

SPA 131- Elementary Spanish I
Fall 2014
Department of Literature and Languages
Texas A & M University-Commerce

Course: Spa 131.001 – MWF 8:00am-8:50pm- HL306

3 undergraduate credit hours

Professor: Mary Ochoa

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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 10:00-12:00 p.m.; Friday 10:00- 11:00 p.m.

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Course Description

Spanish 131 is an introduction to the Spanish language and to the cultures of the Spanish speaking world. Linguistically, this course focuses on the four abilities necessary for mastering a foreign language: listening, speaking, reading and writing. We understand that the cultural component is just as important as the linguistic one for learning to communicate effectively; therefore, students will also be introduced to the cultures of the Hispanic world. At the end of the semester, students will be required to demonstrate satisfactory communication skills as well as familiarity with the cultural aspects presented in class. The Spanish language will be used in class for practical purposes; however, English will also be employed to explain difficult grammatical concepts.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course, students should have the tools to effectively do the following in Spanish:

- ✓ Narrate and discuss simple situations in the present and near future in Spanish.
- ✓ Conduct simple conversations, ask questions, and formulate descriptions orally, all at the beginning level according to ACTFL guidelines.
- ✓ Express the above functions in formal written Spanish.
- ✓ Identify differences in cultural practices in the Spanish speaking world.
- ✓ Recognize grammatical terms in English and Spanish as provided in Appendix I of the textbook.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO)

Students will demonstrate the ability to talk in Spanish about their daily life and activities according to the following guidelines:

- Use of core vocabulary related to routines, daily activities and schedules.
- Use of frequent verbs in the present tense, with emphasis on the use of 'ser', 'estar' and 'tener'
- Use of temporal markers to indicate the parts of the week and day

This learning outcome will be measured during the final oral individual interview. Students' responses will demonstrate listening and speaking skills at the mid-novice level (ACTFL guidelines), evaluated according to the following: lexical development, grammar accuracy, fluency and response coherence appropriate to the level.

ACTFL guidelines for mid to advanced novice learners will be used to measure this outcome as follows:

Novice High

At the Novice High sublevel, readers can understand, fully and with relative ease, key words and cognates, as well as formulaic phrases across a range of highly contextualized texts. Where vocabulary has been learned, they can understand predictable language and messages such as those found on train schedules, roadmaps, and street signs. Readers at the Novice High sublevel are typically able to derive meaning from short, non-complex texts that convey basic information for which there is contextual or extralinguistic support.

Novice Mid

At the Novice Mid sublevel, readers are able to recognize the letters or symbols of an alphabetic or syllabic writing system or a limited number of characters in a character-based language. They can identify a number of highly contextualized words and phrases including cognates and borrowed words but rarely understand material that exceeds a single phrase. Rereading is often required.

Course Workload

1. Attendance & Participation

- Participation and attendance are fundamental to succeed in this course. **Attendance is mandatory.** If you are absent more than three times, you will be given a warning. After six absences, you may be dropped from the course, depending on circumstances. Absences due to illness or unexpected situations count as absences. The only justified absences beyond the three allowed are those resulting from required participation in university events, hospitalization, or family emergencies of which the instructor has been notified by university officials. Please note that there is no participation grade given in this course; however, **after three unexcused absences, your final grade will be reduced by 2 points per absence. Late work is not accepted. Exams and quizzes cannot be made up.**
- You should arrive on time. **Two late arrivals or early departures by more than 10 minutes equal one absence.** If a student arrives late, s/he needs to talk to the professor at the end of class to make sure that a tardy mark was registered in the class book instead of an absence. If a student misses 3 consecutive sessions and does not contact the instructor, s/he may be dropped from class.
- **You should not make travel/family /employment plans** that interfere with classes or exams since make up exams cannot be made in order to accommodate such plans.
- Student athletes, band members and members of other university sanctions should bring a letter from their supervisor or specific department **during the first week of class** indicating the dates they will miss class.
- Students who require special accommodations for religious holidays should make arrangements with their instructor **during the first week of class.**
- **Behavior:** All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Knorre, M., Dorwick, T., Pérez-Gironés, A., Glass, W., and Villareal, H. *Puntos de Partida*. 9th ed. New York: McGraw Hill, 2011.

- *Connect Electronic Workbook and Lab Manual to accompany Puntos de Partida. 9th ed.*

RECOMMENDED

Invest in a good Spanish/English dictionary.

