

SPA 131- Elementary Spanish I
Spring 2015
Department of Literature and Languages
Texas A & M University-Commerce

Course: SPA 131 (3 undergraduate credit hours)

Meetings: MWF 9-9:50 Room 201

Professor: Holly Fernandez

Office: Hall of Languages 214

Office Hours: MW 10-12

E-mail: TBD

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Knorre, M., Dorwick, T., Pérez-Gironés, A., Glass, W., and Villareal, H. Puntos de Partida. 9th ed. New York: McGraw Hill, 2011.
- Connect Electronic Workbook and Lab Manual to accompany Puntos de Partida. 9th ed.

Course Description

Spanish 131 is an introduction to the Spanish language and to the cultures of the Spanish speaking world. Linguistically, this course focuses on the four abilities necessary for mastering a foreign language: listening, speaking, reading and writing. We understand that the cultural component is just as important as the linguistic one for learning to communicate effectively; therefore, students will also be introduced to the cultures of the Hispanic world. At the end of the semester, students will be required to demonstrate satisfactory communication skills as well as familiarity with the cultural aspects presented in class. The Spanish language will be used in class for practical purposes; however, English will also be employed to explain difficult grammatical concepts.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course, students should have the tools to effectively do the following in Spanish:

- ✓ Describe and discuss simple situations in the present and near future in Spanish.
- ✓ Conduct simple conversations, ask questions, and formulate descriptions orally at the beginning level according to ACTFL guidelines.
- ✓ Express the above functions in formal written Spanish.
- ✓ Identify differences in cultural products and practices in the Spanish speaking world.
- ✓ Recognize grammatical terms in English and Spanish

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO)

Students will demonstrate the ability to talk in Spanish about their daily life and activities according to the following guidelines:

- Use of core vocabulary related to routines, daily activities and schedules.

- Use of frequent verbs in the present tense, with emphasis on the use of ‘ser’, ‘estar’ and ‘tener’ and frequent actions verbs.
- Use of temporal markers to indicate the parts of the week and day

This learning outcome will be measured during the final oral individual interview. Students’ responses will demonstrate listening and speaking abilities at the mid-novice level (ACTFL guidelines), evaluated according to the following: lexical development, grammar accuracy, fluency and response coherence appropriate to the level.

Novice High

At the Novice High sublevel, readers can understand, fully and with relative ease, key words and cognates, as well as formulaic phrases across a range of highly contextualized texts. Where vocabulary has been learned, they can understand predictable language and messages such as those found on train schedules, roadmaps, and street signs. Readers at the Novice High sublevel are typically able to derive meaning from short, non-complex texts that convey basic information for which there is contextual or extralinguistic support.

Novice Mid

At the Novice Mid sublevel, readers are able to recognize the letters or symbols of an alphabetic or syllabic writing system or a limited number of characters in a character-based language. They can identify a number of highly contextualized words and phrases including cognates and borrowed words but rarely understand material that exceeds a single phrase. Rereading is often required.

Evaluation:

Exams	45% (3 x 15%)
Voc. quizzes	12% (6 x 2%)
Online HW (Connect)	12% (6 x 2%)
Tutor interviews	10% (2 x 5%)
Final project	8%
Oral exam	13%
Total	100%

Grading Scale

A=100-90 B=89-80 C=79-70 D=69-60 F=Below 59

Course Workload

1. Attendance & Participation

▪ Participation and attendance are fundamental to succeed in this course. **Attendance is mandatory.** If you are absent more than three times, you will be given a warning. After six absences, you may be dropped from the course, depending on circumstances. Absences due to illness or unexpected situations count as absences. The only justified absences beyond the three allowed are those resulting from required participation in university events, hospitalization, or family emergencies of which the instructor has been notified by university officials. Please note that there is no participation grade given in this course; however, **after three unexcused absences, your final grade will be reduced by 2 points per absence. Late work is not accepted. Exams and quizzes cannot be made up.**

▪ You should arrive on time. **Two late arrivals or early departures by more than 10 minutes equal one absence.** If a student arrives late, she/he needs to talk to the professor at the

end of class to make sure that a tardy mark was registered in the class book instead of an absence. If a student misses 3 consecutive sessions and does not contact the instructor, she/he may be dropped from class.

