

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE
SPANISH LANGUAGE PROGRAM

ELEMENTARY SPANISH (SPAN 1100/1101)
FALL 2015

DESCRIPCIÓN DEL CURSO

PROFESOR(A)

SECCIÓN

HORAS DE OFICINA

E-MAIL

TELÉFONO

ELEMENTARY SPANISH (SPAN 1100/1101)

COURSE INTRODUCTION

I. Required Text:

Exploraciones, 1st Edition



includes iLrn™ Heinle Learning Center Printed Access Card

Mary Ann Blitt - Maplewoods Community College
Margarita Casas - Linn-Benton Community College
ISBN-10: 1413000681 ISBN-13: 9781413000689
640 Pages Paperbound
© 2012 Published

SUPPORT:

Support for ILRN: You have numerous choices for support from Quia for the ilrn HLC:

E-mail: bookhelp@quia.com (will respond within 24 hours, usually very quickly)

Online form: <http://books.quia.com/support.html> (will respond in 24 hours or less)

Toll free phone number: (877)282-4400 press 2 for technical support

Support for Cengage web pages or content:

<http://www.cengage.com/support/> you pick the product and you will be given phone and form support

Recommended Materials:

Your choice of a Spanish-English Dictionary. It has to be a hard copy. Electronic version is not accepted.

COURSE GOALS:

The principal aims of this beginning level Spanish language course are to encourage the development of competency and proficiency of all four language skills—listening, speaking, reading, and writing—plus the fifth skill, understanding culture, using a communicative approach to second language acquisition.

Exploraciones is an inductive approach that will challenge you to arrive at an understanding of the Spanish language and Hispanic cultures by tapping into the knowledge you already have and applying it to what you are learning. You will start out asking and answering questions, then you will narrate events and make comparisons, and eventually you will be able to express your opinions.

You shall notice that thematically, all the chapters are centered on various “**exploraciones**,” where students engage in interactive activities in Spanish within various Spanish-speaking cultures. In this course Spanish will be the only communication tool, and authentic materials will be used as much as possible.

Finally, the course requires continuous and independent work out of the classroom, to consolidate the knowledge and linguistic skills developed during class time. Because of the nature of the course, learning is build up, to a certain extent, on previous material. To be successful, you must have good study habits and determination. Remember you are responsible for your own learning!

A. FINAL GRADE COMPONENT WEIGHTING

1. In-class performance	4%
2 Two grading periods: (2% each period) = 4%	
2. Homework	4%
a) Quia/Ilrn/: (4% total)	
b) Wednesday assignment (6%)	6%
- Mini-pop quiz class rules	
- Lectura	
- Profesiones	
3. Composition/Written Assignment	12%
a) One composition (10 %)	
- First version written in class 60 puntos	
- Rewrite 40 puntos	
b) One written assignment (2%)	
4. Oral exams (2) (6% each) (12% total)	12%
Interview	
Skit	
5. Pop-quizzes (3) (4 % each) (12% total)	12%
6. Pruebas (2) (10% each) (20% total)	20%
7. Midterm (15%)	15%
8. Final exam (15%)	<u>15%</u>
TOTAL:	100%

B. GRADING SYSTEM

A = 94-100	B = 83-86.9	C = 73-76.9	D = 63-66.9
A- = 90-93.9	B- = 80-82.9	C- = 70-72.9	D- = 60-62.9
B+ = 87-89.9	C+ = 77-79.9	D+ = 67-69.9	F = 0-59.9

SPANISH LANGUAGE PROGRAM POLICIES

C. ATTENDANCE (Please refer to Vanderbilt Student Catalog page 82)

Regular class attendance is essential for successful completion of the course; attendance is therefore **obligatory** for all Spanish language courses. It is your responsibility to attend class and keep track of your absences. In case circumstances arise that prevent you from attending class, you are permitted five (5) unexcused absences, about which questions will not be asked nor excuses solicited. Since 5 classes represent a whole week of formal contact, any absence beyond those classes is considered excessive. These 5 absences are not “free” but should be employed judiciously for doctor’s appointments, minor illnesses, attendance at weddings, etc.

It is also essential to be on time. Please be aware that if you are more than 5 minutes late, you will be counted absent.