GRADING

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

Exam 1	10%	A = 100-90
Exam 2	15%	B = 89-80
Exam 3	20%	C = 79-70
Oral Exam 1	10%	D = 69-60
Cultural Final Essay	15%	F = 59-
Tutor interviews	10%	
Connect Workbook + Lab Manual	10%	
Quizzes	5%	
Participation	5%	

PARTICIPATION

Students are expected to attend all classes and to actively participate in all activities and discussions.

Please note that **late work is not accepted**. If you must be absent from class on a quiz or exam day for justified circumstances, please speak to your instructor immediately.

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.

- Read the attached sheet to follow Connect registration instructions.

Daily RESPONSIBILITIES

It is your responsibility to come into class prepared having reviewed the material that we will be going over that next class.

QUIZZES

Vocabulary quizzes are given for each chapter. You can expect 6 quizzes throughout the semester. No makeup quizzes are given due to routine absences.

EXAMS

There will be **three chapter tests** (exam 1 = chapter 1 & 2, exam 2 = chapters 3 & 4, exam 3 = chapters 5 & 6) covering all course material, including vocabulary, grammar structures, listening, reading and writing. Tentative dates are indicated in the course schedule and may be modified as

needed. Students requiring special testing accommodations must provide documentation to the Instructor during the first week of class.

Oral Proficiency Exams

An **oral proficiency exam** will be conducted at the end of the semester to measure students' speaking level. The oral exam will consist of an interview on topics presented in class. Students will prepare by actively participating in all class sessions, presenting their cultural report and attending the conversation meeting with the tutors. The oral exam will be conducted during the last week of classes in the instructor's office hours. Please sign in at your earliest convenience.

Cultural Essay

The cultural essay is a written report based on cultural topics related to one of the four films that will be presented during the Hispanic Film Showcase. Students are required to prepare a short essay that analyzes or compares a cultural aspect of their interest. Grading is based upon quality of the material, grammar accuracy, and depth of content. Essay must be typed double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 point font, in ENGLISH.

TUTOR INTERVIEWS

A series of three interviews are to be held with departmental tutors. Students must visit the tutors by the designated deadline 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 three interviews. Each tutoring session will take into account your performance and participation. Tutors' office is HL 119

In addition to the required tutoring sessions, students can also make appointments with the tutors simply to get help with the concepts learned in class.

INCENTIVE POLICY ON HISPANIC FILM SHOWCASE ATTENDANCE

Attendance to the film showings is considered an extra-credit activity; however, Spanish faculty considers this a very important event, and worthy of your attendance. This experience will expand your cultural experience and offers personal enrichment. Also, you may help your grade in this Spanish course, as you may earn up to 2 points per attendance to each of the films. These 2 points will be added to the grade of the first exam following each film showing. Your instructor will provide the dates/times for the showings.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology successfully in this course.

- Internet access/connection / high speed recommended (not dial-up).
- Headset/Microphone.
- Word processor (MS Word or Word Perfect).

Additionally, the following hardware and software are necessary to use eCollege:

Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. This means this course will work best if you are using a Windows operating system (XP or newer) and a recent version of Microsoft Internet Explorer (6.0, 7.0, or 8.0).

The course will also work with Macintosh OS X along with a recent version of Safari 2.0 or better. Along with Internet Explorer and Safari, eCollege also supports Firefox browser (3.0) on both Windows and Mac operating systems.

-Internet access/connection – high speed recommended (not dial-up).

-Word processor (Microsoft Word).

It is strongly recommended that you perform a “Browser test” prior to the start of the course. To launch a browser test, login to eCollege, click on ‘myCourses’ tab, and then select the “Browser test” link under Support Services.

Technical Support

Texas A & M University-Commerce provides students technical support in the use of eCollege. The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week:

- Chat support: Click on ‘Live support’ on the tool bar with the course to chat with an eCollege representative.
- Phone: 1-866-656-5511 (Toll free) to speak with eCollege technical support representative.
- E-mail: helpdesk@online.tamuc.org to initiate a support request with eCollege technical support representative.
- Help: Click on the ‘help’ button on the toolbar for information regarding working with eCollege (i.e. how to submit to dropbox, how to post to discussion, etc.)

