topics
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lectura Review of Chapters 7 and 8
02/12	<i>Exam 1</i>	Chapters 7 and 8	
Week 6: 02/15 – 02/19		Chapter 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Words related to celebrations and desserts Personal relationships and stages of life The letters h, j, and g Cultura: <i>Semana Santa: más que una celebración</i> Irregular preterites
Week 7: 02/22 – 02/26		Chapter 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irregular preterites cont... Verbs that change meaning in the preterite ¿Qué? and ¿cuál?
Week 8: 03/01 – 03/05		Chapter 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Words related to sickness, symptoms, medicine, and the doctor's office Parts of the body Written accent marks and word stress Cultura: <i>Servicios de salud</i> The imperfect tense
Week 9: 03/08 – 03/12		Chapter 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The imperfect tense cont... Constructions with se Adverbs Lectura Review of Chapters 9 and 10
03/12	Exam 2	Chapters 9 and 10	
Week 10: 03/15 – 03/19		Chapter 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cars and Driving Home electronics and the Internet Written accents with homophones Cultura: <i>Los cibercafés</i>
Week 11: 03/22 – 03/26		Chapter 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The preterite and the imperfect Por and para
Week 12: 03/29 – 03/30	Break: 03/31- 04/02	Chapter 11 and 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stressed possessive adjectives and pronouns Words related to the home Household chores
Week 13: 04/05 – 04/09		Chapter 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultura: <i>El patio central</i> Usted and ustedes commands The present subjunctive
Week 14:		Chapter 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subjunctive with verbs of will and influence

Dates	Exams	Chapter	Topics
04/12 – 04/16			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="711 258 857 279">• Lectura
04/16	Exam 3	Chapters 11 and 12	Personal Reflection Essay submission (extra credit)
Week 15: 04/19 – 04/23	Last week	Chapters 7-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="711 396 1052 417">• Review for Final Exam
Monday, April 26 1pm – 3pm	Final Exam	Chapters 7-12	

I wish you all a safe and productive semester: wear your mask, be supportive of others, and pamper yourself the right way. If you need counseling during these times, please seek the counseling services office:

<https://msutexas.edu/student-life/counseling/>