

Spanish 2133.X30 – Intermediate Spanish I – summer I, 2024

Instructor information: Dr. Oxford

jeffrey.oxford@msutexas.edu

teléfono – 940-397-4144

Oficina: Bea Wood 114

Textos: *Enfoques*, **6th edition** with full VHLCentral.com supersite access

Attention all students enrolling in SPAN 2133 – Intermediate Spanish I: The following package is REQUIRED. These materials will be used for both SPAN 2133 and SPAN 2233 in summer 2, 2024.

Full color, loose leaf, 3 hole punched (binder ready) version of *Aventuras*, 6th edition, **with full VHLcentral.com supersite plus websam technology**. Please note that the code with this package lasts for multiple months, so if you're taking 2233 in summer 2, 2024, the same code should work for both classes. (I personally am okay with your purchasing only the electronic version of the text.)

Please note:

1. This course uses supplemental D2L. Please make sure you access the D2L site every day for homework assignments, class updates, additional grammar explanation, practice materials, etc.
2. As per The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR Title 34, Part 600.2), “a credit hour is an amount of work [...that] reasonably approximates not less than one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out of class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester.”
3. If you need/want to Skype/Teams/Zoom contact me for “face-to-face” conversations or questions—or meet me in the office face-to-face—, such is possible, but please contact first me via email so that we can set up a time to meet.

Prerequisites:

Spanish 1234 (Elementary Spanish II), or equivalent.

Objetivos:

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. By providing students with knowledge of a language and culture different from their own, this course contributes to preparing students to be productive members of global society as well as to understand and relate with people and ideas different from their own. The study of culture, then, is an important part of this course.

POLICIES

Homework. Regular assignments will be made from the text and from other sources (there may be homework other than just what you see on the VHL site, so be sure that you check the **News section of**

the D2L class site every day). Students are expected to prepare homework (*tarea*) as assigned, every day, and complete it prior to the 11:59 p.m. of the day for which it is assigned; additional homework not complete-able via VHL must be turned in **as per the instructions in the News section (which may refer you to a particular dropbox) of the D2L class site or to VHL.** Failure to follow the instructions exactly will result in your receiving no credit for the assignment). The VHL homework (textbook website) often times can be completed more than once with only the highest grade counting (True/False questions and other similar sections can only be completed once). VHL homework completed after 11:59 p.m. on the due date will automatically result in points deducted. Independent study of grammar and vocabulary in addition to the homework assignments is also expected (I will post in the “Grammar Explanations” section of the D2L class site my own notes/thoughts concerning the grammar, providing you with another—perhaps easier—way of learning/remembering the grammar points). Students frequently in the past have commented how the “stupid Oxfordismos” have helped them. Graded homework completed on the VHL site will be 15% of your final grade; other non-VHL homework (assigned on D2L and turned in there) will be 10% of your final grade.

Oral Readings. There will be one cultural passage from the textbook that you will need to read aloud from each chapter. You will need to go to the D2L drop box (D2L – “Assessments” – “Assignments”) to see the particular passage in question that you will need to read out loud, in Spanish, while recording yourself (D2L has a built-in voice recorder, so feel free to use that). There is a “cheat-sheet” in the drop box that you should access prior to recording which indicates common errors made by students and how the word(s) should really be pronounced; there’s also a voice recording of my reading the passage. Be sure to take advantage of both of these! When you have finished the reading, upload that recording to the appropriate D2L drop box. Any recording not uploaded to the correct drop box or uploaded but which cannot be heard/understood by the instructor will receive no credit. See the D2L class calendar (as well as the News section) for due dates. Oral readings will be 10% of your final grade.

