



Elementary Spanish I
Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences
SPAN 1134 Section X10
Fall Semester August 25 – December 6

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, 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

To purchase your online book and materials, please click on this link 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 \$109.99 if you are going to take Spanish 1234 next semester, you will only have to pay \$69.99 for an extension. Make sure your package has the Supersite Plus w/ vText and the Online Student Activity Manual Workbook (WebSAM)

This is the link, please, copy and paste the link to your browser, so it can open properly: <https://vistahigherlearning.com/store/school/midwesternstate>

Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance

At least two hours of study are required daily for this course, including weekends. If you need tutoring, please contact the Academic Support Office: <https://msutexas.edu/academics/tasp/on-campus.php> . 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.

Professor's 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 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 before you move to chapter 1.
2. To be successful on this course and be able to absorb the material, it's important to devote up to two or three hours of daily study.
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 is no make-up 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, many times including 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 your professor may not 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 semester. 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. It is 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 before 8pm

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other people, 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](#)

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: Grading Components

Assignments	Percentaje
Vhl Homework	15%
Vhl Quizzes	5%

Assignments	Percentaje
D2L Vocabulary Quizzes	5%
D2LChapter Quizzes (at the end of the chapter)	10%
D2L Speaking Practice (end of the chapter)	10%
D2L Writing Activities (end of the chapter)	5%
Live Speaking Exams (2)	15%
Midterm Exam (Lecciones 1-3)	15%
Comprehensive Final Exam (Lecciones 1 - 5)	15%
Repaso	5%
Total	100%

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

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

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.
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 d2l. 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 two or three 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, on the same day; but make sure 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 5% deduction of your grade for EACH late day. Also, once your professor places the grades on D2L, 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 D2L, you will receive a grade of zero with no possibility to change it.**

Vhl Quizzes / D2L Vocabulary 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 must take the quizzes on the due date, failing to do this will grant you a zero for the quiz.** On d2l you will always have a vocabulary quiz at the beginning of the chapter, after you have completed the vocabulary activities 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. Each one of these categories of quizzes is 5% of your grade, totaling 10%.

Live Speaking Exams I and II

There will be two Speaking Exams via zoom individually with each student, one at the end of chapter 3, right after the Midterm Exam and one at the end of chapter 5 right before the Final Exam. You will receive the available times to schedule your appointment before the interviews take place. The questions for the interview will be like the ones asked in the practice, but not the same. You will be provided with a set of questions to practice, but those questions will only serve you as a guide to prepare, your professor reserves the right to ask you different questions from the list. The meetings will be on zoom, and you will find the zoom link on d2l under 'Content' only when the time comes.

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 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 can you submit a file for each answer: do one single recording with all your answers. ***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.

Writing Activities

At the end of each chapter you will be asked to submit a small composition related to the content of each chapter on D2L. Students at this level will make some mistakes and that is fine. If the professor finds the language you use and the grammar to be way more advanced than Elementary Spanish I, your professor may 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, different from your in person oral activity, to demonstrate you have the level of Spanish your writing shows. Do not risk it!

D2L Chapter Quizzes

These chapter quizzes will help you to review for the exam: 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 and grammar, and culture, they will have multiple choice, matching, true or false, fill in the blank activities, listening activities, but also 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.

Midterm Exam

There is a Midterm exam that covers chapters 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. If you challenge the professor's decision, you will have to write in front of her similar activities (but not the same) as 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 is no make-up; so, be prepared.

Repaso

Repaso means 'Review' and it's made up of a section called "Repaso" on Vhl at the end of each chapter. These reviews are a total of five, one per chapter, and they will be assigned towards the end of the semester. They will help you to review for the final exam. For each chapter you will have two reviews: Repaso de gramática and Repaso de vocabulario. You will have two chances at each answer. You will have a deadline to complete these reviews towards the end of the semester.

Final Exam

The final exam is scheduled for Saturday, December 6., from 8am 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 to avoid any problem since there are no make-ups. The final exam covers the content of chapters 1 to 5. The final Exam is 15% of your total grade.

Make Up Work/Tests

There will be no makeup quizzes, make up exams, or make up homework. Be aware that ONLY Homework on vhl can be turned in late, but you will be deducted 10% from your grade per each late day on each assignment you are late. There is no late acceptance for any of the assignments/tests on D2L, please stay on top of your work.

At the end of the semester, the lowest grade of vocabulary D2L, Vhl quizzes, homework, and Repaso will be dropped, one on each category. There will not be dropped grades on writing nor speaking activities, and there will not be dropped grades on chapter quizzes either. You will receive the dates of the Midterm and Final Exams in advance, plan accordingly, missing these exams will grant you a zero.

Important Dates

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

Deadline to file for graduation: September 23. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" November 25. Check date on [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.

Extra Credit

There will not be opportunities offered for extra credit on this course; if at any point of the semester 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.

Online Computer Requirements

Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. ****Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.*** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. ****Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!*** There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world which is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

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 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 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:

Dates		Chapter	
Week 1, August 25 – August 29	N/A	Chap. 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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, Sep 1– Sep 5	N/A	Chap. 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 8 – Sep 12	N/A	Chap. 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 15 - 19	N/A	Chap. 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 22 to 26	N/A	Chap. 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparación 3: Words relating to family and professions • Pronunciación • Cultura: ¿Cómo te llamas? • Gram. 3.1 Descriptive adjectives • Gram. 3.2 Possessive adjectives

Dates		Chapter	
Week 6, Sep. 29 - Oct. 3	N/A	Chap. 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gram. 3.3 Present tense of regular -er and -ir verbs Gram. 3.4 Present tense of tener and venir
Week 7, Oct 6 – 10	N/A	Chap. 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lectura: Las familias * Aventuras video and Flash Cultura Oral Activity Writing activity (Composición) *Chapter Quiz 3
Week 8, Oct 13 - 17	N/A	Chap. 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Monday October 13, complete review for the Midterm *Midterm Exam – Tuesday, October 14 *Zoom Oral Interview – Wednesday – October 15 Preparación 4: Words related to pastimes and sports Preparación 4: Places in the city
Week 9, Oct 20 – 24	N/A	Chap 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 27 – 31	N/A	Chap. 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 3 - 7	N/A	N/A Chap. 4/5	N/A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oral Activity Writing activity (Composición) *Chapter Quiz 4 Preparación 5: Words related to vacationing, travel, weather, seasons, months, ordinal numbers
Week 12, Nov 10 - 14	N/A	Chap 5	N/A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 17 – 25	N/A	Chap. 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gram. 5.4 Direct object nouns and pronouns Lectura: Turismo ecológico en PR Oral Activity Writing activity (Composición) *Chapter Quiz 5

Dates		Chapter	
Continuation... Week 13, Nov 17 - 25			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoom Oral Interview – Wednesday – November 24, 25
N/A Week 14, Nov 26 – Nov 28	Thanksgiving Nov 26 at 10pm – December 1 st .	N/A	N/A
Week 15, Dec 1 – 5		Chap. 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review for Final Exam, chapters 1 – 5
December 6	Final Exam	Chaps. 1 to 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 10:30am to 12:30pm

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