



Elementary Spanish I
Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences
SPAN 1134 Section 105
Fall 2025 August 26 – 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, orally and in writing, students will explore the ideas, values, beliefs and other cultural aspects of Spanish-speaking peoples across the world and how these aspects work together to affect human experience.

Skills and Outcomes

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

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

Textbook & Instructional Materials

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 to purchase the textbook:

[Link to purchase book](#)

Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance

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

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

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

The university defines Academic Dishonesty as: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

Instructor's Class Policies

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

- This class covers one semester of content, prepare your homework and study daily if you want to be successful.
- Participation in class is mandatory and not optional since it's the best way to improve your abilities in Spanish. If you are very uncomfortable speaking in class, maybe this is not the right class for you.
- Any act of cheating will not be tolerated; you can either receive a zero for the assignment/exam, or, if the offense is repeated you can be dropped from the course. Do not risk it. Cheating in this class goes from using an app to translate your work, to using help from somebody else, or copying material from someone else's work.
- If you need to contact the professor or want to make an appointment with her, please send her an email to Claudia.Montoya@msutexas.edu you will get an answer on the same day.

- The use of cell phones is not allowed in the class, unless you don't have a laptop to access your online materials. However, if the professor suspects you are using your phone for activities other than the class work, that privilege will be revoked at risk of losing your participation points for that day.
- Attendance in this class is mandatory, you are required to be in class for the entire period. Arrive on time. You will be counted absent if you miss more than 15 minutes of class time. You are allowed to miss 6 classes, in case of emergencies; after those, the professor can drop you from the class without further notification. Be aware, the more classes you miss the more your participation grade is affected, since you can't participate when you are in class. However, if you participate consistently in class, you can always catch up with the rest of the class.
- Absences due to official university functions or documented illness will be dealt with on an individual basis and should be discussed with the instructor outside of class time. It is the student's responsibility to keep up with his/her own absences. There are no "excused" absences from regular class periods.
- You can only bring water to the classroom, in a bottle, with a lid on it.

Grading

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

Table 1: Grading Components

Elements of the course grade	Percentaje
Participation	20%
Homework Assignments and Vhl Quizzes (VHL Central Supersite)	15%
D2L Quizzes	10%
Language Lab Quizzes (Bea Wood 128)	5%
In-class Writing Assignments	10%
Oral Activities (One per chapter)	10%
Midterm Exam (Lecciones 1-3)	15%
Comprehensive Final Exam (Lecciones 1-5)	15%
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

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

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

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

D2L Quizzes

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

Vhl Quizzes

On vhl you will have frequent quizzes, please pay attention because you can submit a vhl quiz only once. Be careful with doing your quizzes late, for each late day you will receive a 5% reduction on your grade for that quiz, until the professor enters the chapter's grades on d2L. At the end of the course one vhl quiz grade will be dropped; but none of the D2L quizzes will be dropped.

Participation

Please note that participation contributes 20% towards the final grade in this course. Participation in class is mandatory. Your participation grade will be based on the "points system". During the class you will do activities and exercises, individually or as a group. Each time your professor asks you a question, or we do an oral activity, you should answer in Spanish for which you will receive points. The professor will register the participation of each chapter individually. You will have a total of five participation grades. Notice that you will have to speak Spanish during the class. Don't worry about speaking perfect Spanish, accuracy will come with practice. There will be frequent group work for which the entire group will receive participation points as well. No grades will be dropped from this category. Hence, your attendance is fundamental for your success in the class, if you are not in class, you can't participate.

Composiciones

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

Oral Activities

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

Language Laboratory

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Closed	9:30 am – 11:00 am	8:00 am – 12:00 pm	9:00 am – 11:00 am	8:00 am – 12:00 pm	9:00 am – 11:00 am	8:00 am – 12:00 pm
Closed	3:00 pm– 5:00 pm	1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	1:30 pm – 4:30 pm	1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	3:00 pm – 5:30 pm	

Midterm Exam

There is a Midterm exam that covers chapters 1 -3. You will be tested on vocabulary, grammar, writing and culture. The exam is in person, not on d2l. Remember, the best way to retain the material is to come to class, participate, and do your homework consistently. There is no make-up Exam, so please be in class.