No cell phones, pagers, or other electronic communication devices are to be on or used during class. They are of course entirely prohibited during exams. (Please, read “*Classroom Courtesy*” rules)

D. EXCESSIVE ABSENCES (Please refer to Vanderbilt Student Catalog page 82)

If you accumulate 6 absences or more, one **(1) percentage point per unexcused absence will be deducted from your FINAL GRADE calculation.** For example, if you were to miss a total of seven (7) classes during the semester (5 permitted plus 2 unexcused), your final grade would be reduced by two (2) points. To have your absences excused, you must provide your instructor with official documentation of the reason for your missing class (e.g. extended hospitalization, medical emergency, religious functions, etc.) **Documentation must be provided within five (5) class days after you return to class.** You will have no opportunity to get any excess absences excused at the end of the semester.

An excess of absences in a Spanish language class **will result in a failure in the course.** For Spanish 100/101 **the number is 10.** If you have accrued 5 absences (allowed) your instructor will contact you and remind you once more of the excess absences policy. If you are close to the limit (10), we will e-mail you and copy the message to the DUS (Director of Undergraduate Studies). **Once you have exceeded the limit, you will fail the course.**

E. LATE WORK AND MAKE-UP EXAMS

You are not allowed to turn in late work unless you have a documented excuse. If you present documentation of an emergency, be it medical or otherwise, your instructor will do everything s/he can to help you make up missed class work. Any make-up must be completed within (5) class days.

The general rule, however, is the following: **NO LATE WORK IS ACCEPTED AND NO MAKE-UP EXAMS OR COMPOSITION WILL BE GIVEN.** It is always your responsibility to find out what was covered in class the day you were absent, to get any updates on assignments, and to come to the next class prepared for that day’s work.

F. VANDERBILT'S HONOR CODE

You are expected to adhere strictly to the Vanderbilt Undergraduate Honor Code. You are expected to neither give nor receive aid in the completion of exams, quizzes, or any work prepared outside of class that is to be submitted for a grade. In order to attend this course, you will be asked to read, sign, turn in, and abide by the Spanish Language Program's policy on Academic Integrity and the Vanderbilt Honor Code.

G. PREPARATION FOR CLASS

You are expected to study and prepare the assignments specified on the syllabus which include activities assigned from the textbook, workbook manual, and/or companion website. To participate actively, you will need to come to class well prepared in terms of vocabulary and ideas. Likewise, you will need to come willing to practice expressing yourself. Oral communication does not imply perfection, but it does necessitate an increasing ability and willingness to convey what you want to say in Spanish.

1) HOMEWORK (4%): Your texts are the most important source of material for this class. Your interaction with the exercises and activities will have a strong influence on your overall performance. All students should complete the on-line exercises assigned as daily homework in the Course Calendar. The *Ilrn* (*Quia*) manual contextualize the material from the text as it includes written and listening activities. It is not simply “more of the same” but rather an integral component of the course. Students should note that a direct correlation has been observed between final grade in the course and regular completion of the manual exercises, with students who work regularly on the manual generally attaining higher grades in the course. **Please remember that exams will be closely related to the textbook and manual exercises online, and that you will not be able to be successful in exams unless you do your homework tasks daily.**

You can work on your assignments at home, or go to the Center for Second Language Studies, located on the ground floor of Furman Hall (Room 001). You can also go to any of the other labs on campus. Audio materials can be accessed through the CD-Rom which accompanies your text and through *Ilrn*. Your homework must be completed everyday by class time.

2) IN-CLASS PERFORMANCE (4%): An oral proficiency grade is given for your performance, not for your potential or effort alone. You are expected to attend class and to participate. Above average and outstanding performance warrants a B or an A. Your proficiency grade includes your contribution in Spanish in regular class sessions and active participation in Spanish in small-group activities. If you are in class, but are **not** prepared and/or do not participate, you will receive a 0 for the day. Your proficiency will be assessed every day, although you will only receive an average grade twice a semester.

This takes into consideration but is not limited to 1) how much you use your Spanish; 2) how well you use Spanish; 3) your preparation for class; 4) your cooperation and leadership in pair and group work; and 5) your respect and attitude towards the class, your peers, and your instructor.