- **You should not make travel/family /employment plans** that interfere with classes or exams since make up exams cannot be made in order to accommodate such plans.
- Student athletes, band members and members of other university sanctions should bring a letter from their supervisor or specific department **during the first week of class** indicating the dates they will miss class.
- Students who require special accommodations for religious holidays should make arrangements with their instructor **during the first week of class**.
- **Behavior:** All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.
- **Laptop and other similar devices** are allowed **only** for those students which have purchased the online book. Mobile phone use is **not** allowed during class time.

2. EXAMS (45% of the final grade)

Tentative dates are indicated in the course schedule and may be modified as needed. Students requiring special testing accommodations must provide documentation to the Instructor during the first week of class. Each exam consists of listening, reading, writing, grammar, and vocabulary sections (each section worth 20% of the exam grade). **Makeup exams are not given** unless arrangements have been made in advance of the absence from a scheduled exam.

Exam 1 – Chapters 1 and 2

Exam 2 – Chapters 3 and 4

Exam 3 – Chapters 5 and 6

3. ORAL PROFICIENCY EXAM (13% of the final grade)

An oral proficiency exam will be conducted at the end of the semester to measure students' speaking level. The oral exam will consist of an interview on topics presented in class. Students will prepare by actively participating in all class sessions and attending the conversation meeting with the tutors. The oral exam will be conducted in the instructor's office hours. Please sign in at your earliest convenience.

4. VOCABULARY QUIZZES (12% of the final grade, 2% each)

Lexical knowledge is an essential step in acquiring a second language. In every chapter you will learn new words and review those you already know. There will be six quizzes focused on this linguistic component to measure how well you know the words; these short tests will include lexical items studied in class.

5. HOMEWORK (12% of the final grade)

Homework is assigned to provide students with additional practice and review of the material. The Workbook exercises are essential to understanding the material presented in the textbook and in class. The Lab Manual will help practicing the four language skills. Workbook and Lab manual activities are to be completed online using the Puntos de Partida- Connect system. Students are responsible for completing the assignments by the due dates. The system will not accept late work for credit; a student still may do it for extra practice, however. See the 'Registration in Connect' for more information.

6. INTERVIEW W/ TUTORS (10% of the final grade)

A series of two interviews will be held with any of the departmental Spanish tutors. Students must visit the tutors before each deadline at their offices and maintain a conversation of no less than 15 minutes. Topics depend on the material covered in class; the focus will be on the

chapters studied previously to each interview. Any other topics that students may want to bring in are welcome. Students will have to carry the weight of the conversation. Tutors will have signup sheets for students to set up an appointment for each one of the three interviews. Tutors' office: HL 119.

7. Final project (8% of the final grade)

A creative final project will be presented at the end of the semester in groups. The goal is to use the Spanish learnt in class in a practical situation. More details about the project and the groups will be given in class.

RECOMMENDED

Invest in a good Spanish/English dictionary.

GENERAL INFORMATION

eCollege at TAMUC

Spa 131 is a web-enhanced course through eCollege, the learning management system used by Texas A & M University-Commerce. Use of eCollege allows students:

- Obtain and print a copy of the course syllabus and schedule.
- Obtain different course documents through doc. sharing.
- Receive updates and communications.
- Check their grades through the eCollege gradebook.
- Talk to other students through the Virtual Lounge.

To use the eCollege features associated with this course go to: <https://leo.tamuc.edu/>. You will need your CWID (Campus Wide I.D.) and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact technology services at 903-468-6000 or helpdesk@online.tamuc.org.

Students with Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal antidiscrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library, Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

Academic Dishonesty: Plagiarism is borrowing the work of others and not giving credit where credit is due. It is unethical and reflects very poorly on a person's character. Copying someone else's work, or asking a friend or tutor to write your compositions constitutes a violation of academic honesty policy. Likewise, the use of electronic media to translate your work to Spanish is also unacceptable. Instructors in the Department of Literature and Languages do not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Instructors uphold and support the

highest academic standards, and students are expected to do likewise. Penalties for students guilty of academic dishonesty include disciplinary probation, suspension, and expulsion (Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b [1,2,3]). For further information please see the Academic Honesty Statement of the Department of Literature and Languages below.

