

Spanish 1134
Elementary Spanish I
spring 2025

Time:

Section 202 - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10:00-10:50 a.m., PY 203

Instructor: Dr. Oxford

jeffrey.oxford@msutexas.edu

teléfono – 940-397-4144

Oficina: Bea Wood 114

Horas de oficina: MW 8:00-10:00; M 11:00-3:30 and TR 8:00-10:00 (but I am in my office much more than that, so feel free to come by at your convenience)

Textos:

1. Textbook:

Attention all students enrolling in SPAN 1134 – Elementary Spanish I: The following package is **REQUIRED**. These materials will be used for both SPAN 1134 and SPAN 1234.

Aventuras, **6th edition**:

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 you need to purchase the access code for this textbook (various time-length options—choose accordingly). Note: I am okay with your purchasing only the electronic version of the textbook, but if you take someone else for Span 1234, they may not allow such in class.

The following textbook options are available for this course. These materials will be used for both Elementary Spanish I (1134) and Elementary Spanish II (1234). Materials are available at the MSU Texas bookstore in Clark Student Center or at the following publisher's website:

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

NOTE: Do NOT purchase the textbook through Brytewave due to compatibility issues!!

NOTE: You MUST use the website just mentioned to get the cheapest prices! Going directly to the Vista Higher Learning website (without using the above link) will result in a higher price.

2. 10 long Scantron answer-sheets (or 2 packages). Note: Instead of any passing grade, you will receive a grade of Incomplete ("I") as your entire, **overall semester average** for the class if you do not turn these in to the instructor.

Notes:

1. This section of the course has been planned as a fully face-to-face course. The class will meet in its regularly scheduled room **four days a week**. I will use D2L for posting syllabi, course communication, course schedule, attendance, and gradebook. You should check VHL, D2L and the email hosted via D2L every day for important course information.
2. This course uses supplemental D2L **and** the Vista Higher Learning Website (**NOT** the same thing – D2L is on the MSU-Texas website; VHL is the textbook website). Please make sure you access the D2L site every day for homework assignments, class updates, additional grammar explanations, practice materials, etc.

- 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.”
- Tutoring for this course is available through the MSU Tutoring Center. The campus tutoring is available free of charge.

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 highly recommended 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 	<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 highly recommended 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.

Prerequisites: Admission into Midwestern State University.

General Objectives:

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 and cultural competency 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.

Skills and Outcomes: Linguistic skills you will develop

This course involves the development of specific Spanish grammar, vocabulary and idiomatic usage in the context of the varied cultures of the Spanish-speaking world for the purpose of exploring ideas that foster aesthetic and intellectual creation in order that students may understand the human condition across cultures. By the end of the first semester, the student will be able to:

- Greet, say farewell, introduce people and respond to introductions in the appropriate cultural register indicating his/her awareness of cultural norms in the Spanish-speaking world for formality, informality, personal space and gestures.
- Engage in simple question/answer conversations using memorized and/or high-frequency expressions indicating cultural sensitivity and awareness.
- Provide and request basic information.
- Express ongoing actions, routine actions, and near-future actions in the context and manner these are used in the Spanish-speaking cultures and recognize how these uses are different from those of English-speakers.

5. Describe and illustrate aspects of the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries and make comparisons between these cultures and her/his own culture using basic linguistic structures and vocabulary in the target language.
6. Evaluate her/his own values, behaviors and worldviews on the socio-cultural topics presented and compare these to those of Spanish-speakers.

