



Sul Ross State University
Course Syllabus
Spanish I- SPAN 1411
Online
Summer 2025.

Course Number: SPAN 1411
Course Title: Spanish I
Type: Asynchronous Online
Credit Hours: 4

Class: ONLINE Via Blackboard and VHL

Instructional Plan

This course is taught asynchronously, allowing students to progress at their own pace. However, there are specific due dates for assignments and tests. Students are responsible for submitting their work on time; late work will not be accepted. Assignments will be submitted through VHL and Blackboard

Instructor Contact Information

Dr. Gerardo Ruz
Email: gdr25ez@sulross.edu

Office Hours:

Since this is an online class, all office hours will be by appointment using Microsoft Teams. I am available every day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Course Description

Spanish 1411 is the first course of a four-semester sequence which implements a proficiency-oriented approach. Proficiency is defined as the ability to understand and convey information and/or feelings in a particular situation for a particular purpose. This approach focuses on the rapid development of listening and reading comprehension skills through constant exposure to high-frequency language in the form of spoken conversation and printed texts.

The material covered by this course is designed to introduce students to the basic elements of the language, and to provide practice in applying it to everyday situations and needs. Emphasis will be placed on learning useful communicative skills, grounded in grammatical knowledge and a wide variety of vocabulary. All four modes of communication – listening, speaking, reading and writing – will be practiced. In addition, readings, music, film/video and online resources will be used to help develop a greater understanding of the many Spanish-speaking cultures. Prerequisite: None.

¹ Vistas Higher Learning (the mandatory book we need for the class). You can find it and purchase it at: <https://vistahigherlearning.com/store/school/sulrossu>

Instructional Materials

Vistas: Introducción a la lengua española. Blanco, Donley. Sixth edition. Vista Higher Learning, 2020. Our course package includes: the text (only chapters 1-5 of full book); vText; softbound Student Activities Manual (workbook, audio and video sections); and WebSAM (online, gradable version of the Student Activities Manual).

THIS BOOK IS CUSTUM MADE FOR SUL ROSS. It comes with a 5 month access code that includes: the online book (eBook) version and the exercises and assessments online. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO BUY AN USED BOOK ONLINE, IT WILL NOT INCLUDE THE NECESSARY ONLINE CODE.

You can choose to buy the online version (it comes with an eBook) or the combination of the eBook and the paper book.

Textbook website: <https://vistahigherlearning.com/store/school/sulrossu>

1. Access to the Internet is required. Please make sure you have access for all assignments; Internet or computer failure that may occur will not be taken into consideration for this course.
2. OPTIONAL: A good Spanish English dictionary, such as Oxford, Harps or Vox, for use in class. For out-of-class, online work the following, excellent dictionary site is recommended: <http://www.wordreference.com>.

The textbook package should be bought immediately. Lateness penalties for online activities will be applied starting **May 30th, 2025**, The online access code is required to complete these activities. Please make sure you check your email and/or blackboard often, as this will be my primary means of communicating with the class.

Student Objectives/Competencies

Students who complete this course will be able to do the following:

1. Demonstrate basic oral proficiency in Spanish
2. Demonstrate basic listening proficiency in Spanish
3. Demonstrate basic reading proficiency in Spanish
4. Demonstrate basic writing proficiency in Spanish
5. Communicate effectively via spoken and written Spanish in real-world contexts.
6. Identify and describe cultural Spanish cultural properties and traditions.
7. Identify and apply communication strategies when using Spanish, including cognates, clues from context, circumlocution, etc.

These learning objectives are based on the national standards document (2006) of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (<http://www.actfl.org>), which is the professional association for K-16 language educators. In addition, the objectives support the revised NCATE/ACTFL teacher education standards, 2012: <https://www.actfl.org/sites/default/files/guidelines/ACTFLProficiencyGuidelines2012.pdf>

Course and Learning Activities

1. **Class Notes (6%):** Students are required to watch all assigned tutorial videos on grammar for each chapter and take comprehensive notes. These notes should be a minimum of 3 pages. Once completed, students will submit their notes through Blackboard using the provided link. This assignment is worth 6% of your final grade.
2. **Cultural Videos (8%):** For each chapter, students will submit a video discussing a cultural aspect or interesting facts about a designated Hispanic country. The video should be approximately two minutes long. I will assign a specific country per chapter and provide a detailed rubric on Blackboard.
3. **Blackboard Discussion (6%):** I will post questions in Spanish related to the current grammar topic. Students are expected to respond to at least 3 questions in Spanish and ask a question to their peers in the discussion.
4. **Homework (40%):** These assignments will be completed on the VHL platform. You will watch all the grammar videos. After reviewing all the material for the chapter, you will submit your assignments every Wednesday by 11:59 p.m. Late work will be accepted with penalties. However, you are encouraged to submit your assignments before the due date. You can view your homework grades online 24/7. Please be aware and prepared that completing the homework will take you on average 5 hours of homework per week. Any homework turned in late will be penalized by 10 % of the score per day. Please plan accordingly to accommodate work and family obligations. If you experience technical difficulties while in the Supersite you will need to contact [tech support](#) at 1 (800) 248-2813. Please note that they are not available 24/7.
 - Chapter 1: due: June 4 (Wednesday)
 - Chapter 2: due: June 11 (Wednesday)
 - Chapter 3: due: June 18 (Wednesday)
 - Chapter 4: due: June 25 (Wednesday)
 - Chapter 5: due: July 1 (Tuesday)

