

**VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE
SPANISH LANGUAGE PROGRAM**

INTERMEDIATE SPANISH 2203



**Instructor:
Email:
Cell phone:
Office Hours:**

**Please read the following
Course syllabus**

Required Bundle Package

The following is the required bundle package available at the Vanderbilt bookstore:

- TEXTS:**
1. ***Imagina (3rd Edition)*** Blanco, Tocaimaza-Hatch
 2. ***Imagina Supersite & WebSAM passcode***– Grants access to eBook, videos, workbook, lab manual, multimedia activities, and companion website.

COURSE GOALS:

This course is designed to help students achieve intermediate functional and communicative proficiency in Spanish. Spanish 2203 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 2203 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 2203 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.

Spanish 2203 is conducted entirely in Spanish, and uses authentic materials.

SPANISH LANGUAGE PROGRAM POLICIES:

A. WHAT WE EXPECT FROM YOU

Intermediate Spanish at Vanderbilt University (SPAN 2203) 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 to two hours** in Spanish

activities outside of the classroom every day. **You will have to work longer on some 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 2203 are the same, except for the differences due to the personality of each individual instructor.

B. BASIC CLASSROOM COURTESY

You are expected to come to class on time and to stay for the full class session. You are expected to come prepared to focus on learning and to participate actively in classroom instruction. As a way to insure that there are no unnecessary distractions, we would like to ask you to exercise common courtesy in the classroom in the following ways:

- Please turn off all electronic devices (i.e., cell phones, iPods, laptops, etc.).
- Please focus your attention to the material being discussed in class. The classroom is not a study hall for your other courses or for leisure reading.
- Please do not bring food to class; if you bring and consume a beverage, please dispose of it properly in the trash bin and do not leave it on the floor. Please note that there are explicit prohibitions against bringing food or drinks into certain classrooms on campus.
- Please use the lavatory facilities PRIOR to arriving to class, unless, of course, it is an emergency, as entering and leaving are disruptive and distracting to both the instructor and classmates.
- Please do not start packing up before the end of the official class period as others are trying to hear what the instructor or another classmate is trying to say.
- Please do not participate in side discussions during classroom presentations by the instructor or other students. It is considered rude and disrespectful, not to mention you may be missing important information that is being conveyed.
- Please schedule your appointments, expected phone calls, flights, etc., around your courses. If a family member or another person is scheduling a flight for you, be sure that person has a copy of your class schedule. If a given class time is not convenient for you, you should either choose another course or time block or adapt to the time you have chosen.
- Please respect the questions and opinions expressed by other students in the class.

C. 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

D. LATE WORK AND MAKE-UP EXAMS

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. The general rule, however, is the following: **NO LATE WORK IS ACCEPTED AND NO MAKE-UP EXAMS OR QUIZZES WILL BE GIVEN.**

E. ATTENDANCE

In the Arts and Science Undergraduate Catalog, page 95 (<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/catalogs/undergrad/A&S.pdf>) the following is written:

" The last day before and the first day after official holidays are considered to be the same as any other day on which classes are scheduled. Assignments are made for classes scheduled on these days, and tests may be given in them. Students should take this fact into account in making travel plans. The faculty of the College of Arts and Science recognizes that occasions arise during the academic year that merit the excused absence of a student from a scheduled class or laboratory during which an examination, quiz, or other graded exercise is given. Examples include participation in sponsored university activities (e.g., debate team, varsity sports), observance of officially designated religious holidays, serious personal problems (e.g., serious illness, death of a member of the student's family), and matters relating to the student's academic training (e.g., graduate or professional school interviews). While determination of the merit of a case is left primarily to the discretion of the individual instructor, conflicts arising from personal travel plans or social obligations do not qualify as excused absences. Except in unusual circumstances, the Office of the Associate Deans does not grant excused absences for students."

Attendance is **obligatory** for all Spanish language courses. Exposure to the language (listening and speaking) is a requirement of this class. **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 or 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 note that each class hour will be divided into fourths. Every "quarter" you miss is a fourth of an absence, and these will accumulate throughout the semester. Thus, **every four quarters will constitute another absence.**

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 miss a total of seven (7) classes during the semester (5 permitted plus 2 unexcused), your final grade will 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) days after you come back to class. You will have no opportunity to get any excess absences excused at the end of the semester.