Quizzes. Frequent quizzes based on homework, the textbook (the cultural readings, in particular) and other class work will be given—in part—so that you will know what you need to study even more before the exam. There may be D2L quizzes during the week, and you can be assured that there **WILL BE** a D2L quiz every weekend. These quizzes are accessible **ONLY** as indicated in the homework instructions on D2L, and only during that time period (no exceptions). All, except the Final Exam, may be taken as many times as you like during the period when they are available, and only the highest grade counts. As of Monday morning, 9:00 a.m., you can go back into the system (at any time until the end of the semester) and see the questions with the correct answers, as well as your answers. These weekly D2L quizzes cover any/all the information from class/textbook during that week. Any D2L quizzes assigned during the week will have its own due date and generally will cover the vocabulary of the current chapter under study; be sure to pay attention to dates/indicated content on D2L as the quiz will only be accessible during the stated time period (no exceptions). Quizzes will be 25% of your final grade.

Compositions. Students will write three compositions in Spanish to demonstrate their ability to use acquired vocabulary, language structures, and cultural information. The compositions will be written on a certain day (see class calendar) based on the vocabulary theme and grammar points in the chapters being studied. The use of AI and translation software/applications/programs is strictly forbidden and will result in a grade of zero! The three compositions will equal 15% of your semester grade average.

Exams: There is one, the Final Exam, which covers information from the entire semester. It is scheduled for **Friday**, July 5 (as per university regulations).

Absences. No “absence” or missed work will be “excused” without written document, and only then will it be excused if it involves an official university activity, illness, family-member death, approvable religious activity, or other catastrophic event. Any unexcused absence will result in a “0” for that day’s activities; grades for excused absences will be treated as per the section below entitled “Late work and make up.”

Late work and “make-up.” Late work is docked 10% per 24 hour period late, but is only accepted within 48 hours of the due date (i.e., most things have a submission deadline to D2L of 11:59 p.m.; if the system logs your upload at 12:01 a.m. [2 minutes later], that would be a 10% automatic deduction. If something is due on June 16 at 11:59 p.m., and the system says that you uploaded it at 12:01 a.m. on June 19, you would receive no credit at all). D2L quizzes and exams **must be taken** during the originally scheduled time frame; there is NO “late-work” acceptance of these for any reason since answers for such become available as of 9:00 a.m. Monday mornings. There are no “make-ups” of any type in this class; in the best of scenarios (i.e., you present written documentation to justify an “excused” absence), you will be assigned a grade of “missing” and the other grades will count more. All requests for “excused absences” or other deviation from the rules must be in writing, prior to or within three calendar days following the event. ***Remember, computer systems do crash and/or otherwise have problems; such, however, does NOT constitute a valid reason for an “excused absence” or your uploading work to the system after the deadline without penalty. Posted deadlines are the final time that you can submit something and receive full credit; you can always upload things early.***

Extra Credit. See the Extra Credit section on D2L for information and particulars. Any/All extra credit work, if there is any, must be turned in to the Extra Credit dropbox on D2L by July 5, 8:00 a.m. at the very latest.

Grading curves. Don’t even bother to ask about “curves”; you will be referred back to this section of the syllabus. What you make is the grade you will get. A grade of 59.499999 is an F; a grade of 69.499999 is a D, etc. There are plenty of opportunities to raise your grade in this class through repetition of homework and/or D2L quizzes. Make use of those!

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.” Written and adopted by the 2002-2003 MSU Student Senate

Students with Disabilities. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Support Services in Room 168 of the Clark Student Center, 397-4140, and provide me with a copy of the accommodation paperwork; without that I cannot provide any accommodations. Sorry.

Safe Zones Statement. The professor considers this classroom to be a place where you will be treated with respect as a human being – regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Additionally, diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided you can agree to disagree. It is the professor’s expectation that ALL students consider the classroom a safe environment; failure to respect others is grounds for immediate expulsion from the class for the remainder of the semester.

GRADING COMPONENTS

The final grade will be based on the following factors:

Type of work	percentage
Tarea – VHL	15%
Tarea – non-VHL	10%
Oral Readings	10%
Quizzes	25%
Compositions	15%
Final Exam	25%