If you are unable to purchase the book immediately, you must create an account on Vistas using the **Grace Period access**

1. **Chapter Tests (40%):** Students will have a chapter test per lesson. These tests will be available on VHL
 - **Lesson 1:** on VHL June 6 (Friday)
 - **Lesson 2:** on VHL June 13 (Friday)
 - **Lesson 3:** on VHL June 20 (Friday)
 - **Lesson 4:** on VHL June 27 (Friday)
 - **Lesson 5:** on VHL July 2 (Wednesday)

The deadlines of the tests CANNOT be changed.

Useful information

- If you have any special needs related to a disability that may affect your performance in this course, please email me, and we can take the necessary adjustments.
- Participate! We are all learning.
- Familiarize yourself with all of the online tools of the *Vistas* website; use all of the resources available to you.
- Do not fall behind! Catching up is extremely difficult in a language course. Success depends on regular contact with the material.
- Schedule and appointment with me for comments or questions –I’m here to help you succeed in your Spanish course.

Assessments

A) Class Notes on Blackboard.....	6%
B) Cultural videos on Blackboard	8%
C) Homework on VHL	40%
D) Chapter Test (1 per lesson: Total 5) on VHL	40%
E) Blackboard Discussions on Blackboard	6%

Grading System

100 - 90:	A
86 - 80:	B
79 - 70:	C
69 - 60:	D
59 - 0:	F

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is taking responsibility for one’s own work, being individually accountable, and demonstrating intellectual honesty and ethical behavior. Academic integrity is a personal choice to abide by the standards of intellectual honesty and responsibility. Adhering to the standards of academic integrity ensures that grades are earned honestly and gives added value to the entire educational process. Academic integrity is the foundation upon which students, faculty, and staff build their educational and professional careers. Any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, copying from the Internet and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor) or the attempt to commit such an act is ground for failure in this course and for further academic discipline. By enrolling in this course, you acknowledge having been given an electronic copy of the syllabus and therefore you are responsible for its contents.

SulRoss demands **academic integrity** from its students. Any form of academic dishonesty, including (but not limited to) plagiarism or cheating is ground for failure in this course and for further academic discipline. Each student must agree, in writing, to uphold this policy.

Please contact me via email whenever you need help.

This syllabus is meant as a guide and is subject to changes at the discretion of the professor.

Instructor-Learner Interaction

- **Email Contact:** The best way to contact me is through email. I will return all email

Class Schedule

THIS CALENDAR IS TENTATIVE. IT HAS TO BE TAKEN AS A GUIDELINE ONLY. IT MAY BE MODIFIED TO FULFILL THE NECESITIES OF THE CLASS

CHAPTER & COMMUNICATIVE OBJECTIVES

TOPICS (VOCABULARY, GRAMMAR, CULTURE)

CHAPTER 1	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Greet people2. Say hello and goodbye3. Identify yourself and others4. Talk about your classes and school life5. Express time of day	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to course• Learn structure of book and its resources, print and online• Getting to know each other• The plaza principal• Spanish alphabet• Cognates• Expressions of courtesy & respect• Nouns and articles• Numbers 0-30• Present tense of ser• Telling time• Plaza de Mayo (Buenos Aires, Arg.)• Homework due: June 4 (Wednesday)• Test: June 6 (Friday)
CHAPTER 2	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Discuss everyday activities2. Ask questions in Spanish3. Describe the location of people and things	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Classroom & academic life vocabulary• Days of the week; months• Fields of study• Class schedules Universities and majors in the Spanish-speaking world• Spain• University of Salamanca• Present tense of -ar verbs• Forming questions in Spanish• Present tense of estar• Numbers 31 and higher• España/Spain• Homework due: June 11 (Wednesday)• Test: June 13 (Friday)

CHAPTER 3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Talk about your family and friend 2. Describe people and things 3. Express possession 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The family • Identifying people • Professions and occupations • Surnames and families in the Spanish-speaking world • Spanish Royal Family • Descriptive adjectives • Possessive adjectives • Present tense of -er & -ir verbs • Present tense of tener and venir • Ecuador • Homework due: June 18 (Wednesday) • - Test: June 20 (Friday)
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CHAPTER 4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Talk about pastimes, weekend activities, sport 2. Make plans and invitations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastimes and sports vocab • Places in the city • Soccer rivalries • Present tense of ir Stem-changing verbs: e→ie, o→ue, e→i • Verbs with irregular yo forms • Mexico • Homework due: June 25 (Wednesday) • Test: June 27 (Friday)
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CHAPTER 5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Talk about travel and vacation 2. Month and seasons and weather 3. Ordinal numbers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estar with conditions and emotions • Ser and estar • Present Progressive • Puerto Rico • Homework due: July 3 (Wednesday) • Test: July 5 (Friday)
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