

**VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE
SPANISH 103: INTENSIVE ELEMENTARY SPANISH
COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Required Texts:

Pasaporte: Spanish for Advanced Beginners. Lemond, Barlow, Foerster, McGraw-Hill, 1st ed. 2009

Supplementary Materials to Accompany Pasaporte: Grammar Exercises and Speaking Activities. Foerster and Miller, McGraw-Hill, 1st ed., 2009

Recommended Materials:

Diccionario didáctico básico. El primer diccionario en primaria. Madrid: Ediciones SM, 2004. A Spanish-English Dictionary of your choice (Larousse Concise or Oxford recommended).

Electronic Resources:

Blackboard Spanish 103 at www.vanderbilt.edu/oak

Language Placement:

ALL students who wish to enroll in a language course must complete and submit the online placement form in order to register for a language course. The online placement form is available for all continuing and incoming students who have a valid Vanderbilt User ID and password. The login page for the form can be accessed at the following *secure site*: <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/csls/Placement.php>

If you do not find what you are looking for or if you have any questions, please contact Prof. Cynthia Wasick, Director of Undergraduate Studies at cynthia.wasick@vanderbilt.edu.

I. Goals:

A. Vanderbilt University Department of Spanish and Portuguese Basic Language Program Objectives: The main objectives guiding the program are to:

- introduce students to the language and culture of the Spanish and Portuguese-speaking world
- promote the development of students' communicative competence in the target language
- develop students' intercultural understanding and social conscience of problems that affect this cultural complex

B. Course Goals:

In Spanish 103 you will aggressively pursue communicative competency as you review the grammar and vocabulary typical of first-year Spanish courses, all within a stimulating cultural context. After all, language is not independent from culture; on the contrary, each is an expression of the other. You will acquire as well a foundation for effective reading and writing.

The principal aims of this accelerated Spanish language course are to encourage the development of competency and proficiency in the following five language skills – listening, speaking, reading, writing, and cultural understanding, informed by the communicative approach to second language acquisition.

In this class we will emphasize the learning of Spanish for real-world purposes, using authentic materials. After the first day in Spanish 103, your instructor will speak exclusively in Spanish; you should make every effort to do likewise. We will be doing many pair and group activities in which **you are expected to actively participate and to use only Spanish.**

Finally, the course requires continuous and independent work out of the classroom, to consolidate the knowledge and linguistic skills developed during class time. Choose to look for opportunities to speak in Spanish outside the classroom, listen to music in Spanish, read an online newspaper a couple of times a week, and establish specific goals for your own linguistic progress. ¡Bienvenidos a Español 103!

II. Course Objectives for Spanish 103:

A. Communication

Spanish 103 focuses on seven essential communicative functions:

1. Describing
2. Comparing
3. Reacting and making recommendations
4. Past-tense narration
5. Talking about preferences, likes, and dislikes
6. Speaking about the future
7. Hypothesizing

B. Cultures: gain knowledge and understanding of Hispanic cultures.

Through readings, students will learn about Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Spain, and other communities where Spanish is spoken, including those in the United States. An emphasis on the environment and sustainability will be evident during the second half of the course, part of our association with Vanderbilt's Sustainability Project

(<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/americanstudies/sustainability/index.php>).

III. Assessment:

A. Grades are based on the following scale:

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

B. Grade Breakdown. Your grade will be determined according to the following criteria:

1. In-class performance - 2 grading periods -Includes Pronunciation Activities and Preparation of Conversation Topics	10%
2. Cultural & written assignments -Wednesday Assignments and Writing Workshops included	20%
3. Oral exams (2)	6%
4. Announced and unannounced quizzes	9%
5. Exams (4 Exams at 10% each)	40%
6. Final Exam	15%

C. Expectations for each category are as follows:

1. IN-CLASS PERFORMANCE: Your proficiency will be assessed daily, although you will only receive an averaged grade twice a semester. Your grade is based on your performance, not on your effort alone: you are expected to attend class and to participate actively. 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, clearly you have not earned any participation points for the day.