CORE OBJECTIVES AND ASSESSMENT: Other things you'll learn in this course:

The core objectives for the Language, Philosophy and Culture Foundational Component Area are addressed in this course according to the following descriptions. Students will demonstrate their mastery of the core objectives in a Personal Reflection Essay on a cultural topic(s) presented by the instructor and/or of their choosing. A global assessment rubric will be used for measuring students' mastery of the core objectives according to the following:

1. **Critical Thinking Skills:** Students will demonstrate creative thinking, innovation, inquiry and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
2. **Communication Skills:** Students will demonstrate effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
3. **Personal Responsibility:** Students will demonstrate the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical-decision making.
4. **Social Responsibility:** Students will demonstrate intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities

GRADING POLICIES - How your grade will be assigned:

1. **Attendance:** Attendance in class is fundamental to the acquisition of language knowledge and ability. It should be understood that enrollment in the class represents a commitment to be in class, every day of class, for the entire class period. If you cannot attend class for some reason, such does not mean that you have the right to simply skip that information but, rather, that you must make a double effort to find out what you missed and what you need to do for the next class period. In fact, the attendance grade is based on your being in class for the entire 50-minute period. Arriving more than 5 minutes after the class start-time will result in a deduction of 1 point from your overall attendance grade (each occurrence); arriving after 15 minutes will result in a deduction of 2 points (each occurrence). Each absence lowers your attendance grade by 2 points. Attendance is 10% of your final grade for the class.
2. **Oral Readings.** Please note that attendance counts as 10% of the final grade in this course. The grade component for Oral Readings will be based on your submission to the appropriate D2L drop box (D2L – Assessments – Assignments) the assigned recording of you speaking Spanish each week of the semester (specific instructions will be in each week's dropbox on D2L in the "Assessments – Assignments" subfolders); files with heic extensions (Apple phone) are **NOT** acceptable as my computer cannot open them; **use the voice recorder built into the D2L system** instead. Check the D2L news section every day for assignments. Don't worry too much about speaking perfect Spanish, just speak. Accuracy will come with practice.
3. **Exams:** There are two (half-way through chapter 3 and the Final Exam); these count as 20% of your grade, each. If you miss an exam, you must present documented proof of illness or university activity to your instructor, at which point, if the reason is excusable (see #8, below), your grade of zero for the Midterm Exam will then be changed to missing (i.e., your final class grade will be calculated without including the Midterm Exam).
4. **Homework.** Regular assignments will be made from the text and from other sources (these will be detailed on the D2L class site—in the "News" section—which you should check **every day**). Students are expected to prepare homework (*tarea*) as assigned. Independent study of grammar and vocabulary is also expected. The instructor is not limited to one graded assignment per class period/day. Graded homework

will be 10% of your final grade. The vast majority of **homework must be completed via the [Vistas Higher Learning website](#) prior to 11:59 p.m. every day**; occasionally, other homework assignments must be completed by a different time and/or submitted to D2L (note: only one submission to D2L will be graded per assignment, so if you realize you made an error and submit a second version of the assignment after it has been already grade, the second version will not count for a grade). Pay careful attention to the D2L class site (“News” section) for instructions. Late work is penalized and only accepted within 48 hours of the initial deadline (D2L quizzes, Labs and Exams are NOT accepted late; see section 8, below).

5. **Quizzes.** Frequent quizzes, based on homework and class work, will be given—in part—so that you will know what you need to study even more before the exam. **In addition, there will be a D2L quiz every Tuesday (vocabulary) and weekend (vocab + things studied that week).** These are located at D2L – Assessments – Tests. **D2L quizzes MUST be taken during the time when they are available on-line, no exceptions.** The instructor is not limited to one graded assignment per class period/day. Graded quizzes will be 15% of your final grade, and no make-up quizzes are given.
6. **Language Lab** (BeaWood 127/128). There will be comprehension quizzes or other lab assignments to complete in the World Languages Lab (see the homework and/or calendar section of the D2L site for specific due dates). Please show your MSU Student ID to the lab attendant in order to receive your quiz and instructions on how to complete the quiz. Please sign in and out at the lab attendant’s desk. Make-up and/or late quizzes are NOT permitted. Please note that lab work must be completed in the lab (i.e., if the quiz is 50 minutes, you will receive a grade of zero if the lab sheet shows you were in the lab less time that that); it’s your responsibility to complete the assignment PRIOR to the close of the lab on the due date. And, remember, your being unable to use the lab because it was “full” on the last couple of days before the due date is not a valid excuse for not having completed the lab exercise. You will be given a schedule of Language Lab Hours on the D2L class site.
7. **Portafolio Cultural.** An essay, in English, due May 7 (Wednesday). The essay must be typed, Times New Roman font 11, double spaced with one-inch page margins (please disallow orphans and widows). There is no definitive minimum number of words/pages although it will probably take you three or four pages to adequately and THOROUGHLY answer the following questions in the following format:
 - Paragraph 1 of your essay (introduction):
 - i. What are the ethical aspects of the main topic as presented in the movie? Identify at least three for each group of people (i.e., the protagonists in the movie, and their opponents).
 - Paragraph 2 of your essay:
 - i. What is your opinion about the issues?
 - Paragraph 3 of your essay:
 - i. What does research say about the issues? (**you must include academic, peer-reviewed studies; political commentary or other non-research-based essays/opinions/people will result in a lower grade**)
 - Paragraph 4 of your essay:
 - i. What can/will you do personally concerning this issue?
 - Paragraph 5 of your essay:
 - i. What are the implications of your opinion and the consequences of actions that you take or do not take regarding the issue?
 - Concluding paragraph