Discriminatory behavior

A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Notice to those seeking Teacher Certification: Students who plan to teach English, Spanish, or English as a Second Language in Texas public schools must pass the appropriate state certification tests. The Department of Literature and Languages grants approval to take the content-area tests. Additional information about the examinations and internships is available at the Educator Certification office, Ed North 204 (ext. 5182).

Placement Exam: If you have taken **any** Spanish in the past, or if you speak Spanish, you should take the Spanish placement exam. It is offered every day at the Testing Center in the One Stop Shop. You may possibly place out of lower-division classes and receive up to 6 hours of credit! This exam is to help you finish your language requirement sooner, or get you into upper-level classes without repeating work you have already done in the past.

Study Abroad: We encourage students to pursue an immersion experience in Spanish by participating in our study abroad programs. Anytime you plan to complete credits abroad, you must have them approved by the Spanish faculty and advisor BEFORE you leave. Please speak to your professor if you are interested in taking Spanish in Spain or Mexico. As a bilingual student, you can benefit enormously from a study-abroad experience. Financial aid will apply to most destinations and the Office of International Studies offers travel stipends for almost all interested students to travel to a variety of countries. For more information contact Dr. Kenneth Clinton in Ferguson Social Sciences 220, (903) 468-6034.

Assignment Policy

I will provide specific details during class meetings and possibly by email. Students must stay current with all readings. Students are responsible for completing and submitting all assignments by their respective due dates.

Late Work

I will not accept any assignment after its due date. Assignments submitted after the due date may receive a score of zero (0).

Drop a Course

A student may drop a course by logging into his/her myLEO account and clicking on the hyperlink labeled "Drop a class" from among the choices found under the myLeo section of the Web page.

Incompletes

Incompletes (grade of "X") are granted only under rare and extraordinary circumstances.

Administrative Withdrawal

I reserve the right to drop a student from the course administratively for excessive absences or violations of student conduct codes.

Tutoring and Advising

Your Instructor: I am your first resource and want to make your experience as positive as possible. Please talk to me if you are having any problems in the course and I will do my best to assist you.

Tutors: Spanish tutoring is available in HL 119. This service is free of charge and is offered daily. Sign up is on the door. **Please note that there is a maximum time limit you can sign up for per day, 20 minutes.**

Trio Program: Another chance of tutoring to improve your skills.

Advising: Dr. Inma Lyons is the Spanish undergraduate adviser. To declare a major, second major, or minor in Spanish, or to get further information on the Spanish program, please make an appointment with Dr. Lyons. You may contact her at the following e-mail address: Inma.Lyons@tamuc.edu

E-Culture Policy: When dealing with faculty over e-mail, it is important that students keep the following in mind:

- Always use the Tamuc e-mail account to communicate with your instructor. Messages from any other e-mail accounts may not be considered.
- Always use salutations and signatures. Be courteous. Add a recognizable subject to your email.
- For serious matters use e-mails to facilitate a mutually agreeable time to meet. E-mail should not be used to avoid personal interaction.

Student Conduct . All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook).

Class-Specific Notes on Student Conduct: I expect all students to treat all members of the class community with respect, including respect to differences of opinion, cultural background, and other matters. Although I encourage students to debate issues, it is important to note that there are effective and logical ways of conducting such debates.

Tentative Schedule- Spring 2015

***The course schedule is subject to revisions and other modifications as the instructor deems necessary. Any changes to the course schedule will be announced in advance.

Date	Activity	HW
1/21	First class day: Course and textbook presentation.	Register your account in Connect.