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

Spa 131 is a web-enhanced course through eCollege, the learning management system used by Texas A & M University-Commerce. To use the eCollege features associated with this course go to: <https://leo.tamuc.edu/>

You will need your CWID (Campus Wide I.D.) and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact technology services at 903-468-6000 or helpdesk@online.tamuc.org

eCollege features used by Spa 131

Spa 131 is a face-to-face course; however, we will take advantage of computer technology to enhance the benefits of the course. Through eCollege, students will be able to do the following:

- ✓ Obtain and print a copy of this syllabus.
- ✓ Obtain other course documents through doc. sharing.
- ✓ Check their grades online through the eCollege gradebook.
- ✓ Talk to other students through the Virtual Lounge.

Every communication with the instructor should occur via e-mail at:

rmendoza6@leomail.tamuc.edu

The instructor will also use eCollege announcements to communicate with students. Please check your university e-mail regularly.

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. Please register your name on the sign-up sheet on the door prior to your tutoring session.
- **Advising:** To declare a major, second major, or minor in Spanish, or for more information on our program, please contact Dr. Flavia Belpoliti at flavia.belpoliti@tamuc.edu or Dr. Dottie McIntyre at dottie.mcintyre@tamuc.edu.
- **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 departmental policies. Additional information about the examinations and the internship is available at the Educator Certification office in Ed North 204 (ext. 5182). If you plan to be a Spanish teacher, please speak to Dr. Inma Lyons. You may contact her at Inma.Lyons@tamuc.edu
- **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 at the Testing Office located in the One Stop Shop building. 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 advice and the Department of Literature and Languages' Department Head BEFORE you leave. Please speak to your professor if you are interested in taking Spanish in Spain or Mexico. 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 your MyLeo e-mail account to communicate with your instructor.
 - Messages from any other e-mail account may go into the junk folder.
 - Always use salutations and signatures. Be courteous. Add a recognizable subject to your e-mail. If you don't sign your e-mail, your instructor may not know where it comes from.
 - 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 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 information: Learning Spanish is actually good for your health!

Research indicates that knowing and using two languages reduces your chances of developing dementia, including Alzheimer's disease. These scientists 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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CONNECT WORKBOOK AND LAB MANUAL INFORMATION

Sign In: If you have already created a Connect account that is tied to your instructor’s course, please click Sign In. If you have yet to register for your instructor’s course, please click the “How to Register” link below.

Purchase Access: Learn how to buy access to a Connect course.

How to Register: Learn how to register for Connect **if you have already purchased a code.**

Connect’s Free Trial registration option allows you to register in Connect without purchasing an access code and receive full access (for 21 days) before being required to get one. This option is helpful for those awaiting financial aid or a textbook in the bookstore, those who may drop the class and those who want to try the Connect Plus eBook before they buy.

If using the free trial, be sure to get full access to Connect before the trial period expires to avoid any delays in completing your coursework. If your trial period does expire, your work will be saved. Just login with the username and password you used to create your Connect account and choose to “purchase full Connect access here.”

Tentative Schedule- Fall 2014

***The course schedule is subject to revisions and other modifications as the instructor deems necessary. Any changes to the course schedule will be announced in advance.

Date	Activity	HW
8/25	First class day: Course and textbook presentation. Learning Style Survey	Complete the student questionnaire. Register your account in Connect.
8/27	Ice Breaker Activities	
8/29	Capítulo 1: The alphabet pg.7, Pronunciation pg. 18 Cognates	Review the alphabet Read pages 4-11
9/01	Labor day Holiday	
9/03	2-11 Greetings and common expressions,	
9/05	expressing what you are like, and “nota cultural”	Read pgs. 12-15
09/08	12-15 Numbers 0-30, expressing “there is, there are”	
09/10	Review, Expressing likes.	Read pgs. 16-17
09/12	16-17¿Qué hora es? (What time is it?)	Read and Review pgs. 26-30
09/15	Capítulo 2: “En la Universidad” Vocabulary & question words pgs. 26-30	Study Vocabulary Read pgs. 32-37
09/17	Quiz 1 Vocabulary Singular and plural of nouns, gender, articles pgs. 32-37	Read pgs. 38-43
09/19	Pgs. 38-43 Subject pronouns, present tense of –AR verbs, expressing negative declarations	Read pgs. 43-44
09/22	The verb ESTAR, expressing the time of day: por vs. de pgs. 43-44	Read pgs. 45-49
09/24	Yes/No questions, rising intonation, subject/verb inversion in questions. Pgs 45-49 (Friday 26 th is the deadline for tutoring session No. 1)	
09/26	Review for Exam 1 over chapters 1 & 2 **Today is the deadline for tutoring session No. 1)	Study for Exam 1 Connect exercises for chapters 1 & 2 will be due on Exam day before midnight.
09/29	Exam 1-Chapters 1 & 2	*Connect exercises for chapters 1 & 2 are due today before midnight. Read pgs. 60-64
10/01	Capítulo 3: “La familia” Vocabulary practice, pgs. 60-64	Read pgs. 66-69 Study Vocabulary

