



Elementary Spanish I
Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences
SPAN 1134 Section X30
Summer I June 1st. – July 2nd.
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, 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 6th. edition'. I recommend you buy the 'Digital Access Only' version that costs \$109.00 if you are going to take Spanish 1234 during this summer it will be good for both courses. 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 to your browser:

<https://vistahigherlearning.com/store/school/midwesternstate>

Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance

At least three hours of study are required on a daily basis 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 D2I 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 d2I 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 three hours of study daily.
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 d2I, there are no make ups for any assignment, once the deadline has passed, d2I 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 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.

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	% of Course Grade
Homework Assignments (VHL Central Supersite)	15%
Vhl Quizzes	10%
D2L Quizzes (at the end of each chapter)	12%
Writing Assignments D2L	5%

Elements of the Course Grade	% of Course Grade
Speaking Assignments D2L	10%
Participation vhl	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

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:

- **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.
- **Pronunciación:** is the section with some pronunciation activities.
- **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.
- **Cultura:** is a small reading about a cultural topic.
- **Flash Cultura:** is a brief video about a cultural topic, different than the Aventuras video.
- **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 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 / 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 have to 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, 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 D2I, 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 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 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. The course goes by too fast to be accepting late work.

D2L Chapter Quizzes

These chapter quizzes 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 your answer these chapter quizzes, you will receive a zero for the quiz and if the behavior persist, 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 ot 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 an 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 Thursday July 2nd., 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 ahead 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 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 entired exam, specially if you have been warned before about such behaviour.

Important Dates

Classes begin Monday, June 2nd.
Last Day for "W", 4:00 p.m. – Drops after this date will receive grades of "F." (Summer I term)..... June 17
Deadline for August graduates to file for graduation..... June 22
Final examinations..... July 2nd.

Extra Credit

There will not be opportunities offered for extra credit in this course; if at any point in the summer session 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 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, and that once grades are collected for the chapter you can't submit late homework for that chapter anymore. The same applies to Participation activities on vhl; other than that, ANY late assignment will receive automatically a zero. There is no late acceptance for any of the assignments/tests on D2L nor for quizzes on Vhl. The summer session goes by fast, stay on top of your work.

At the end of the semester, the lowest grade of vocabulary D2L quizzes, Vhl quizzes, homework, and participation 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.

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.

Course Schedule

Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Dates	Chapters	Content & Assignments
Week 1 June 1 - 8	Chapter 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: Los saludos y el espacio personal• Gram. 1.1 Nouns and articles• Gram. 1.2 Numbers 0-30

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gram. 1.3 Present tense of ser • Gram. 1.4 Telling time • Aventuras: Amigos de todas partes • Flash Cultura: Encuentros en la plaza • Lectura: Teléfonos importantes... • Speaking activity: dialogue and introductions • Writing Activity: diálogo • Quiz Chapter 1
Week 2 June 9 - 15	Chapter 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 • Cultura: La elección de una carrera universitaria • Gram. 2.1 Present tense of –ar verbs • Gram. 2.2 Forming questions • Gram. 2.3 Present tense of estar • Gram. 2.4 Numbers 31-100 • Aventuras: ¿Te gustan los lunes? • Flash Cultura: Los estudios • Lectura: UAE: La mejor universidad de Europa • Writing Activity: Quien soy yo • Speaking activity: A conocernos más. • Quiz Chapter 2
Week 3 June 15 - 21	Chapter 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparación 3: Words relating to family and professions • Gram. 3.1 Descriptive adjectives • Gram. 3.2 Possessive adjectives • Cultura: ¿Como te llamas? • Gram. 3.3 Present tense of regular -er and -ir verbs • Gram. 3.4 Present tense of tener and venir • Aventuras: Una visita inesperada • Flash Cultura: La familia • Lectura: Las familias • Writing Activity: Mi familia • Speaking activity: ¿Quiénes son tu tribu? • Quiz Chapter 3
Week 4 June 22 - 28	Chapter 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examen de Medio Semestre (Midterm Exam) • Preparación 4: Words related to pastimes and sports • Preparación 4: Places in the city • Cultura: Real Madrid y Barça: rivalidad total • Gram. 4.1 Present tense of ir • Gram. 4.2 Present tense of stem-changing verbs: e-ie, o-ue • Gram. 4.3 Present tense of stem-changing verbs: e-i • Gram. 4.4 Verbs with irregular yo forms

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aventuras: ¿Dónde están las entradas? • Flash Cultura: ¡Fútbol en España! • Lectura: Mexico • Writing Activity: narrando una historia • Speaking Activity: la entrevista • Quiz Chapter 4 • Oral Exam via zoom
Week 5 June 29 – July 2	Chapter 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparación 5: Words related to vacationing, travel, weather, seasons, months, ordinal numbers. • Gram. 5.1 Estar with conditions and emotions • Gram. 5.2 The present progressive • Gram. 5.3 Comparing ser and estar • Gram. 5.4 Direct object nouns and pronouns • Aventuras: De viaje en Toledo • Flash Cultura: ¡Vacaciones en Perú! • Lectura: Turismo ecológico en Puerto Rico • No writing Activity • No Speaking Activity • No chapter Quiz 5
July 2 nd .		Final Exam 8am – 11pm (Only 2 hours to complete it)