Regarding the use of English, you must make every effort to express your questions in Spanish. During group work you will be expected to speak in Spanish the entire time. Even if you finish the assigned activity before the rest of the class, continue to speak in Spanish in your group.

No cell phones, pagers, or other electronic communication devices are to be on or used during class. They are of course entirely prohibited during exams. (Please, read “*Classroom Courtesy*” rules)

IN-CLASS PERFORMANCE EVALUATION CRITERIA

10 pts. The "A" Student

1. initiates and maintains interaction with students and instructor from the moment s/he walks into the classroom
2. never uses English in discussions and group activities
3. asks questions only in Spanish
4. is always prepared with homework and demonstrates a minimum of errors
5. attempts to use complete sentences with connectors, conjunctions; always elaborates on answers

9 pts. The "A-" Student

1. maintains interaction with students and instructor
2. rarely uses English in class and only if has asked permission
3. always prepared for class
4. has few errors
5. voluntarily elaborates on answers with connected sentences

8 pts. The "B" Student

1. shows willingness to participate
2. cooperates fully in discussions and group activities although not necessarily the leader
3. answers readily when called upon and has few errors
4. elaborates somewhat on answers; more than three-word answers
5. occasionally resorts to English

7 pts. The "C" Student

1. participates more passively than actively
2. tends to use English, especially in small-group activities when the instructor is not nearby
3. gives one- to three-word answers
4. is frequently not well prepared

6 pts. The "D" Student

1. participates grudgingly
2. speaks mostly English in discussions and small-group activities
3. generally does not cooperate in group activities
4. has many errors, makes no effort to correct

5-0 pts. The "F" Student

1. unable to answer when called upon in class; obviously unprepared
2. Is disruptive, prevents other students from hearing, etc.
3. rarely participates in class activities
4. is disrespectful of other students and instructor
5. negative attitude; refuses to answer questions; constantly speaks in English; almost never uses Spanish

H. WEDNESDAY ASSIGNMENTS (6%):

You will complete independent work every Wednesday (the day of the week when instruction is not classroom-based). Homework is due on the day listed on Course Calendar as well as on each assignment day. No late work will be accepted. Keep in mind that all these assignments have to be turned in online. This entails working on:

- **Lectura** assignment. Students will read an article from their book and complete a comprehension activity online. **General rule:** Questions in English response in English; however, questions in Spanish require an answer in Spanish. Completed sentences (with verb) are needed in order to get full credit.
- **Exploraciones profesionales** assignment. Students will watch a short video and complete a comprehension activity online. **General rule:** Questions in English response in English; however, questions in Spanish require an answer in Spanish. Completed sentences (with verb) are needed in order to get full credit.

You will either need to go to a Computer Lab, or do the assignment in your dorm (if your computer meets certain specifications). But remember you are responsible for the hour of autonomous learning which constitutes one credit hour.

I. ORAL EXAMS (12%) (6% each):

To demonstrate your ability to express yourself and to communicate with others in Spanish, you will participate in **two oral assessment exams** throughout the semester. These will be in the form of (a) an interview and b) a role-play. Oral exams will be administered during class time, either in the language lab or in the classroom. Preparation for these types of exam can be accomplished through active participation in the many oral/listening activities scheduled throughout the semester.

a) **Interview** (individual) 6%. Students will converse individually with their instructor, listening to a set of questions (based on topics, vocabulary, and grammar studied in class) and giving the corresponding answers.

b) **Skit** (group) 6%. The short (4-5 min.) skit will be done in groups of three students. Each group will be given a prompt to create a skit on exam day. The skits must be interactive. The emphasis is on spontaneous speech, but the situations will reflect conversational topics seen in class. Students will be evaluated individually.

J. COMPOSITION (10%) AND ONE WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT (2%):

You will write one composition in class. You will need 1 folder in which you will include all of your composition notes, brainstorming activities, outlines, rough drafts, first and second version of the composition, grading sheet, etc. You will turn in this folder when you submit the composition or a rewrite. Not submitting all the composition materials will result in a loss of additional points thus lowering the grade.

