



**Sul Ross State University**  
**Intermediate Spanish I - SPAN 2311**  
**Spring 2026**

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**Course Instructor:** Rachel S. Garza (*Professor Garza*)

**Class Location:** Online & Asynchronous

**Instructor Contact Information**

I am available via Blackboard message or email at [ras25or@sulross.edu](mailto:ras25or@sulross.edu). I typically respond within 24 hours during the week.

**Office Hours:**

- MAB 112C – Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays from 11am-1pm
- By appointment on [Microsoft Teams](#)

**Course Description**

Spanish 2311 is the third course of a four-semester sequence, building upon the present and past tense grammar as well as vocabular and culture presented in SPAN 1411 & 1412. During Spanish 2311 students will develop more complex grammar in Spanish, going from a focus on past/present tense to more subtle aspects of the language such as the subjunctive. Another major goal of this course is to develop fluency in conversation and writing in Spanish.

**Prerequisite:** SPAN 1411 & SPAN 1412 or prior knowledge of basic Spanish vocabulary and the ability to speak in the present as well as past tense, as determined by the instructor or by Dr. Esther Daganzo-Cantens, Professor of Spanish.

**Instructional Materials**

*Vistas: Introducción a la lengua española*. Blanco, Donley. Seventh edition. Vista Higher Learning, 2024. Our course package includes: the text (only chapters 9-13 of full book); vText; softbound Student Activities Manual (workbook, audio and video sections); and WebSAM (online, gradable version of the Student Activities Manual).

**\*DO NOT BUY A 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>

**The textbook package should be bought immediately.** 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.

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## Course and Learning Activities

1. **Homework (25%):** Homework will be assigned from two kinds of online activities, called 'Practice' and 'WebSAM' (Student Activities Manual) on **VHL.com**. Homework assignments will be due on a weekly basis, usually on Friday evenings. 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.

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

2. **Compositions (20%):** there will be two (2) composition assignments on Blackboard. The compositions must be **in Spanish** and will require you to turn on **Lockdown browser**. After you get feedback and an initial grade, you may choose to rewrite the composition to receive back any credit you may have missed. The topics of the compositions are:

### 1) First composition (on Blackboard)

Students will write 2 paragraphs (about 300 words) in Spanish about a really good memory. Students will need to choose one memory to talk about (your favorite trip, a fun celebration, the best gift you ever received, etc.) and write in the past tense about that experience. REMEMBER – use the preterit tense to talk about what *happened* (Where did you go? What did you do?) and the imperfect tense to fill in the details (What was the temperature that day? How were you feeling? How old were you?). More details are provided on Blackboard.

### 2) Second composition (on Blackboard)

Students will write 2 paragraphs (about 300 words) in Spanish giving advice to a new student. What would you genuinely say to a new student who is excited, but nervous to start college? You can imagine that the student is starting at Sul Ross or another university. This assignment will require you to use the subjunctive. More details are provided in the assignment on Blackboard.

3. **Chapter Tests (25%):** Students will complete five exams **on VHL**; one exam per chapter, after each chapter is covered.
4. **Oral Quizzes (15%):** Students will complete five oral quizzes on VHL. Quizzes will be completed after we cover the information in each chapter. During these quizzes, you will be asked questions aloud on VHL and need to answer them aloud.

5. **Final Presentation (15%):** Each student will create a video of themselves presenting a PPT over a cultural topic from the semester. More details will be provided for on Blackboard as the end of the semester approaches.

## Assessments

Compositions .....	20%
Oral Quizzes (VHL) .....	15%
Homework (Online-VHL) .....	25%
Chapter Tests (5 Total) .....	25%
Final Presentation .....	15%

## Grading System

90 - 100: A  
80 - 89: B  
70 - 79: C  
60 - 69: D  
0 - 59: F

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## 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.

**Excessive use of AI – in other words, any use of AI (e.g., ChatGPT, Google Translate, Microsoft, and more) to write responses on your behalf, to write in Spanish for you, to translate Spanish passages or sentences from exams or other assignments, etc. are considered plagiarism as you are not doing your own work.** While AI can be useful to help you understand individual vocabulary terms or phrasing, you should never use AI to complete your assignments for you. When this is done, you are no longer learning. You may use these engines to search a single vocabulary word or phrase when you are unsure of it's meaning, or unsure how to say a specific word in Spanish. However, if it appears that you are using an AI service for responses, the instructor will investigate and may set up a meeting with you. **Sul Ross 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.

