

**Spanish 1134**  
**Elementary Spanish I**  
**fall 2019**

**Time:**

Section 101 - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:00-8:50 a.m., PY 203

**Instructor:** Dr. Oxford

[jeffrey.oxford@msutexas.edu](mailto:jeffrey.oxford@msutexas.edu)

teléfono – 940-397-4144

Oficina: Bea Wood 114

Horas de oficina: MW 9:00-12:30 and TR 9:00-11:00

(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*, 5th edition, ISBN 978-1-68004-972-5:

Full color, loose leaf, 3 hole punched (binder ready) version of *Aventuras*, 5th edition, **with full VHLcentral.com supersite plus websam technology**. Please note that the code with this package lasts for 36 months.

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 course uses supplemental D2L and the Vista Higher Learning Website. 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. Tutoring for this course is available through the World Languages & Cultures Tutoring Center (Bea Wood 115) and the MSU Tutoring Center (McCullough Hall). These campus tutoring options are all available free of charge. Departmental tutoring hours are listed on the D2L class site.
4. If you carry a cell phone or pager, please silence it during class. Text-messaging or the use of non-authorized electronic devices is prohibited. Please speak with your instructor if you have questions.

**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 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.

This course's methodology is based on a modified Communicative Approach to language teaching, which encourages/requires students to interact with the instructor and each other in Spanish.

## 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, future actions and past 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 and Participation.** Please note that participation and attendance contribute 10% toward the final grade in this course. This grade component will be based on a combination of attendance (4%) and participation (6%). Participation points will be awarded by the instructor in the form of *papelitos* (or little pieces of paper). The cumulative number of signed and dated *papelitos* that you have turned in throughout the semester (divided by 100) will be your participation grade for the semester. *Papelitos* are awarded for your active participation in classroom activities in the target language (Spanish) and your volunteering to answer the instructor's questions in Spanish. Students may earn up to a maximum of 9 *papelitos* per week; this means that you need to participate throughout the entire semester and that you could receive approximately 2 bonus points added to your semester average if you amassed all 135 *papelitos*. (NOTE: speaking with classmates in English is grounds for the revocation of a *papelito*). Don't worry about speaking perfect Spanish, just speak. Accuracy will come with practice.
2. **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.
3. **Absences.** No absence will be "excused" without written document from an appropriate official, and only then will it be excused if it involves an official university activity, illness, death, religious activity or other catastrophic event.
4. **Exams:** There are three (after every two chapters), not including the Final Exam (which is comprehensive). If you are absent from an exam, you must present documented proof of illness or university activity to your instructor, at which point your grade of zero will then be changed to missing (i.e., the other exams will count more).
5. **Homework.** Regular assignments will be made from the text and from other sources (these will be detailed on the D2L class site 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. 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 the beginning of class every day (i.e., 8:00 a.m.)**; occasionally, other homework assignments must be completed prior to class and turned in on the teacher's desk at the beginning of class. Pay careful attention to the D2L class site ("News" section) for instructions. No late work is accepted.

6. **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 fact, one will most probably be given at the beginning of the class period every day. In addition, there will most probably be a D2L quiz every weekend. The instructor is not limited to one graded assignment per class period. Graded quizzes will be 10% of your final grade, and no make-up quizzes are given.
7. **Language Lab** (BeaWood 127/128). There will be a comprehension quizzes and 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 give your MSU Student ID to the lab attendant in order to receive your quiz and instructions on how to complete the quiz. Please sign out at the lab attendant's desk in order to retrieve your student ID. Make-up and/or late quizzes are NOT permitted. One lab grade will be dropped at the end of the semester. 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. You will be given a schedule of Language Lab Hours on the D2L class site.
8. **Portafolio Cultural.** An essay, in English, due December 2 (Monday). 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:
  - What are the ethical aspects of the issue presented, both for Hispanics and others? Identify these.
  - What is your opinion about the issue?
  - How did you come to hold that opinion? (e.g. how you were raised, influence of culture, religion, a personal experience, something you learned in school, life lesson, etc.)
  - What can/will you do personally concerning this issue?
  - What are the implications of your opinion and the consequences of actions that you take or do not take regarding the issue?

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), 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 sources** in your essay (i.e., blogs, wikis, 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 Portafolio cultural.

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 catastrophic event. Any unexcused absence will result of "0" for that day's activities (i.e., participation, homework, quizzes, etc.). Late work is not accepted for credit for any reason; do not even bother to ask. You may, if you so wish, turn work in late if you want to know what your mistakes are, but no credit will be given. There are no "make ups" of any type in this class (not even for "excused" absences); 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 in that section will count more. No "curves" are given in this class—not on individual assignments nor on the overall class average—don't even bother asking. What you make is what you get.

10. **Extra Credit.** In addition to the extra *papelitos*, there are also extra credit possibilities available listed on the D2L site, under "Extra Credit." All extra credit must be completed and turned in by the beginning of class on December 2. 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).

## 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	4%
Participation	6%
Quizzes	10%
Homework	10%
Lab	10%
Portfolio Cultural	5% (if not completed, student cannot pass class)
Exams	30%
Final Exam (comprehensive: Dec 11, 1:00 a.m.)	25%
Scantron sheets ("long ones" – 50 per side)	0% – but cannot receive passing grade without turning 10 of these in

**General class calendar** (Subject to modification): see the D2L page for specific assignments

Week	Dates	Activities
Weeks 1-4	August 26 – September 19	Chapters 1-2
Week 2	September 2 (Monday)	No class (Labor Day)
Week 3	September 9 (Monday)	Lab 1 quiz due today
Week 4	September 18 (Wednesday)	Lab 2 quiz due today
Week 4	September 19 (Thursday)	Exam 1 today in class
Weeks 5-9	September 23 – October 24	Chapters 3-4
Week 7	October 7 (Monday)	Lab 3 due today
Week 9	October 23 (Wednesday)	Lab 4 due today
Week 9	October 24 (Thursday)	Exam 2 today in class
Week 10	October 28 (Monday)	Last day to drop class with "W"
Weeks 10-15	October 28 – November 26	Chapters 5-6
Week 11	November 7 (Thursday)	Lab 5 due today
Week 15	November 25 (Monday)	Lab 6 due today
Week 15	November 26 (Tuesday)	Exam 3 today in class
Week 15	November 27-28	No class – Thanksgiving Break
Week 16	December 2 (Monday)	Portfolio Cultural due
Week 16	December 2 (Monday)	All extra credit due
Week 17	December 11 (Monday), 1-3:00 p.m.	Final Exam