1/23	Ice Breaker Activities	
1/26	Capítulo 1: The alphabet pg.7, Pronunciation pg. 18 Cognates	Review the alphabet Read pages 4-11
1/28	2-11 Greetings and common expressions.	
1/30	Expressing what you are like, and “nota cultural”	Read pgs. 12-15
2/2	12-15 Numbers 0-30, expressing “there is, there are”	
2/4	Review, Expressing likes.	Read pgs. 16-17
2/6	16-17; ¿Qué hora es? (What time is it?)	Read and Review pgs. 26-30
2/9	Capítulo 2: “En la Universidad” Vocabulary & question words pgs. 26-30	Study Vocabulary Read pgs. 32-37
2/11	Quiz 1 Vocabulary Singular and plural of nouns, gender, articles pgs. 32-37	Read pgs. 38-43
2/13	Pgs. 38-43 Subject pronouns, present tense of –AR verbs, expressing negative declarations	Read pgs. 43-44
2/16	The verb ESTAR, expressing the time of day: por vs. de pgs. 43-44	Read pgs. 45-49
2/18	Yes/No questions, rising intonation, subject/verb inversion in questions. Pgs 45-49 (Friday 26 th is the deadline for tutoring session No. 1)	
2/20	Review for Exam 1 over chapters 1 & 2	Study for Exam 1 Connect exercises for chapters 1 & 2 will be due on Exam day before midnight.
2/23	Exam 1-Chapters 1 & 2	Read pgs. 60-64
2/25	Capítulo 3: “La familia” Vocabulary practice, pgs. 60-64 Numbers to 100, pg. 65	Read pgs. 66-69 Study Vocabulary
2/27	Vocabulary Quiz 2 Forms and placements of adjectives, forms of this-these pgs. 66-69	Read pgs. 72-75
3/2	The verb SER, -porque vs. –para, pgs. 72-75	Read pgs. 77-78

3/4	The possessive adjectives, pgs. 77-78	Read pgs. 80-83
3/6	Present tense of –ER and IR verbs, pgs. 80-83 Lectura Cultural pg. 90	Read pgs. 90, 98-101
3/9	Capítulo 4: “De compras” Vocabulary practice, pgs. 98-101. Numbers to 2 million	Study Vocabulary Read pgs. 107-109
3/11	Vocabulary Quiz 3 Demonstrative adjectives and pronouns, pgs. 107-109	Read pgs. 111-113, 122
3/13	The verbs TENER, VENIR, PREFERIR, QUERER, PODER pgs. 111-113 Lectura Cultural pg. 122 **Today is the deadline for tutoring session No. 1)	Read pgs. 116-118
3/16 – 3/20	SPRING BREAK	
3/23	Expressing destination and future actions, the verb IR pgs. 116-118	
3/25	Review for Exam 2 over Chapters 3 and 4	Study for exam over chapters 3 & 4 Connect exercises for chapters 3 & 4 will be due on exam day before midnight.
3/27	Exam 2 over Chapters 3 & 4	Read pgs. 130-135
3/30	Capítulo 5: “En casa” Vocabulary practice, pgs. 130-133 Preposiciones I, pgs. 134-135.	Study Vocabulary Read pgs. 136-138
4/1	Vocabulary Quiz 4 The verbs HACER, Oír, PONER, SALIR, TRAER, VER pgs. 136-138	Read pg. 142
4/3	The verbs PENSAR, VOLVER, PEDIR pg. 142	Read pgs. 143-145
4/6	Other Stem-Changing verbs pgs. 143-145	Read pgs. 147-149, 156
4/8	Reflexive Pronouns, pgs. 147-149 Lectura Cultural pg. 156	Read pgs. 164-168

4/10	Capítulo 6: “Las estaciones y el tiempo” Práctica de vocabulario, pgs. 164-166 Preposiciones, pgs. 168	Study Vocabulary Read pgs. 170-171
4/13	The present progressive pgs. 170-171	Read pgs. 175-177
4/15	SER vs. ESTAR pgs. 175-177	Read pgs. 182-185, 192
4/17	Expressing Comparisons pgs. 182-185 Lectura Cultural pg. 192	Read pgs. 200-203
4/20	Capítulo 7: ¿Qué le gusta comer? Práctica de vocabulario, pgs. 200-203	Study Vocabulary Read pgs. 206-207
4/22	Vocabulary Quiz 6 Direct Objects: Expressing “what” and “whom”, personal “a”, pgs. 206-207	Read pg. 208
4/24	Direct Object Pronouns, pg. 208	Review Direct Objects
4/27	Review and practice: Direct object and direct object pronouns.	Read pgs. 212-213
4/29	Expressing Negation The verbs SABER and CONOCER pgs. 212-213	Read pgs. 216-217, 224
5/01	Influencing others: Commands pgs. 216- 217 Lectura Cultural pg. 224	
5/4	Catch up day.	
5/6	Review for final exam over chapters 5, 6, and 7.	
5/8	Review for final exam over chapters 5, 6, and 7. ** Final project due **Today is the deadline for tutoring session no. 2	
5/11	***Oral Exams will be conducted during instructors office hours.	
5/13	***Oral Exams will be conducted during instructors office hours.	
5/15	Oral Exam	