## ADA Statement

SRSU Accessibility Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable

accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mrs. Mary Schwartz Grisham, LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Director or Ronnie Harris, LPC, Counselor, at 432-837-8203 or email [mschwartz@sulross.edu](mailto:mschwartz@sulross.edu) or [ronnie.harris@sulross.edu](mailto:ronnie.harris@sulross.edu). Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall, room 112, and our mailing address is P.O. Box C122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine. Texas, 79832.

### **Student Responsibilities**

All full-time and part-time students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the [Student Handbook](#) and the [Undergraduate & Graduate Catalog](#) and for abiding by the [University rules and regulations](#). Additionally, students are responsible for checking their Sul Ross email as an official form of communication from the university. Every student is expected to obey all federal, state and local laws and is expected to familiarize him/herself with the requirements of such laws.

### **SRSU Distance Education Statement**

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website.

Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires a secure login. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website. Directions for filing a student complaint are located in the student handbook.

### **Counseling**

Sul Ross has partnered with TimelyCare where all SR students will have access to nine free counseling sessions. You can learn more about this 24/7/365 support by visiting [Timelycare/SRSU](#). The SR Counseling and Accessibility Services office will continue to offer in-person counseling in Ferguson Hall room 112 (Alpine campus), and telehealth Zoom sessions for remote students and RGC students.

### **Libraries**

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library and Archives of the Big Bend in Alpine offer FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, [library.sulross.edu/](http://library.sulross.edu/). Off-campus access requires logging in with your LoboID and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email ([srsulibrary@sulross.edu](mailto:srsulibrary@sulross.edu)), or by phone (432-837-8123).

No matter where you are based, public libraries and many academic and special libraries welcome the general public into their spaces for study. SRSU TexShare Cardholders can access additional services and resources at various libraries across Texas. Learn more about the TexShare program by visiting [library.sulross.edu/find-and-borrow/texshare/](http://library.sulross.edu/find-and-borrow/texshare/) or ask a librarian by emailing [srsulibrary@sulross.edu](mailto:srsulibrary@sulross.edu).

Mike Fernandez, SRSU Librarian, is based in Eagle Pass (Building D-129) to offer specialized library services to students, faculty, and staff. Utilize free services such as InterLibrary Loan (ILL), ScanIt, and Direct Mail to get materials delivered to you at home or via email.

### **Academic Integrity**

Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. Students should submit work that is their own and avoid the temptation to engage in behaviors that violate academic integrity, such as turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; collaborating on a course assignment, examination,

or quiz when collaboration is forbidden. Students should also avoid using open AI sources *unless permission is expressly given* for an assignment or course. Violations of academic integrity can result in failing assignments, failing a class, and/or more serious university consequences. These behaviors also erode the value of college degrees and higher education overall.

### **Classroom Climate of Respect**

Importantly, this class will foster free expression, critical investigation, and the open discussion of ideas. This means that all of us must help create and sustain an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. Similarly, we must all learn how to probe, oppose and disagree without resorting to tactics of intimidation, harassment, or personal attack. No one is entitled to harass, belittle, or discriminate against another on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, or sexual preference. Still, we will not be silenced by the difficulty of fruitfully discussing politically sensitive issues.

### **Supportive Statement**

I aim to create a learning environment for my students that supports various perspectives and experiences. I understand that the recent pandemic, economic disparity, and health concerns, or even unexpected life events may impact the conditions necessary for you to succeed. My commitment is to be there for you and help you meet the learning objectives of this course. I do this to demonstrate my commitment to you and to the mission of Sul Ross State University to create a supportive environment and care for the whole student as part of the Sul Ross Familia. If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class, please don't hesitate to come and talk with me. I want to be a resource for you.

### **Tutoring Center**

[The Lobo Den Tutoring Center](#) offers FREE tutoring support to help you excel in your courses. Whether you need assistance in Writing, Math, Science, or other subjects, we're here to help!

### **Important Information:**

- **Drop-in and Scheduled Appointments:** Flexible options to fit your needs.
- **Hours of Operation:** Monday–Friday, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM.
- **Workshops:** Attend our regularly hosted academic workshops on STEM topics and professional development, often in collaboration with specialized faculty.
- **Location:** BWML Room 128.
- **Contact Us:** For more information or to book an appointment, email [tutoring@sulross.edu](mailto:tutoring@sulross.edu) or call (432) 837-8726.