F. EXCESSIVE ABSENCES

An excess of absences in a Spanish language class **will result in a failure in the course**. For Spanish 2203 **the number is 10**. If you have accrued 5 absences (allowed) your instructor will contact you to 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 Dean of your college. **Once you have exceeded the limit, you will receive a failing grade in the course.**

G. DISABILITY SERVICES

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/> or by contacting their office through the following site: http://www.vanderbilt.edu/ead/contact_ds.html

H. VANDERBILT'S HONOR CODE

All students are required to acquaint themselves with the provisions of the Honor System with the information in the student handbook. *Please familiarize yourself with the Honor Code paying particular attention to the introduction of Chapter 2 and the following topics: “The Honor Code Applied to the Preparation of Papers / Tests, Examinations and other Exercises”:* http://www.vanderbilt.edu/student_handbook/the-honor-system

I. EXTRA CREDIT: There will be no extra credit assignments in this course.

J. “DEAD WEEK”

Please note that homework is **not considered an exam**. **During the last week of classes you will have to turn in these homework assignments.** There will be NO examinations (pop quizzes, short quizzes, portions of final exams) administered during “dead week”.

K. FINAL GRADE COMPONENT WEIGHTING

The following is the distribution of the entire grade of SPAN 2203:

1. In-class performance/Participation (2 grading periods)	10%
2. Homework (Supersite Tarea)	10%
3. Trabajo de miércoles individual (3 total)	9%
4. Group projects	
▪ Cuento infantil (Children’s story)	8%
▪ Cortometraje (Short film)	8%
5. Oral exams (Pruebas orales) (2)	
▪ Group conversation	6%
▪ Interview	6%
6. Quizzes (Pruebas escritas) (2)	
▪ Prueba 1	8%
▪ Prueba 2	8%
7. Mid-term exam	12%
8. Final exam	<u>15%</u>
	TOTAL 100%

1. IN-CLASS PERFORMANCE/PARTICIPATION

You are expected to study and prepare the readings and homework assignments specified on the syllabus, which include activities assigned from the textbook and the *Imagina* Supersite, and to participate in the social network forum discussions when indicated on the Assignment calendar. 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 available on OAK under “Hojas de calificación” (Grading rubrics).

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*). **Please remember that exams will be closely related to the textbook and online workbook exercises, and also that you will not be able to be successful in exams unless you do your homework tasks daily.**

3. TRABAJO DE MIÉRCOLES

You will have to do autonomous or small group 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/group 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, speaking, and reading by exposing you to authentic texts, videos, music, etc. You will find these assignments on OAK under the “Trabajo de miércoles” tab. Please note that the Wednesday work denoted as “Ensayos”(essays) will form part of either quiz or midterm grades as indicated below in sections 6 and 7.

4. GROUP PROJECTS

a) *Cuento infantil*. Each group will produce a bilingual, illustrated children’s book highlighting the plight of Hispanic immigrant children in the US. The word count for the

text is a minimum of 600 words (at least 300 of which must be in Spanish), and there must be at least 5 illustrations to accompany the text. You will be asked to turn in both an electronic copy of the text via SafeAssign and a printout of the completed illustrated project. Members will help with all aspects of the assignment (writing, illustrating, editing, compiling), and the overall grade will be an average of the grades assigned to the text and completed project.

b) *Short film group project.* Each group will be responsible for producing a 4-5 minute short film that adapts one of the semester's literary readings or one of the themes of the *Imagina* shorts into an original creative film. Members will help with all aspects of the assignment (writing, filming/directing, editing), and the overall grade will be an average of the grades assigned to the script and actual film. The shorts will be screened in the penultimate week of class as indicated on the daily calendar.

5. ORAL EXAMS

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) a group conversation and (b) an interview. 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 individually to answer a set of questions.

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 (please note that the listening section of each quiz will be administered on the review day as indicated on the Course Calendar). To be successful in these quizzes, 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 activity the week of/or before the quiz. 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 contain a mixture 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 midterm exam will be an essay portion worth 25% of the grade. The essay is to be completed as a Wednesday activity the week of the midterm. The essay portion of the exam must be turned in both in paper form and electronically through the SafeAssign function of OAK.

8. FINAL EXAM

ONLY THE PRIMARY FINAL EXAM IS OFFERED IN THIS COURSE. There is no alternate exam, so please make your travel plans accordingly. Students not attending the final exam will be assigned a grade of 0 (zero). **For the fall semester of 2015, the exam for SPAN 2203 is Monday, December 12 at 9:00 a.m.**

L. CLASSROOM RECORDING POLICY

The 2015-16 VU student handbook states the following:

(http://www.vanderbilt.edu/student_handbook/student-conduct) “Individuals must obtain authorization prior to recording such activities, and to abide by the various policies governing their being recorded. Failure to abide by recording policies may result in corrective action through the University’s accountability process. In addition, examinations and the questions therein, lectures, teaching notes, scholarly writings, course handouts, assignments, and other course materials are the property of the individual faculty member. Copying or distributing any such materials without the authorization of the copyright owner may constitute a copyright infringement violation.”

For students registered with EAD and who have been approved for audio and/or video recording of lectures and other classroom activities as a reasonable accommodation, applicable federal law requires instructors to permit those recordings. Such recordings are also limited to personal use, except with permission of the instructor and other students in the class.”