

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE
SPANISH LANGUAGE PROGRAM

**INTENSIVE ELEMENTARY SPANISH
(SPAN 1103)**

FALL 2015

COURSE DESCRIPTION

INTENSIVE ELEMENTARY SPANISH (SP 1103)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Text /Online Learning Resources: ePack: Puentes, 6th + iLrn™ Puentes Heinle Learning Center 6-Months Instant Access

- ISBN-10: 1-305-51721-0
- ISBN-13: 978-1-305-51721-9

Websites: <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/oak/>
<http://hlc.quia.com/books/>
www.twitter.com

In Spanish 1103 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. Spanish 1103 requires regular classroom participation and *approximately two hours* of outside preparation (listening, writing, reading, grammar and vocabulary study) for every hour of class.

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.

This course may be conducted differently than previous foreign language courses you may have had. In this class we will emphasize the learning of Spanish for real-world purposes, using authentic materials. After the first day in Spanish 1103, 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 1103!

COMMUNICATIVE STRATEGIES

Spanish 1103 focuses on these essential communicative functions:

1. Describing
2. Comparing
3. Talking about preferences, likes, and dislikes
4. Past tense narration
5. Speaking about the future and making plans
6. Reacting and influencing
7. Expressing doubt and certainty

In-class work throughout the semester will develop the following communicative skills, so that by the end of the course you will be able to:

- Iniciar una conversación
- Cerrar una conversación
- Expresar frustración
- Expresar alegría
- Dar las gracias
- Pedir perdón
- Persuadir
- Hacer una invitación
- Aceptar una invitación
- Pedir una opinión
- Dar una opinión
- Declinar una invitación
- Pedir algo con cortesía
- Hacer planes
- Expresar dificultad en creer algo
- Proponer una solución
- Expresar desacuerdo

SPANISH LANGUAGE PROGRAM POLICIES

A. ATTENDANCE

Regular class attendance is essential for successful completion of the course; attendance is therefore **required** 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.

NOTE: No cell phones are to be used during class, unless instructed by your professor. They are of course entirely prohibited during exams. Absolutely no texting is permitted during class.

B. EXCESSIVE ABSENCES

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.

An accrual of 10 absences **will result in a failure in the course.** 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 your Dean. **Once you have exceeded the limit, you will fail the course.**

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.

C. LATE WORK AND MAKE-UP EXAMS

Assignments are due at the beginning of class. 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 QUIZZES WILL BE GIVEN** unless prior, written permission has been granted for excused absences, only.

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.

D. 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

E. FINAL GRADE COMPONENT WEIGHTING

1. In-class performance/ - 2 grading periods -See page 5 for evaluation criteria	10%
2. Cultural Assignments -Wednesday Tasks	20%
4. Composition -Film Essay (1 version) 5% -Past Tense Narration (Version 1- 2/3rds of grade) 10% (Rewrite- 1/3rd of grade)	15%
4. Oral exams (2)	10%
5. Online homework and Quizzes (Announced and Unannounced)	10%
6. Exams (2 Exams @ 10% each)	20%
7. Final Exam	15%

Note: The final exam is cumulative, and will be administered only on MONDAY DECEMBER 14th, 9-11am. There will be NO ALTERNATE DATE for the final exam, so plan accordingly.

F. PREPARATION FOR CLASS

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

1) HOMEWORK: You are required to complete all homework assignments online **prior to coming to class**, and occasionally additional exercises to be completed outside of class. **You can expect pop quizzes.**

2) 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. Also, you are required to actively participate in weekly social media assignments. 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, 6) your participation in social media activities, and 7) 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!

G. VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY HONOR CODE

You are expected to adhere 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.

Also, 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. Keep in mind that ALL work completed for this course (*including Wednesday Tasks*) must be the result of your own, individual effort. If you have any questions at all about what constitutes independent work, please ask your instructor.

H. WEDNESDAY TASKS

Wednesday assignments vary, but are designed primarily to enrich your cultural understanding and enhance your writing, reading and/or speaking abilities as they relate to the Spanish-speaking world. You will complete independent and/or paired/group work every Wednesday (the day of the week when instruction generally is not classroom-based). This may entail working on web-based assignments, creating engaging dialogues with a partner, attending and writing about on-campus events, or the like. However, we may occasionally meet on this day, either for testing or for a group assignment as the need arises.

I. 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) 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.

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) Listening Comprehension

This section will require students to listen to authentic speech in a contextual format that relates to the chapters studied. Students will be asked to respond to questions based on the audio.

These are the guidelines your instructor will utilize to assess in-class performance:

SPANISH 1103 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. shows leadership in group activities
3. never uses English in discussions and group activities
4. asks questions only in Spanish
5. is always prepared and demonstrates a minimum of errors
6. attempts to use complete sentences with connectors, conjunctions; always elaborates on answers
7. actively participates in social media assignments and initiates conversation via platform

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
6. participate most days in social media assignments

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
6. occasionally participates in social media assignments

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
5. rarely participates in social media assignments

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. almost never participates in social media assignments

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
6. did not participate at all in social media assignments

Do's and Don'ts of the Spanish-language classroom at Vanderbilt University

What do I call my instructor?

- Don't call your instructor *Señora*. That is a social form of address, and it means a woman is referred to by her marital status. Because you are now in a professional educational setting, this term is inappropriate.
- Do call her *Profesora*. For men also, use *Profesor*, not *Señor*.

Is the attendance policy enforced?

Absolutely. It is also important to remember that you being in class is only a beginning—you must come prepared, and show yourself eager to participate. It is not enough to only be present.

- Do come to class prepared to participate!
- Don't expect to get an A in class participation if you are present, only, and silent or unprepared. Refer to your syllabus (page 5) for details about how to earn an A.

How important is my pronunciation?

We do not expect you to be perfect when you speak Spanish, but we do notice your participation. Your improvement in all matters is a clear expectation of this course.

- Don't worry about making mistakes!
- Do pay attention to your pronunciation. Select one aspect of it at a time, keep focused improving your pronunciation throughout the semester.

What is the best way to study in this course?

All of you have taken several Spanish classes prior to this one, so you probably have developed your own set of methods to study vocabulary, to master verb conjugations, etc. In this course however you will further develop conversational skills (through strategies as well as vocabulary acquisition), proofreading skills, and become a more proficient and sophisticated speaker of Spanish. To this end:

- Do study Spanish every day, rather than cramming for two hours every so often. Research shows that in language study it is better that you study consistently, even for 15 minutes several times during the day, than for a two-hour block of time.
- Don't rely on cramming! All of our exams in 103 are cumulative, so your investment regularly pays off, as you build up knowledge and vocabulary, specifically.

Where can I get extra help?

We have several suggestions for additional practice or help outside the class. You might look for a studying partner in another section of 1103; it is likely you will find someone in your House or on your floor that is interested in the same things. The Department of Spanish and Portuguese provides a tutor; check OAK for details. Your instructor will hold regular office hours every week; that is a great time to stop in to discuss any aspect of your homework or the course that you have questions about.

- Don't hesitate to ask for help—everyone could use more practice, and benefits from additional attention on the class.
- Do use the resources available to you.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE POLICY ON RECORDING OF LECTURES:

The use of technologies for audio and video recording of lectures and other classroom activities is allowed **only with the express permission of the instructor**. In cases where recordings are allowed, such content is restricted to personal use only unless permission is expressly granted in writing by the instructor and by other classroom participants, including other students. Personal use is defined as use by an individual student for the purpose of studying or completing course assignments. When students have permission for personal use of recordings, they must still obtain written permission from the instructor to share recordings with others.

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.