Final Exam

The final exam is scheduled for Saturday, December 6 from 10:30am to 12:30pm. There are no make-ups for the exam, so make sure you plan ahead to take it during the required time and date, make sure you mark your calendar because if you miss the exam you will receive a zero. The final exam covers the content of chapters 1 to 5.

Late Work /Make up Work / Tests

When it comes to your online homework and quizzes you can only submit homework late, but with a 5% reduction of your grade per day; when it comes to the vhl quizzes, you have to do them on the assigned date. You have the schedule of activities, please do them on time, and if you have a serious impediment such as an accident or illness, please contact your professor immediately, so arrangements can be made, provided you have medical documentation and at the discretion of your professor.

At the end of the semester, the lowest grade of vhl quizzes, labs, and homework, one grade per category. No grades will be dropped for in-class participation, d2L quizzes, Exams, writing and oral activities.

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

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: August 29. Check 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](#)

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: Courtesy expressions • 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 • *Lab 1 • Oral Activity • Lectura: Información importante • Writing activity (Composición) • *Chapter Quiz 1

Dates		Chapter	
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
Week 5, Sep 22 to 26	N/A	Chap. 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectura: La Universidad... • *Lab 2 • Oral Activity • Writing activity (Composición) • *Chapter Quiz 2
Week 6, Sep. 29 - Oct. 3	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
Week 7, Oct 6 – 10	N/A	Chap. 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gram. 3.2 Possessive adjectives • Gram. 3.3 Present tense of regular -er and -ir verbs • Gram. 3.4 Present tense of tener and venir
Week 8, Oct 13 - 17	N/A	Chap. 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectura: Las familias • *Lab 3 • Oral Activity • Writing activity (Composición) • *Review for Midterm • *Chapter Quiz 3
Week 9, Oct 20 – 24	N/A	Chap 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday Oct 21 • *Midterm Exam • Preparación 4: Words related to pastimes and sports • Preparación 4: Places in the city • Gram. 4.1 Present tense of ir • Pronunciación • Cultura: Real Madrid y Barca
Week 10, Oct 27 – 31	N/A	Chap. 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gram. 4.2 Present tense of stem-changing verbs: e→ie, o→ue • Gram. 4.3 Present tense of stem-changing verbs: e→i

Dates		Chapter	
Week 11, Nov 3 - 7	N/A	N/A Chap. 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A • Gram. 4.4 Verbs with irregular yo forms • Lectura: Guía para el fin de semana • *Lab 4 • Oral Activity • Writing activity (Composición) • *Chapter Quiz 4
Week 12, Nov 10 - 14	N/A	Chap 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparación 5: Words related to vacationing, travel, weather, seasons, months, ordinal numbers. • Cultura: El Camino Inca • Gram. 5.1 Estar with conditions and emotions • Gram. 5.2 The present progressive
Week 13, Nov 17 - 21	N/A	Chap. 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gram. 5.2 The present progressive • Gram. 5.3 Comparing ser and estar
N/A Week 14, Nov 24 – Nov 28	Thanks Giving Nov 26 at 10pm – December 1 st .	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gram. 5.4 Direct object nouns and pronouns • Lectura: Turismo ecológico en PR • *Lab 4 • Oral Activity • Writing activity (Composición) • *Chapter Quiz 4
Week 15, Dec 1 – 5		Chap. 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Lab 5 • Oral Activity • Writing activity (Composición) • *Chapter Quiz 5 • Review for Final Exam
December 6	Final Exam	Chaps. 1 to 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 10:30am to 12:30pm • Location: TBA

Note: For a copy of the entire syllabus, which includes university policies, please visit the course Span 1134- 105 on D2L