SPA 131 – Elementary Spanish I
Fall 2013

Department of Literature and Languages
Texas A&M University-Commerce

Course: Spa 131.001
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Office: HL 318
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REQUIRED TEXTS:

- Knorre, M., Dorwick, T., Pérez-Gironés, A., Glass, W., and Villareal, H. *Puntos de Partida. 9th edition.* New York: McGraw Hill, 2007. **ISBN:** 0073534420.
- *Connect Electronic Workbook* to accompany *Puntos de Partida. 9th ed.*
- *Connect Electronic Laboratory Manual* to accompany *Puntos de Partida. 9th ed.*

RECOMMENDED: Invest in a good Spanish/English dictionary (not a pocket edition), such as *Harper Collins Spanish Concise Dictionary*. 2nd ed. (or later) New York: Harper Collins, 2000 or *Bantam Diccionario Inglés-Español / Español-Inglés.*

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Spanish 131 is an introduction to the Spanish language and to the cultures of the Spanish-speaking world. The course focuses on the four areas of languages: listening, speaking, reading and writing. It includes beginning grammatical structures necessary for effective communication. Focusing on the oral communication is especially reinforced by requiring students to speak Spanish frequently in and out of the classroom. The course is conducted primarily in Spanish and the students will be required to demonstrate satisfactory communication skills as well as familiarity with cultural aspects presented in class.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: At the end of the course, students should have the tools to effectively discuss situations in the present and near future in Spanish, including simple conversations, asking questions, and formulating descriptions. Students should also be able to express the above functions in formal written Spanish. Furthermore, students will be expected to recognize grammatical terms in English and Spanish as provided in Appendix I of the textbook.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME
Students will demonstrate the ability to use vocabulary and grammar items (seen through this semester) by means of filling the gaps in a Spanish text. This outcome will be demonstrated by a question in the final exam.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Students are expected to do the following: prepare the assignments for the date indicated **prior to coming to class that day**; do the exercises in the book and workbook and lab manual as assigned; turn in homework on time; use the language skills outside the classroom (i.e. speaking to native speakers, watching Spanish lang. TV or

movies, reading Spanish lang. magazines or newspapers) in order to successfully pass the final exam. **Students are to bring their textbook to class every day.**

GRADING: Students earn their grade on an objective grading scale based upon 100 points.

Chapter Exams	45%	A = 100-90
Oral exams	20%	B = 89-80
Tutor interviews	10%	C = 79-70
Workbook + Lab Manual	15%	D = 69-60
Quizzes	5%	F = 59-
Participation	5%	

PARTICIPATION: Students are expected to come to class prepared to actively participate in all class activities and discussions. Your participation will be evaluated weekly with 100 points possible for the final participation grade.

The use of cell phones is considered against your participation in class. Please turn them off.

ATTENDANCE: Your presence in class is imperative. In order to be able to participate in class, you must be present. Roll will be taken every day, and attendance is mandatory. If you are absent more than three times, **for each absence beyond the three allowed your final grade will be lowered by 1% up to a maximum of 10%.** After the sixth absence, you may be dropped from the course. Absences due to illness or unexpected situation count as absences. The only absences that do not count beyond the three allowed are those resulting from required participation in university events, hospitalization, or family emergencies of which instructor has been notified by university officials. A tardy or leaving class early equals 1/3 of an absence. **Late work is not accepted. Make-up exams must be arranged before the date of the absence.**

CONNECT WORKBOOK AND LAB MANUAL: Homework is assigned to provide students with additional practice and review of material. The Workbook exercises are essential to understanding the material presented in the textbook and in the class. The Lab Manual will help practicing listening, speaking, reading and writing, so improving the four language skills. Both Workbook and Lab Manual are to be completed following the electronic versions provided by Connect. Students are responsible for completing assignments listed in the syllabus by the dates indicated. The system will not accept late work for credit; a student still may do it for the practice, however.

QUIZZES: Vocabulary and reading comprehension quizzes are given for each chapter. You can expect twelve quizzes throughout the semester. The two lowest quiz grades are dropped. No makeup quizzes are given due to routine absences.

EXAMS: Each written exam consists of listening, reading, grammar and vocabulary sections. Make up exams are not given unless arrangements have been made in advance of the absence from a scheduled exam.

- Exam 1 – Chapters 1, 2 and 3
- Exam 2 – Chapters 4 and 5
- Exam 3 – Chapters 6 and 7

Students may not take the final exam early. If you are not present for the Final Exam 3, you will receive a zero. No makeup exams are allowed for the final exam.

ORAL PROFICIENCY EXAM: Two oral proficiency exams are conducted in my office and consist of a conversation/interview about topics covered in class. Sign up for the oral exam is available a week prior to the exam.

