VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE
INTERMEDIATE SPANISH 104

REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. *Imagina (2nd Edition)* Blanco, Tocaimaza-Hatch

2. *Imagina Supersite & WebSAM passcode*– Grants access to videos, workbook, lab manual, multimedia activities, and companion website.

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES:

[http://www.vanderbilt.edu/oak/](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/oak/)
[http://www.vhlcentral.com/home](http://www.vhlcentral.com/home)

PLACEMENT:

Entering students should consult their academic advisers or the Director of Undergraduate Studies of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese for advice on placement. Students who have not studied Spanish in high school should begin their studies at Vanderbilt in Spanish 100 (Spanish for True Beginners). Students with high school Spanish on their records who wish to go on must present a College Board Subject test score in Spanish or (preferably) take the departmental placement test (available online for pre-freshmen and at the Center for Second Language Studies, 001 Furman Hall). Students who have received a 4 or 5 on the AP test should take Spanish 201W (Intermediate Spanish Writing). Students with a 3 should take Spanish 104 (Intermediate Spanish).

*Note: Spanish 102 is only for students continuing from Spanish 100 or 101. Incoming students cannot place into 102.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAT Subject Test</th>
<th>Dept. Placement Test</th>
<th>Course to be taken</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Spanish</td>
<td>0-274</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-390</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400-510</td>
<td>275-364</td>
<td>103*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Proficiency for AXLE:</strong> 520 (SAT), 365 (Dept.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>520-620</td>
<td>365-440</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>630+(&amp;3+yrsHS)</td>
<td>*441+</td>
<td>201W</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
*If you get a score of 700-800+ on the Department Placement Test, please retake the test to confirm the result.

**Spanish Department Placement Test**

The Spanish Department Language Placement Test can be accessed at the following site. Note: this is for placement purposes only; for AXLE proficiency testing the test must be taken in the Center for Second Language Studies, 001 Furman Hall.

http://www.vanderbilt.edu/csls/Placement.php

I. COURSE GOALS:

This course is designed to help students achieve intermediate functional and communicative proficiency in Spanish. Spanish 104 focuses on the development of oral communication processes, reading and writing abilities, and inter-cultural competency. It also targets the development of basic argumentation techniques in Spanish through the study of grammar and textual dimensions of the language (argumentative sequences, narratives, connecting devices). Spanish 104 exposes students to some of the sociolinguistic aspects of the language, particularly register. Another important goal of the course is to educate students about the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries by incorporating authentic materials (texts, videos, audio, web) that provide a glimpse into their social, political, and cultural life.

Spanish 104 achieves these goals by (a) allowing students to develop communication processes in the classroom setting, providing opportunities to practice Spanish in a variety of contexts; (b) presenting the necessary contents for communication (language functions, structures, and vocabulary); and (c) emphasizing discourse, rather than the sentence structure itself, as the main unit of analysis of the language, and thus promoting creative-discourse level Spanish practice. All classroom activities or tasks carried out in the classroom (including formal aspects of the language, such as grammar) are designed to help students activate communication processes, and integrate and contextualize contents learned in and out of the classroom.

II. ASSESSMENT:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-66.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following is the distribution of the grade of SPAN 104:
1. In-class performance (Participación - 2 grading periods) 10%
2. Homework (Tarea) 10%
3. Autonomous Work (Trabajo autónomo) 10%
4. Compositions (2)
   - Composition 1 7%
   - Composition 2 7%
5. Oral exams (Pruebas orales) (3)
   - Group conversation 5%
   - Interview 5%
   - Group presentation 5%
6. Quizzes (Pruebas escritas) (2)
   - Prueba 1 8%
   - Prueba 2 8%
7. Mid-term exam 10%
8. Final exam 15%

TOTAL 100%

Expectations for each component of the grade are as follows:

1. **IN-CLASS PERFORMANCE**
   You are expected to study and prepare the assignments specified on the syllabus, which include activities assigned from the textbook and the *Imagina* Supersite. To participate actively, you will need to come to class well prepared in terms of vocabulary and ideas. In other words, your instructor expects you to speak in class. Oral communication does not imply perfection, but it does demand an increasing ability and willingness to convey what you want to say in Spanish. In addition to your oral participation, your in-class performance also includes your attitude towards your classmates, the degree to which you have prepared the assignments, your involvement in collaborative pair and group work, etc. You will receive **2 in-class performance grades** throughout the semester, based on an established series of concrete criteria.

2. **HOMEWORK**
   Your text is 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. Homework is obligatory and autonomous. It will be assigned almost every class from the text, WebSAM, and Supersite activities (see the daily syllabus for a more detailed description of these activities). No late work is accepted. You are permitted two tries for each online activity, and the latest attempt will be entered into the system as your grade. If you are going to miss a class, you must submit your work to the professor (or online as the case might be) before or on the day and class period in which it is due. You are required to complete all activities and readings identified in the syllabus as homework (*tarea*). The homework grade may also include (a) other assignments to be announced, and (b) the possibility of unannounced (“pop”) quizzes throughout the semester to ensure that the online activities and textbook readings are being done in a timely manner. Keeping up with the daily assigned activities increases your chances of doing well on these quizzes.
3. AUTONOMOUS WORK
You will have to do autonomous work almost every Wednesday as the class will normally not meet at its regularly scheduled time on this day of the week. This entails working for approximately 2 hours, or longer, on the assigned activities. The autonomous work is designed to deepen your understanding of the cultural contexts being explored in the text at that time as well as emphasizing key grammar and vocabulary items being covered. These assignments will stress the skills of writing, listening, and reading by exposing you to authentic texts, videos, music, etc. You will find these assignments on OAK under the “trabajo autónomo” tab.