This takes into consideration but is not limited to 1) how much you use Spanish; 2) how well you use Spanish; 3) your preparation for class; 4) your cooperation and leadership in pair and group work; 5) your consistent efforts to improve and to communicate entirely in Spanish, and 6) 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. This is extremely important!

2. Cultural and Written Assignments (WEDNESDAY TASKS)

Wednesday assignments vary, but are designed primarily to enrich your cultural understanding of the Spanish-speaking world as you advance your writing skills in Spanish. You will complete independent work every Wednesday (the day of the week when instruction generally is not classroom-based). This may entail working on web-based assignments, reading, attending and writing about on-campus events, preparing conversation topics, or the like. However, we may occasionally meet on this day, either for testing or for a group assignment as the need arises.

3. ORAL EXAMS

Students will have the opportunity to showcase what they have learned in their communicative strategies during formal oral exams, once as a group and then as an individual. Further details about these oral exams will be discussed in class.

4. ANNOUNCED AND UNANNOUNCED QUIZZES

You can expect pop quizzes often. Announced quizzes will emphasize vocabulary acquisition, listening comprehension, and grammatical features, as determined by individual student needs.

5. EXAMINATIONS

Every exam is cumulative in nature, that is, it covers all the materials studied up to that point. Assessment of your speaking skills will take place at various points in the semester in other formats. Both oral and written exams will ask you to complete the same type of tasks that you will be practicing either in class or homework throughout the semester. Each written exam will contain the following:

a) Un poco de todo

1. **Preguntas:** This activity consists of written questions targeting current vocabulary. The questions typically contain two parts and elicit open-ended answers in which the students describe people, places and activities or discuss topics from the current chapter using structures from previous chapters.

2. **Listening comprehension:** This activity tests students' listening comprehension in a context related to articles and materials seen in the text and in the Online Learning Center. Again topics, vocabulary and grammatical structures from various chapters are woven together. The script will be read (or played) twice. Listening comprehension may also be assessed in quizzes.

3. **Reciclaje:** The third and final activity of the *Un poco de todo* section always deals with recycling. A thematically contextualized cloze passage related to the information provided at the beginning of the section tests students' mastery of structures presented in previous chapters. Students demonstrate their comprehension of the content by writing one or two follow-up questions.

b) Cultural material

In this section you will see a drawing from the chapters being tested as a point of departure to test current vocabulary, as well as to recycle grammar, communicative goals and, where appropriate, vocabulary from previous chapters.

c) Short and extended writing

This section requires students to respond to a situation with either a short composition or a dialogue. Guidelines, often in the form of questions, are provided. Students are expected to address each of the guidelines or questions with one to two sentences.

d) Communicative goals and grammar

In this section, grammar is tested in a discrete point fashion. Even though the focus is explicitly on form in this section, the context of each exercise is meaningful and relevant to the cultural themes of the chapters' countries of focus.

V. Policies and Expectations:

See the Course Policies section of the website for more information regarding:

- **Attendance:** As a skills-based course, regular attendance is required for successful completion of the course. Excessive absenteeism may result in withdrawal from the course.
- **Language Use:** Spanish is the language of the classroom, for instructors AND students.
- **Code of Academic Conduct:** Students are to abide by the Honor Code at Vanderbilt University.
- **Disability Accommodations:** Students who present documentation from the Office of Disability Services will be fully accommodated.
- **Late or Missed Work:** Late or missed work will not be accepted, unless the student has extenuating circumstances and has communicated with the instructor in advance or within 24 hours of the missed assignment.
- **Cell Phones:** Cell phone use during class time is rude, distracting and prohibited.

VI. Preparation

Because of the fast pace of this course, students must commit to regular preparation time outside of class, with a minimum of one to two hours' preparation required for every hour of class time.

You are expected to study and prepare the assignments specified on the course schedule, which include activities assigned from the textbook, online

activities (OLC), and Supplementary Materials (SM). To participate actively, you will need to come to class well prepared and willing to practice your Spanish skills. **Your oral participation in class does not imply perfection, but it does require an advancing ability and a consistent commitment to speaking in Spanish.**