



**Elementary Spanish I**  
**Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences**  
**SPAN 1134 Section X10**  
**Fall 2024 August 26 – December 7th.**

**Contact Information**

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**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, orally and in writing, 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**

Please, visit this website, and create a log in, it will be the same log in that you will need to access your materials to do homework, so make sure you write down your log in credentials

[Link to purchase book](#)

Once you access the site go to Spanish Language and open the options, you will see several options, you need to purchase the one that is \$178.80. I know you will be tempted to buy the cheapest option, but don't do it because that one is missing the entire platform of homework exercises.

### **Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance**

At least one hour of study is required on a daily basis for this course, including weekends. Be aware that if you need tutoring, please contact the [Academic Support Office](#). Also, your online component has tutorials about grammar and vocabulary embedded in each chapter: [VHL Central Supersite](#). Your professor is also available for a zoom consultation in case you need some clarification, but she will not act as a tutor for you, there are resources available for you to use.

### **Student Handbook**

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

### **Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures**

For this particular class, the professor considers cheating the act of using any kind of help to do the homework, answer exams, write compositions, and do any work with assistance either from another person or from an app such as a translation app or a chatGPT app. If the professor considers the student work is beyond the level of Spanish 1134 the professor reserves the right to give a zero for the work submitted. If the student keeps repeating the same behavior despite written warnings from the professor, the professor reserves the right to give the student a zero for the entire course. If the student challenges the professor's decision, the student has the obligation to demonstrate in person their writing skills by creating similar content to that of the offense.

The university defines Academic Dishonesty as: 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](#)

### **Instructor's Class Policies**

The following are rules you will need to take seriously in order to pass this class:

- You are responsible for going over the section 'Read Me First' on d2l to understand how this course is going to work.
- 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. The decision is at the discretion of the professor: do not risk your grade!
- On d2l, there are no make ups for any assignment, once the deadline has passed, d2l automatically will assign you a zero.

- On Vhl, you can submit late homework and quizzes up to three days late without a penalty, however, after the third day late your homework will not be accepted, and you will earn a zero for that activity. There will be homework assigned for every day of the week, and sometimes weekends.
- 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 I can do to help you. If you contact me when you encounter a problem, I'll answer to you within 24 hours by email.
- 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.
- 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 semester. If you need constant assistance with your Spanish, please consider visiting the [tutoring center](#).
- You are responsible for checking d2l and Vhl daily for assignments and daily communications. You have chosen to take this course online, so please make sure you have a computer with a camera in place, with a microphone able to record, 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](mailto:Claudia.Montoya@msutexas.edu)

### 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 professor.

Table 1: Grading Components

Assignments	Porcentaje
Vhl Homework	15%
Vhl Quizzes and D2L Vocabulary Quizzes	10%
D2LChapter Quizzes (at the end of the chapter)	10%
Speaking Practice (towards the end of the chapter)	10%
Writing Activities (at the end of the chapter)	5%
Live Speaking Exams (2)	15%
Midterm Exam (Lecciones 1-3)	15%
Comprehensive Final Exam (Lecciones 1 - 5)	15%
Personal Reflection essay (In English)	5%
Total	100%

Table 2: Total points 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 daily. This supersite is the one that comes with your textbook. Once you enter their 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 reading in the previous section.
- Gramática: this section please study in 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 weekly.

Only for the homework you will have a chance to submit the same activity up to three times on the same day. That is, you will have up to three attempts to complete your homework correctly, but make sure it says homework, because for quizzes your first attempt is the only one, so pay attention please. Be careful with doing your homework late, for each late day you will receive a 5% reduction on your grade for that quiz. Be careful with doing your homework late, for each late day you will receive a 5% reduction on your grade for that homework, until the professor enters the chapter's grades on D2L.

## **Vhl 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. Be careful with taking your quizzes late, for each late day you will receive a 5% reduction on your grade for that quiz, until the professor enters the chapter's grades on d2L.

## **D2L Vocabulary Quizzes**

On d2l you will always have a vocabulary quiz, at the beginning of the chapter, and once you have completed the vocabulary section on vhl. 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.

## **D2L Chapter Quizzes**

These chapter quizzes will help you to review for the exams: you will have one chapter quiz per chapter. You will have a total of five-chapter quizzes with a total value of 10 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, but also will have open questions and writing sentences, and a listening section.

## **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. 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 chapter you studied. 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.