4. COMPOSITIONS
Compositions will be written on topics related to course materials. Students will have at least two composition themes from which they can select one topic on which to write. The compositions will be one and a half (1 ½) pages in length. By writing compositions you will accomplish, at the very minimum, two things: (1) you will practice the language functions you learn in class and (2) you will practice and integrate the grammar and vocabulary covered during the previous weeks. Compositions 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 compositions to you for a rewrite (versión final). Rewrites are required for each composition. NOTE: Your composition grade will be determined in the following manner: First draft = 70%, second draft = 30%. The compilation of these two scores will be your final composition grade. To receive full credit on the composition, you will be required to submit the aforementioned printed out materials as well as an electronic version of your composition through the Safe Assign function in OAK.

5. ORAL EXAMS
To demonstrate your ability to express yourself and to communicate with others in Spanish, you will participate in three oral assessment exams throughout the semester. These will be in the form of (a) a group conversation, (b) an interview and (c) a group presentation. Oral exams will be administered during class time and in your instructor’s office or in your classroom (your instructor will indicate where (s)he prefers). Preparation for these types of exam can be accomplished through active participation in the many oral/listening activities scheduled throughout the semester.

a) Group conversation. Each group will be comprised of 3 to 4 members. Students will receive a conversational theme with specific questions at the time of the exam. You will have ten minutes to organize and practice. The emphasis is on spontaneous speech, but the situations will reflect, to some degree, topics seen in class. You will be evaluated individually.

b) Interview (individual). Students will meet with his/her instructor to answer a set of questions.

c) Group presentation. This will be a group presentation performed at the end of the semester. Your instructor will consult with group members with respect to the topic and guidelines.
6. QUIZZES (Pruebas) There will be two (2) announced in-class quizzes (or pruebas) that will be based on all language functions, grammar, vocabulary, and culture covered up to that point. They will also incorporate reading and listening comprehension activities. To be successful in these tests, it is essential that you complete your homework on a daily basis. Remember, “cramming” the night before for language quizzes is of very limited use. Each of the quizzes will have an essay portion worth 25% of the quiz grade. The essays are to be completed as a Wednesday autonomous activity the week of the quiz. As with the compositions, they must be turned in both in paper form and electronically through the Safeassign function of OAK.

7. MID-TERM/FINAL EXAM
The mid-term and final exams are cumulative; that is to say that they 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 throughout the semester, especially in your homework. Each exam will likely contain all of the following components: a) Listening comprehension, b) Reading comprehension, c) Linguistic contents (functional uses of the language, grammar, and vocabulary), d) Culture, and e) Writing. The writing portion of the mid-term exam will be an essay portion worth 25% of the grade. The essay is to be completed as a Wednesday autonomous activity the week of the midterm. As with the compositions and quizzes, the essay portion of the exam must be turned in both in paper form and electronically through the Safeassign function of OAK. NOTE: Only the primary final exam date is offered in this course; there is no alternate exam. Students are expected to be present for the primary final exam the date of which is already known when students sign up for classes. Students not attending the final exam will be assigned a grade of 0 (zero). Students are advised to make their travel plans based upon the following primary final exam schedule.

III. POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS
Intermediate Spanish at Vanderbilt University (SPAN 104) is an intensive course that will demand your best effort if you wish to achieve an outstanding final grade. This is a two-semester course that we will cover in just one semester. We, at the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, as well as your individual instructor, expect you to read the assigned textbook pages before class time, to complete the online homework assignments before the time your class meets; to participate actively in every class period: to actively seek the help of the professor when having problems with any aspect of the course and, most importantly, to work at least one hour in Spanish activities outside of the classroom every day. You will have to work longer on most occasions. In turn, you can expect us to be professional, objective, well prepared, and ready for every single class session. You can expect us to be fully available to meet with you during our office hours and on special appointed times, and to give you implicit and explicit corrective feedback.

This is a multi-section course, taught by several instructors who share the same course requirements, objectives, syllabus and grading criteria. In other words, all the sections of SPAN 104 are the same, except for the differences due to the personality of each
individual instructor. Please see the “Course Policies” section of this website for more information regarding the following:

- **Attendance**: As a skills-based course, regular attendance is required for successful completion of the course. You are permitted 5 unexcused absences without points being deducted from your overall final grade. Excessive absenteeism (more than 10 absences) will result in withdrawal from the course.
- **Language Use**: Spanish 104 is conducted entirely in Spanish.
- **Code of Academic Conduct**: Students are to abide by Vanderbilt University Honor System: [http://www.vanderbilt.edu/student_handbook/chapter2.html](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/student_handbook/chapter2.html) Also, please read the Department of Spanish and Portuguese’s interpretation of these policies as related to course work in our department by reading the Honor Code contract signed at the beginning of the semester in our basic and intermediate language classes. More details can be found in the Honor Code section of the departmental website.
- **Disability Accommodations**: For information about disability services and accommodations, please consult with the Office of Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, and Disability Services (or EAD) by visiting their website: [http://www.vanderbilt.edu/ead/ds_students.html](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/ead/ds_students.html) or by contacting them via email: disabilityservices@vanderbilt.edu
- **Late or Missed Work**: If you present documentation of an emergency obtained through the office of your dean, your instructor will do everything s/he can to help you make up the missed class work. The general rule, however, is that no late work is accepted and no make-up exams or quizzes will be given.
- **Classroom Courtesy**: No electronic devices (cell phones, laptops, iPods, etc.) are permitted. Please consult the ClassroomCourtesy section of the departmental website for more information.