	Numbers to 100, pg. 65	
10/03	Vocabulary Quiz 2 Forms and placements of adjectives, forms of this-these pgs. 66-69	Read pgs. 72-75
10/06	The verb SER, -porque vs. -para, pgs. 72-75	Read pgs. 77-78
10/08	The possessive adjectives, pgs. 77-78	Read pgs. 80-83
10/10	Present tense of -ER and IR verbs, pgs. 80-83 Lectura Cultural pg. 90	Read pgs. 90, 98-101
10/13	Capítulo 4: "De compras" Vocabulary practice, pgs. 98-101. Numbers to 2 million	Study Vocabulary Read pgs. 107-109
10/15	Vocabulary Quiz 3 Demonstrative adjectives and pronouns, pgs. 107-109	Read pgs. 111-113, 122
10/17	The verbs TENER, VENIR, PREFERIR, QUERER, PODER pgs. 111-113 Lectura Cultural pg. 122	Read pgs. 116-118
10/20	Expressing destination and future actions, the verb IR pgs. 116-118 (Wednesday 22 nd is the deadline for tutoring session no. 2)	
10/22	Review for Exam 2 over Chapters 3 and 4 **Today is the deadline for tutoring session no. 2	Study for exam over chapters 3 & 4 Connect exercises for chapters 3 & 4 will be due on exam day before midnight.
10/24	Exam 2 over Chapters 3 & 4	*Connect exercises for chapters 3 & 4 are due today before midnight. Read pgs. 130-135
10/27	Capítulo 5: "En casa" Vocabulary practice, pgs. 130-133 Preposiciones I, pgs. 134-135.	Study Vocabulary Read pgs. 136-138
10/29	Vocabulary Quiz 4 The verbs HACER, OÍR, PONER, SALIR, TRAER, VER pgs. 136-138	Read pg. 142
10/31	The verbs PENSAR, VOLVER, PEDIR pg. 142	Read pgs. 143-145
11/03	Other Stem-Changing verbs pgs. 143-145	Read pgs. 147-149, 156
11/05	Reflexive Pronouns, pgs. 147-149 Lectura Cultural pg. 156	Read pgs. 164-168
11/07	Capítulo 6: "Las estaciones y el tiempo" Práctica de vocabulario, pgs. 164-166 Preposiciones, pgs. 168	Study Vocabulary Read pgs. 170-171
11/10	The present progressive pgs. 170-171	Read pgs. 175-177
11/12	SER vs. ESTAR pgs. 175-177	Read pgs. 182-185, 192

11/14	Expressing Comparisons pgs. 182-185 Lectura Cultural pg. 192	Read pgs. 200-203
11/17	Capítulo 7: ¿Qué le gusta comer? Práctica de vocabulario, pgs. 200-203	Study Vocabulary Read pgs. 206-207
11/19	Vocabulary Quiz 6 Direct Objects: Expressing “what” and “whom”, personal “a”, pgs. 206-207	Read pg. 208
11/21	Direct Object Pronouns, pg. 208	Review Direct Objects
11/24	Review and practice: Direct object and direct object pronouns.	Read pgs. 212-213
11/26	Expressing Negation The verbs SABER and CONOCER pgs. 212- 213	Read pgs. 216-217, 224
11/28	Thanksgiving Holiday	
12/01	Influencing others: Commands pgs. 216- 217 Lectura Cultural pg. 224 (Wednesday 3 rd is the deadline for tutoring session no. 3) ***Oral Exams will be conducted during instructors office hours.	
12/03	Catch up day. **Today is the deadline for tutoring session no. 3 ***Oral Exams will be conducted during instructors office hours.	Cultural Final Essay due 12/05
12/05	Review for final exam over chapters 5, 6, and 7. ***Oral Exams will be conducted during instructors office hours. **Cultural Final Essay due	Study for Final Exam
12/08	Final Exam for Spa. 131.003-10:30-12:30 a.m.	
12/10	Final Exam for Spa. 131.004-10:30-12:30 a.m.	