TUTOR INTERVIEWS: A series of six interviews to be held with any of the two departmental tutors. Students must visit the tutors once every two weeks at their offices and maintain a conversation of no less than 15 minutes. Topics depend on the material covered in class, focusing in the chapters studied previously to each interview. Tutors will have signup sheets for students to set up an appointment for each one of the six interviews. The first four interviews are just to practice oral communication; the last two will take into account your performance in addition. Tutors' office: HL 119.

Incentive policy on Hispanic Film Showcase attendance

Attendance to the film showings is considered an extra-credit activity. Besides of expanding cultural and personal enrichment, you may help your Spanish course (or courses) grade. Students may earn 2 points per attendance to each of the four films (8 points total). These points will be added up to the grade of the first exam following to each film showing. Your instructor will provide the dates/times and dates of the showings.

Tutoring and Advising:

- **Your Instructor:** I am your first resource and want to make your experience as positive as possible. Please talk to me if you are having any problems in the course and I will do my best to assist you.

- **Tutorials:** Tutoring is available in HL 119. Tutorials are free of charge and are offered daily. Sign up is on the door.

- **Mach III:** If you are a 1st generation college student; or if you are in the federal category qualified as low-income; or if you have any type of disability, you may qualify for free tutoring at Mach III. Visit the Student Services Building, 3rd floor (303A), or call (903) 886-5150.

- **Advising:** To declare a major, second major, or minor in Spanish, or to get further information on our program, please make an appointment with Dr. Inma Lyons, 903-468-8774, Inma.Lyons@tamuc..edu, HL 311.

- **Notice to those seeking Teacher Certification:** Students who plan to teach English, Spanish, or English as a Second Language in Texas public schools must pass the appropriate state certification tests. The Department of Literature and Languages grants approval to take the content-area tests, subject to the policies described at this URL: <http://faculty.tamu-commerce.edu/bolin/texes.html>. Additional information about the examinations and the internship is available at the Educator Certification office in Ed North 204 (ext. 5182).

- **Placement Exam:** If you have taken ***any*** Spanish in the past, or if you speak Spanish, you should take the Spanish placement exam. It is offered every day in McDowell Administration Building, 315A. You may possibly place out of lower-division classes and receive up to 6 hours of credit! This exam is to help you finish your language requirement sooner, or get you into upper-level classes without repeating work you have already done in the past.

- **Study Abroad:** We encourage students to pursue an immersion experience in Spanish by participating in our study abroad programs. Anytime you receive credit for courses taken abroad, you must have them approved by the Spanish faculty and advisor BEFORE you leave. Please speak to your professor if you are interested in taking Spanish in Spain or Mexico. As a bilingual student, you can benefit enormously from a study-abroad experience. Financial aid will apply to most destinations and the Office of International Studies offers travel stipends for almost all interested students to travel to a variety of countries. For more information contact Dr. Kenneth Clinton in Ferguson Social Sciences 220, (903) 468-6034.

- **E-Culture Policy:** When dealing with faculty over e-mail, it is important that students keep the following in mind:

  - Always use the Tamu-c e-mail account to communicate with your instructor. Messages from any other e-mail accounts will not be considered.

  - Always use salutations and signatures. Be courteous. Add a recognizable subject to your e-mail.

  - For serious matters use e-mails to facilitate a mutually agreeable time to meet. E-mail should not be used to avoid personal interaction.

  - Never use e-mail to vent or to respond immediately to an emotional situation.

Statements to students required by the University and the Department of Literature and Languages:

- **Retention statement for 1st Year Students**: Grades for students in freshmen level classes will be reported to the Registrar's Office at the end of the fifth week of class during the fall and spring semesters. The Registrar's Office will report grades to students, Advising Services, Academic Departments (faculty advisors) and mentors. This procedure will allow students to be knowledgeable about their academic progress early in the semester. The university, through Advising Services, faculty advisors and mentors, will take steps to assist students who may be experiencing difficulty to focus on improvement and course completion. Early intervention for freshman students is designed to communicate to students the University's interest in their success and willingness to participate fully to help students accomplish their objectives.

- **Behavior**: All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct).

- **Americans 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 have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library
Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
e-mail: <StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu>

- **Academic Honesty**: *Plagiarism* is borrowing the work of others and not giving credit where credit is due. It is unethical and reflects very poorly on a person's character. Copying someone else's work, or asking a friend or tutor to write your compositions constitutes a violation of academic honesty policy. Likewise, the use of electronic media to translate your work to Spanish

is also unacceptable. Instructors in the Department of Literature and Languages do not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Instructors uphold and support the highest academic standards, and students are expected to do likewise. Penalties for students guilty of academic dishonesty include disciplinary probation, suspension, and expulsion. (Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b[1,2,3]) Students who engage in plagiarism and copying acts that deserve official disciplinary actions are subject to academic sanctions.

Finally, a piece of advice: Learning Spanish is actually a medical device!