As any acceptable academic essay, the essay must contain an introduction (with an obvious thesis statement), a body (of multiple paragraphs that all support your main thesis without superfluous verbiage/ideas/hyperbole), and a conclusion (which summarizes your thoughts without adding new information). In the essay, students will identify their core beliefs and the origins of those core beliefs, recognize the ethical issues presented and relationships between issues, state a position on an ethical issue and connect their position to implied actions and consequences. You must use **at least three academic, peer-reviewed sources** in your essay (i.e., blogs, wikis, “hyped” new stories, personal opinions of friends/families do not count toward the three). Please see more information about the grading rubric

on the D2L site. You must watch one of the following movies (all three, in theory, are available at the MSU Library, but check Kanopy, Netflix, your local video store, or other video sources if you desire) and base your personal reflection essay on one of these:

- A. El Norte
- B. Romero
- C. The Immigration Paradox

Instead of any passing grade, you will receive a grade of Incomplete (I) as your entire, overall semester average for the class if you do not complete the Portfolio cultural.

8. **Absences, missed work, “make ups”, and “curves”.** No absence will be “excused” without written document from a proper authority, and only then will it be excused if it involves an official university activity, illness, death, or other documented catastrophic event. Late work is docked 10% per 24 hour period late, but is it only accepted within 48 hours of the original due date/time (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 March 10 at 11:59 p.m., and the system says that you uploaded it at 12:01 a.m. on March 13, you would receive no credit at all since that is more than 48 hours past the original deadline). There are no “make ups” of any other type in this class (not even for “excused” absences) except for an excused absence on the Final Exam. No “curves” are given in this class; don’t even bother asking. What you make is what you get.
9. **Extra Credit.** All extra credit possibilities available, if any, are listed on the D2L site, under “Extra Credit.” All extra credit must be completed and turned in to the appropriate D2L drop box (D2L – Assessments – Assignments) by 8:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 6. Note: Some of these extra credit opportunities have specific dates and times for attendance at events and/or be off-campus. NO extra credit of any type will be allowed/given if the student does not complete the Portfolio Cultural (#7, above).

Other policies

1. 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

2. **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.

3. **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.
4. **Concealed Handguns on Campus.** Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University’s webpage regarding [campus-carry](#). If you have questions or concerns, please contact MSU Chief of Police Patrick Coggins.

GRADING COMPONENTS

Section	Percentage
Attendance	10%
Participation (including Oral Recordings)	10%
Quizzes	15%
Homework	10%
Lab	5%
Portfolio Cultural	Quiz grade - If not completed, student cannot pass class
Midterm Exam	20%
Chapter Writings	10%
Final Exam (comprehensive: Dec 5, 10:30 a.m.)	20%
Scantron sheets (“long ones” – 50 per side)	Cannot receive passing grade w/o turning in 10

General class calendar: see the D2L page for specific assignments and information regarding when we’ll be studying what.