### **Looking for additional support?**

- Tutor.com offers FREE 24/7 online tutoring in over 200 subjects, including specialized support for ESL and ELL learners with native Spanish-speaking tutors.
- Access Tutor.com via Blackboard: Log in to your Blackboard account to get started anytime, anywhere.

Take advantage of these valuable resources to boost your confidence and performance in your classes. We look forward to helping you succeed!

## Class Schedule

CHAPTER & WEEK		TOPICS (VOCABULARY, GRAMMAR, CULTURE) & ASSIGNMENTS
CHAPTER 9	<b>Weeks 1-3</b> Jan. 14 <sup>th</sup> – Jan. 30 <sup>th</sup>	<p>Subjects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Las fiestas</b> – Celebraciones</li> <li>• <b>Cultura:</b> Celebraciones en el mundo hispano</li> <li>• Irregular Preterites</li> <li>• Verbs that change meaning in the preterite</li> <li>• ¿Qué? And ¿Cuál?</li> <li>• Pronouns after prepositions</li> </ul> <p>Assignments due:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HW-9a due in VHL on Friday, Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup></li> <li>• HW-9b due in VHL on Friday, Jan. 30<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• <b>Chapter 9 Oral Quiz (VHL) – Due Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup></b></li> <li>• <b>Chapter 9 Test (VHL) – Due Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup></b></li> </ul>
CHAPTER 10	<b>Weeks 4-6</b> Feb. 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Feb. 20 <sup>th</sup>	<p>Subjects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>En el consultorio</b> – Healthcare in the Spanish-speaking world</li> <li>• <b>Cultura:</b> Healthcare in the Spanish-speaking world</li> <li>• The imperfect tense</li> <li>• The preterite versus imperfect</li> <li>• Constructions with se</li> <li>• Adverbs</li> </ul> <p>Assignments due:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HW-10a due in VHL on Friday, Feb. 13<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• HW-10b due in VHL on Friday, Feb. 20<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• <b>Composición 1</b> on Friday, Feb. 20<sup>h</sup></li> <li>• <b>Chapter 10 Oral Quiz (VHL) – Due Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup></b></li> <li>• <b>Chapter 10 Test (VHL) – Due Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup></b></li> </ul>
CHAPTER 11	<b>Weeks 7-9</b> Feb. 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Mar. 20 <sup>th</sup>	<p>Subjects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>La tecnología</b></li> <li>• Cultura: Las redes sociales</li> <li>• Familiar Commands</li> <li>• Por y para</li> <li>• Reciprocal reflexives</li> <li>• Stressed possessive adjectives and pronouns</li> </ul> <p>Assignments due:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HW-11a due in VHL on Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• HW-11b due in VHL on Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• <b>Chapter 11 Oral Quiz (VHL) – Due Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup></b></li> <li>• <b>Chapter 11 Test (VHL) – Due Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup></b></li> </ul>

CHAPTER 12	<b>Weeks 10-12</b> Mar. 20 <sup>th</sup> – Apr. 10 <sup>th</sup>	<p>Subjects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Las viviendas y los muebles</b></li> <li>• Relative pronouns</li> <li>• Formal usted/ustedes commands</li> <li>• The present subjunctive</li> <li>• Subjunctive with verbs of will and influence</li> </ul> <p>Assignments due:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HW-12a due in VHL on Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup></li> <li>• HW-12b due in VHL on Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• <b>Composición 2 on Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup></b></li> <li>• <b>Chapter 12 Oral Quiz (VHL) – Due Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup></b></li> <li>• <b>Chapter 12 Test (VHL) – Due Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup></b></li> </ul>
CHAPTER 13	<b>Weeks 13-Finals</b> Apr. 13 <sup>th</sup> – May 1 <sup>st</sup>	<p>Subjects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>La naturaleza y el reciclaje</b></li> <li>• The subjunctive with verbs of emotion</li> <li>• The subjunctive with doubt, disbelief, and denial</li> <li>• The subjunctive with conjunctions</li> </ul> <p>Assignments due:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HW-13a due in VHL on Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• HW-13b due in VHL on Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup></li> <li>• <b>Chapter 13 Oral Quiz (VHL) – Due Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup></b></li> <li>• <b>Final Presentation (VHL) – Due Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup></b></li> <li>• <b>Chapter 13 Test (VHL) – Due Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup></b></li> </ul>