Research indicates that knowing and using two languages reduces your chances of developing dementia, including Alzheimer's disease. The scientists who studied this were motivated by earlier studies which showed that bilingualism enhances mental abilities in both children and older adults. Other studies show that studying languages can improve your memory and slow age-related decline in mental acuity. And studying another language makes you smarter! Your critical thinking skills will be improved as you learn to view things through a different lens. Learning a second language stimulates creativity!

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FECHA	ACTIVIDADES DE CLASE Y TAREAS
Lunes, 26 de agosto	Primer día de clase: Introduction to course and textbook.
Miércoles, 28 de agosto	**Capítulo 1:** Ante todo 2-11: Saludos y expresiones, alfabeto, cognados, cómo es usted, nota cultural.
Viernes, 30 de agosto	12-17: Pronunciación, números, hay, gustos.
septiembre	
Lunes 2	Labor Day: no hay clase.
Miércoles 4	¿Qué hora es? Lectura Repaso y quiz (1) de Ante Todo
Viernes 6	**Capítulo 2:** ***En la universidad*** Vocabulario, palabras interrogativas, pronunciación
Lunes 9	Singular and plural nouns, gender, articles Vocabulary quiz (2) **Mañana acaba el plazo para la 1ª entrevista con el tutor**.
Miércoles 11	Subject pronouns, present tense of –AR verbs, negations, ESTAR, por vs. de in expressing time of day
Viernes 13	Yes/No questions, rising entonation, inversion Perspectivas culturales: Quiz (3) de comprensión lectora
Lunes 16	**Capítulo 3:** ***La familia*** Vocabulario, acentos
Miércoles 18	Forms and placements of adjectives, forms of this/these Quiz de vocabulario (4)
Viernes 20	SER, porque vs. para
Lunes 23	Possessive adjectives
Miércoles 25	Present tense of –ER and –IR verbs **Hoy acaba el plazo para la 2ª entrevista con el tutor**.
Viernes 27	Perspectivas culturales Repaso para el examen 1
Lunes 30	**Examen 1 – Capítulos 1, 2 y 3** Workbook and Lab Manual due
octubre	

Miércoles 2	**Capítulo 4: *De compras*** Vocabulario, números
Viernes 4	Pronunciación, demonstrative adjectives and pronouns Quiz de vocabulario (5)
Lunes 7	TENER, VENIR, PREFERIR, QUERER, PODER
Miércoles 9	Perspectivas culturales: Quiz (6) de comprensión lectora Repaso para el Examen Oral **Mañana acaba el plazo para la 3ª entrevista con el tutor**.
Viernes 11	**Oral exam**: conducted in pairs in HL 318. ¡No hay clase!
Lunes 14	**Oral exam**: conducted in pairs in HL 318. ¡No hay clase!
Miércoles 16	**Capítulo 5: *En casa*** Vocabulario, pronunciación
Viernes 18	HACER, OÍR, PONER, SALIR, TRAER, VER Quiz de vocabulario (7)
Lunes 21	PENSAR, VOLVER, PEDIR
Miércoles 23	Reflexive pronouns
Viernes 25	Perspectivas culturales: Quiz (8) de comprensión lectora **Hoy acaba el plazo para la 4ª entrevista con el tutor**.
Lunes 28	**Examen 2 – Capítulos 4 y 5** Workbook and Lab Manual due
Miércoles 30	**Capítulo 6: *Las estaciones y el tiempo*** Vocabulario, preposiciones, pronunciación
noviembre	
Viernes 1	Present progressive: ESTAR + -ndo Quiz de vocabulario (9)
Lunes 4	¿Ser o estar?
Miércoles 6	Comparisons
Viernes 8	Perspectivas culturales: Quiz (10) de comprensión lectora Repaso
Lunes 11	**Capítulo 7: *¿Qué le gusta comer?*** Vocabulario **Hoy acaba el plazo para la 5ª entrevista con el tutor**.
Miércoles 13	SABER vs. CONOCER Quiz de vocabulario (11)
Viernes 15	Pronunciación, expressing *what* or *whom*, direct object pronouns
Lunes 18	Indefinite and negative words
Miércoles 20	Formal commands
Viernes 22	Repaso de las secciones gramaticales del Capítulo 7
Lunes 25	Perspectivas culturales: Quiz (12) de comprensión lectora
Miércoles 27	Review and prepare for oral proficiency
Viernes 29	Día de Acción de Gracias. ¡No hay clase!
diciembre	
Lunes 2	**Oral exam**: conducted in HL 318. ¡No hay clase!
Miércoles 4	**Oral exam**: conducted in HL 318. ¡No hay clase!
Viernes 6	Último día de clase: Repaso para el Examen Final 3 **Hoy acaba el plazo para la 6ª y última entrevista con el tutor**.
Lunes 9	**Examen Final 3 – Capítulos 6 y 7** Workbook and Lab Manual due

Note: This syllabus may be modified to accommodate unforeseen circumstances.