Composition is to be typed and double-spaced using 12-point Times New Roman font set at a one-inch margin justification. Your name, course number and section, date and composition version all should be typed single-spaced in the upper left hand corner. In addition, your composition should always have a title.

***Remember, you cannot let ANYONE else write or correct your composition or use any translation aides!
(Please refer to HONOR CODE)***

By writing a composition you will accomplish, at the very minimum, two things: (1) you will practice the language functions you learn in class (share information about yourself and others, express your opinion, talk about the future, and so on), and (2) you will practice and integrate the grammar and vocabulary covered during the previous weeks. Composition will be graded from an analytical perspective; that is, they will be scored based on several features of your work, including grammatical accuracy, but by no means limited to it.

Your instructor will return your composition to you **in a week** for a rewrite (*versión final*). Rewrite is required for the composition, and is due before or by the date listed on your Course Calendar. **No late work will be accepted.** If you fail to turn in a composition or a rewrite, or it is late, your instructor will give you feedback on it, but you will receive “0” for that assignment.

The first version will be written in class (60%). Your instructor will grade this version, and include extensive comments on how you might improve it. After you have incorporated these suggestions in the second version (40%), you will receive a single grade for each composition.

Written Assignments (2%): You will complete one writing assignment based upon activities in the textbook. It will be graded for accuracy as well as creativity. **USING TRANSLATION PROGRAMS OR HAVING ANOTHER PERSON DO THIS WRITING ASSIGNMENT CONSTITUTE CHEATING AND ARE CLEAR VIOLATIONS OF THE HONOR CODE.**

K. PRUEBAS (20%) (10% each):

There will be two (2) in-class exams for each chapters that will be based on all language functions, grammar and vocabulary covered up to that point, and are designed to encourage you to show what you can do with them. They will also incorporate reading and listening comprehension activities. To be successful in these tests, it is essential that you complete your homework from the text, workbook, and lab manual, on a daily basis. Remember, “Cramming” the night before for language quizzes is of very limited use.

L. POP-QUIZZES (12%) (4% each)

There will be three (3) in-class pop-quizzes for a total of 10 points each. The pop-quizzes comprehended chapters 1, 3 and 5. They will be based on all language functions, grammar and vocabulary covered up to that point, and are designed to encourage you to show what you can do with them.

M. MIDTERM EXAM (15%): The Midterm exam consist of all the materials studied up to that point. They will incorporate different types of activities, from more controlled, drill-type grammar exercises, to problem-solving tasks. They will be the same type of tasks that you will be practicing in class and in your homework assignments. Each exam will contain the following components:

- a) Listening comprehension
- b) Reading comprehension
- c) Short and extended writing
- d) Linguistic contents (functional uses of the language, grammar, and vocabulary)
- e) Cultural and reading material

N. FINAL EXAM (15%):

The final exam is cumulative, that is, it consists of all the materials studied up to that point. It will incorporate different types of activities, from more controlled, drill-type grammar exercises, to problem-solving tasks. It will be the same type of tasks that you will be practicing throughout the semester, especially in your homework assignments. The exam will contain the following components:

- a) Listening comprehension
- b) Reading comprehension
- c) Short and extended writing
- d) Linguistic contents (functional uses of the language, grammar, and vocabulary)
- e) Cultural and reading material

The final exam will consist of two parts. The first is a **Listening Skills Assessment** given on the last day of class, **Thursday, December 10**. There will be no make-ups given for this portion of the exam. The second part, the Final Written Exam, will be administered during Final Exam Week on **Monday, December 14 from 9:00- 11:00 a.m.** The Final Exam will be cumulative. **There will be NO ALTERNATE DATE for the final exam, so plan accordingly.**

Ñ. “DEAD WEEK”

Please note that compositions, homework, or any other due assignments **are not considered exams**. **During the last week of classes you will have to turn in these assignments.** Oral exams (lab or classroom-administered) are considered labs, and they are thus regularly scheduled during the last week of classes. There will be NO other examinations (pop quizzes, short quizzes,) administered during “dead week”.

O. BLACKBOARD:

Blackboard is the platform for the communication tools for use in this class —such essential items as syllabus, announcement, assignments, formats, and other resources. Because all important information is located on Blackboard, you must access it daily.