## **Live Speaking Exams I and II**

There will be two Speaking Exams via zoom individually with each student, one at the end of chapter 3, right after the Midterm Exam and one at the end of chapter 5 right before the Final Exam. You will receive the available times to schedule your appointment before the interviews take place. The questions for the interview will be similar to the ones asked in the practice, but not the same. You will be provided with a set off questions to practice, but those questions will only serve you as a guide to prepare, your professor reserves the right to ask you different questions from the list. The meetings will be on zoom and you will find the zoom link on d2l under 'Content' only when the time comes.

### **Writing Activities**

At the end of each chapter you will be asked to submit a small composition related to the content of each chapter. Students at this level will make mistakes and that is fine. If the professor finds the language you use and the grammar to be way more advanced than Elementary Spanish I, your professor may 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. Do not risk it!

### **Reflective Essay**

Towards the end of the semester, you will write a personal reflective essay related to a sociocultural aspect. 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. The essay will be written in English, and it will be an opinion type of essay of no more, but no less than three pages. It should be typed, and it should follow the guidelines given on d2l. The Personal Reflective Essay serves as an assessment of the student's performance of the core curriculum objectives in the specific context of this course. The essay will be due towards the end of the semester.

### **Midterm Exam**

There is a Midterm exam that covers chapter 1 -3. You will be tested on vocabulary, grammar, writing and culture, as well as a listening section. 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. If you challenge the professor's decision, you will have to write in front of her similar activities than those on the exam to prove you really know the material.

### **Final Exam**

The final exam is scheduled for Saturday, December 7th from 10:30am to 12:30pm. There are no make-ups for the exam, so make sure you plan ahead to take it during the required time and date. Unlike the previous exams, for the final exam you are assigned a specific day and time, make sure you mark your calendar because if you miss the exam you will receive a zero. The final exam covers the content of chapters 1 to 5.

### **Extra Credit**

There will not be opportunities offered for extra credit in this course; if at any point in the semester you are concerned about your performance in the class, please contact me as soon as possible to help you develop strategies to reach your goals.

### **Late Work /Make up Work / Tests**

Late work: you are allowed to turn in late work for homework and quizzes on vhl, however **\*for each day late you will receive a penalty of 5% deduction.** There will be no makeup quizzes, make up exams, or make up homework. However, at the end of the semester, the lowest grade of Vhl quizzes and homework will be dropped.

### **Important Dates**

Last day for term schedule changes: August 29 Check the [Academic Calendar](#).

Deadline to file for graduation: December graduates September 23 / May graduates October 4<sup>th</sup>.. Check the date on the [Academic Calendar](#).

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" October 9<sup>th</sup>. Check the date on the [Academic Calendar](#).

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 or contact your instructor. **\*Important: Chromebooks DO NOT work with D2L.\***

### **Counseling**

If you think you may be experiencing depression, anxiety, substance abuse or any other situation for which you think counseling may help, please visit the [Counseling Resource Page](#) where you can find great online apps and assistance that can connect you to a real counselor.

### **Online Computer Requirements**

Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload 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 a reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments or tests.\*** 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 that 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 an application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (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 prohibit 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 as 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 the 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.”](#)

### *Obligation to Report Sex Discrimination under State and Federal Law*

Midwestern State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. State and federal law require University employees to report sex discrimination and sexual misconduct to the University’s Office of Title IX. As a faculty member, I am required to report to the Title IX Coordinator any allegations, personally observed behavior, or other direct or indirect knowledge of conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination or sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating violence, or stalking, involving a student or employee. After a report is made, the office of Title IX will reach out to the affected student or employee in an effort to connect such person(s) with resources and options in addressing the allegations made in the report. You are also encouraged to report any incidents to the office of Title IX. You may do so by contacting:

*Laura Hetrick*

Title IX Coordinator

Sunwatcher Village Clubhouse

940-397-4213

[laura.hetrick@msutexas.edu](mailto:laura.hetrick@msutexas.edu)

You may also file an online report 24/7 at

[File a report here](#)

Should you wish to visit with someone about your experience in confidence, you may contact the MSU Counseling Center at 940-397-4618. For more information on the University's policy on Title IX or sexual misconduct, please visit [Title IX Office](#)

### Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. 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:

Dates	D2L Activities Quizzes Exams	Chapter	Topics to study on your vText vhl homework and Quizzes
Week 1, August 26 – August 30th.	N/A	Chap. 1	Introduction to the course Preparación 1: Words related to meeting, greeting, and saying goodbye Preparación 1: Courtesy expressions Cultura: Saludos y espacio personal. Flash Cultura: encuentros en la Plaza. Gram. 1.1 Nouns and articles Gram. 1.2 Numbers 0-30 Pronunciación
Week 2, Sep 2nd. – Sep 6	D2L Speaking Activity * <b>09-06 to 09-08</b> D2L Writing Activity * <b>09-06 to 08-11</b> D2L Quiz Chapter 1 * <b>09-06 to 09-08</b>	Chap. 1	Lectura: Cognados Gram. 1.3 Present tense of ser Gram. 1.4 Telling time Repaso de vocabulario Repaso de gramática
Week 3, Sep 9 – Sep 13	N/A	Chap. 2	Preparación 2: Words related to people, places, and classes at the university Preparación 2: Days of the week Pronunciación Cultura: La elección de una carrera universitaria Flash Cultura: Los estudios Aventuras: ¿Te gustan los lunes? Gram. 2.1 Present tense of –ar verbs
Week 4, Sep 16 - 20	D2L Speaking Activity * <b>09-20 to 09-22</b>	Chap. 2	Gram. 2.2 Forming questions Gram. 2.3 Present tense of estar

Dates	D2L Activities Quizzes Exams	Chapter	Topics to study on your vText vhl homework and Quizzes
	D2L Writing Activity * <b>09-20 to 09-22</b> D2LQuiz Chapter 2 * <b>09-20 to 09-22</b>		Gram. 2.4 Numbers 31-100 Lectura: La Universidad... Repaso de vocabulario Repaso de gramática
Week 5, Sep 23 to 27	N/A	Chap. 3	Preparación 3: Words relating to family and professions Pronunciación Cultura: ¿Cómo te llamas? Flash Cultura: La familia Gram. 3.1 Descriptive adjectives Gram. 3.2 Possessive adjectives
Week 6, Sep 30 <sup>th</sup> . – Oct 4 <sup>th</sup>	D2L Speaking Activity * <b>10-04 to 10-06</b> D2L Writing Activity * <b>10-04 to 10-06</b> D2LQuiz Chapter 3 * <b>10-04 to 10-06</b>	Chap. 3	Gram. 3.3 Present tense of regular -er and -ir verbs Gram. 3.4 Present tense of tener and venir Lectura: Las familias Aventuras: Una Visita inesperada Repaso de vocabulario Repaso de gramática
Week 7, Oct. 7 <sup>th</sup> . – Oct. 11 <sup>th</sup> .	* <b>10-07 and 10-08 Oral Exam I 10-09 Midterm Exam from 8am to 10pm</b>	Chap. 3	Preparación 4: Words related to pastimes and sports Preparación 4: Places in the city Cultura: Real Madrid y Barca
Week 8, Oct 14 - Oct. 18	N/A	Chap. 3	Gram. 4.1 Present tense of ir Pronunciación 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
Week 9, Oct. 21 – Oct. 25	D2L Speaking Activity * <b>10-23 to 10-25</b> D2L Writing Activity * <b>10-23 to 10-25</b> D2LQuiz Chapter 4	Chap 4	Flash Cultura: ¡Fútbol en España! Aventuras: ¿Dónde están las entradas? Lectura: Guía para el fin de semana Repaso de vocabulario Repaso de gramática

Dates	D2L Activities Quizzes Exams	Chapter	Topics to study on your vText vhl homework and Quizzes
	<b>*10-23 to 10-25</b>		
Week 10, Oct. 28 – Nov. 1	N/A	Chap. 5	Preparación 5: Words related to vacationing, travel, weather, seasons, months, ordinal numbers. Cultura: El Camino Inca Flash Cultura: ¡Vacaciones en Perú! Gram. 5.1 Estar with conditions and emotions
Nov. 4 – Nov 8		Chap. 5	Gram. 5.2 The present progressive Gram. 5.3 Comparing ser and estar Gram. 5.4 Direct object nouns and pronouns
Week 12, Nov. 11 <sup>th</sup> . – Nov. 15	D2L Speaking Activity <b>*11-13 to 11-15</b> D2L Writing Activity <b>*11-13 to 11-15</b> D2L Quiz Chapter 5 <b>*11-13 to 11-15</b>	Chap 5	Lectura: Turismo ecológico en PR Repaso de vocabulario Repaso de gramática
Week 13, Nov 18 - 22	<b>*Oral Interviews 11-18 and 11-19</b>	Chap. 5	Pruebas de práctica: 1, 2, y 3
N/A Week 14, Nov. 25 – Nov. 29	Thanks Giving Nov 27 - 29	N/A	Pruebas de práctica: 4 y 5
Week 15, Dec 2 <sup>nd</sup> . – 6		Chap. 5	Personal Reflective Essay (Drop off assignment on d2L). Due date December 8th. Review
<b>December 7<sup>th</sup>.</b>	<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>Chaps. 1 to 5</b>	<b>On D2L from 10:30am to 12:30pm</b>