



Course Syllabus: Spanish 1134: Elementary Spanish I

College of Prothro-Yeager

Section 201

Spring 2025 – MTWR 9 – 9:50 in PY203

Contact Information

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Course Description

1. This is a first-year, first-semester Spanish course designed for those with no (or almost no) knowledge of Spanish.
2. 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 (the News section) and the email hosted via D2L every day for important course information.
3. 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., in particular the News section.
4. 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.”

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:

1. 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.
2. Engage in simple question/answer conversations using memorized and/or high-frequency expressions indicating cultural sensitivity and awareness.
3. Provide and request basic information.
4. 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

Textbook & Instructional Materials

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; make sure you purchase the 7th edition.

1. *Aventuras*, 7th edition:

Full color, loose leaf, 3 hole punched (binder ready) version of *Aventuras*, 7th 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.

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: 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.

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

2. 10 long Scantron answer-sheets (or 2 packages).

Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance

MSU offers free tutoring for students in Spanish via the Tutoring and Academic Support Programs office. For more information, or to contact them, see their web page at: [On Campus Tutoring](#)

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: 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](#)

Moffett Library

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this [Moffett Library webpage](#) to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

Grading

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 the Oral Readings count as 10% of the final grade in this course. This grade component 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" or ".pages" extensions in the file name (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. ***Note:** once a submission is uploaded to D2L and graded, no subsequent submission (e.g.: to correct errors, etc.) will count toward improving the grade received.

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 #9, 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, but 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 graded, 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 online, no exceptions** since answers to the quizzes become available on the Monday following the quiz. 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 than 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. This section counts as 5% of the overall class grade.
7. ***Chapter Writings.** When we finish each chapter, there will be a class day when students spend the class time completing an in-class writing exercise focusing on the vocabulary and grammatical concepts presented/studied in that chapter. Missing that class day without an excused absence (see #9, below) will negatively impact both your attendance grade and the Chapter Writings grade. This counts as 10% of your overall class grade.
8. **Personal Reflection Essay/Project.** The Personal Reflection Essay or Project serves as an assessment of student's performance of the core curriculum objectives of Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Social and Personal Responsibility (see page 2, above) in the specific context of this course. The

subject of the essay will be a cultural topic assigned by the instructor/professor. The cultural topic will present the student with an ethical dilemma or issue for resolution. Students should demonstrate that they have adequately researched and considered the topic in the framework of the core curriculum objectives.

Students will respond to a series of essay questions after watching the following video, *The Other Side of Immigration* available in the Moffett Library (but you may also be able to view it on the internet, Netflix, Apple TV, etc.). Please note that this multi award-winning documentary, directed by Roy Germano, is ***neither pro- nor anti-immigration**; its purpose is not to take a side in that debate. Rather, “it explores why so many people leave the Mexican countryside to work in the United States and what happens to the families and communities they leave behind. The film is based on Germano’s interviews with over 700 households in Mexico.” After watching the documentary, students will need to go to D2L and answer the following questions (minimum of 200 words each):

The essay questions for the assessment are:

1. What new information or perspectives did you gain from the documentary about the experience of immigrants?
2. How do the images, the interviewer’s questions, and other aspects of the documentary’s cinematography contribute to Germano’s goal of “showing the human side of migration by exploring the root causes in Mexico and the impact on families left behind”?
3. What are some of the reasons people might oppose immigration, and what are their main arguments?
4. What are some of the reasons people might support immigration, and what are their main arguments?
5. Do you feel that the United States should be less/more/remains same (***choose one**) restrictive in terms of permitting the immigration of citizens of a country, like Mexico, with varied economic and sociological challenges? What are some (at least two) consequences of your belief? Identify your beliefs that lead you to your conclusion.

Essay question responses must be a minimum of 200 words each and may be written in English. Students will not be graded on their views concerning immigration; the grade will be based on the following rubric:

	Excellent			Satisfactory			Failing		
Critical Thinking Skills: Essay demonstrates critical thinking, innovation, inquiry and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.	4	3 ½	3	2 ½	2	1 ½	1	½	0
Communication Skills: Essay demonstrates effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.	4	3 ½	3	2 ½	2	1 ½	1	½	0
Personal Responsibility: Essay demonstrates the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical-decision making.	4	3 ½	3	2 ½	2	1 ½	1	½	0
Social Responsibility: Essay demonstrates intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities.	4	3 ½	3	2 ½	2	1 ½	1	½	0

No cutting, pasting, or copying of responses into the assessment from other sources. Students must respond in their own words. However, you may use sources to support your responses as long as you properly cite them in your answers. AI-generated submissions (e.g., ChatGPT) are not permitted and will be treated as plagiarism. Please adhere to standards set forth in the [MSU Student Code of Conduct](#).

This assessment may be accessed via D2L Content → Assessments → Assignments → Core and is available until Wednesday, May 6, 8:00 am. Note: ***each of the above questions is in a different subfolder within the Core assignment folder, so be sure to upload your essay question answers/responses to each of the five individual folders (i.e., one essay encompassing all questions is not acceptable).** As well, you must use at least three academic, peer-reviewed sources in question number 5 (i.e., blogs, wikis, “hyped” new stories, personal opinions of friends/families, commentary from politicians, or similar “reactionary” speech do not count toward the three; if you have a question regarding the acceptability of something for this exercise, ask!).

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 Personal Reflection Essay/Project.

9. ***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. Do not expect any “curves” in this class; don’t even bother asking. What you make is what you get.
10. ***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 5. 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 Portafolio Cultural (#8, above).

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Percentage
Attendance	10
Oral Recordings	10
Quizzes	15
Homework	10
Lab	5
Chapter Writings	10
Midterm Exam	20
Personal Reflection Essay/Project	Quiz grade
Final Exam	20

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Percentage
A	90-100
B	80-89.9
C	70-79.9
D	60-69.9
F	Less than 60

Important Dates

- Last day for term schedule changes: January 23, 2026
- Deadline to file for graduation: February 16, 2026
- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" April 29, 2026
- 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.

Online Computer Requirements

This class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload many of 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 Student Wellness Center, (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

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:

See the D2L page for specific assignments and information regarding when we'll be studying what.