

SPAN 101 – ELEMENTARY SPANISH I (4 credits)

Course objectives

This course is for students with fundamental or no prior knowledge of the Spanish language. Like most first year college classes, you will be introduced to the cultures of the contemporary Spanish-speaking world as you develop listening, speaking, reading and writing skills through a range of activities that will depend upon your lively, well-informed and creative participation.

Texts

Blanco, Donley. VISTAS 3rd. ed. 2008.

---. Workbook.

---. In-text CD.

Course guidelines

1. Attendance

The classroom is the primary environment in which you will be exposed to the Spanish language and will be obliged to listen and to respond to it while in the presence of an instructor who can answer your questions immediately, resolve any uncertainties and correct mistakes. A significant part of your class work is based on oral activities which cannot be made up on an individual basis.

You are expected to arrive to class on time.

Excessive absenteeism is unacceptable in a language class where classroom work is an essential component of the course. You are not expected to miss any classes. All absences must be accounted for by an authorized letter from the doctor. If you have a disability/or medical condition which will preclude your meeting these standards, it is your responsibility to speak with the instructor so that special arrangements can be made. More than 2 unexcused absences will lower your grade, half a point per absence.

A student aspiring to an A should not have any absences.

A student aspiring to an A grade with 3 **unexcused** absences will get an A-.

A student aspiring to a B+ with 3 **unexcused** absences will get a B. And so forth.

3 **excused** absences will disqualify you from course bonuses and will result in the lowering of your GPA, grade point average. This will have a substantial impact on your final grade. Don't shortchange yourself by neglecting attendance.

All students are responsible for finding out what assignments have been given (i.e. written work, quizzes, etc.) if they are absent. Being absent does not justify coming to class unprepared.

As a rule, there will be no make-ups for exams, compositions or homework. If you miss an exam, you will be expected to provide a valid medical excuse for the absence and must immediately reschedule the exam. Only a severe medical condition or a serious unavoidable emergency might grant an extension/rescheduling. All severe medical conditions and/or emergencies **MUST BE** proved by

means of an official medical certificate (administered *ad hoc* by a collegiate doctor), or by presenting a letter/police report to justify the emergency.

No trips, visits from relatives or family members will grant an extension.

There will be no rescheduling of Final Exams (including Oral and Written Final Exams).

2. Lab work/Spanish club

Lab work is also very important because it helps reinforce the course material and it gives you opportunities to hear native Spanish and to review. Some exercises in the workbook require that you listen to the audio program from the lab.

Attend the language lab regularly for a minimum of 1 hour/week. The greater your contact time with the material is, the more beneficial the program will be. It is advisable that you complete the lab/workbook exercises as they correspond to the material that we are studying in class. You are expected to hand in the workbook assignments on the dates indicated on the syllabus. Late workbook assignments will not be accepted.

SPANISH CLUB: Each student is required to attend Spanish Club meetings once a week. Attendance will be recorded. The activities for the Spanish Club are being implemented according to the present season's (Fall 2007) available activities in Madrid. All of them will be announced shortly. They may include visits to Madrid's main museum or El Escorial, film nights, as well as "tertulia" meetings on campus.

3. Compositions

Three compositions will be required:

Composition 1 (1 page long)

Composition 2 (1 & ½ pages long)

Composition 3 (2 pages long)

All students must ask for an appointment with the professor 1 week prior to the due date. They will present an outline of their paper (typed) during this appointment. The outline must be approved by the instructor. Compositions without a previous appointment and outline will not be accepted. Late submissions will not be accepted.

4. Grade distribution

Attendance, Preparation and Daily Participation	20%
Workbook Chapters	20%
Homework (compositions included)	10%
Chapter Tests (9)	25%
Final Exam (10% Oral; 10% Written)	20%
Oral Report	5%

5. Study recommendations

Coming to class well-prepared and eager to participate individually as well as in groups is the key to success in this course! Study daily, do all your assignments, keep up with the language lab and consult with your instructor if you begin to experience difficulty with the material at any time during the semester.

6. Oral reports

Each student will be required to present an oral report in Spanish about two out-of-class cultural activities they partake of while in Madrid. No recycling of topics or presentations from other courses will be allowed.

Information about Oral Reports:

Must be in entirely in Spanish and a minimum of 10 minutes.

Must come prepared to give this presentation to the class. Please do not read your notes (your grade will be lowered). If you are using a Power Point presentation make sure that you do not read your presentation.

Must bring an outline and a vocabulary list of your presentation to everybody in the class.

Must bring visuals (music, movies, pictures, slides, music instruments, etc.).

Must speak with me before the presentation. Please arrange a meeting at least two weeks before your presentation.

Please note that if you are not present on the day of your presentation you will receive a zero.

There will be no make-up dates.

Be original. This is your chance to show the class one of your many personal talents!

7. Beyond the classroom

We highly recommend that students participate in out-of-class activities in order to strengthen their communicative competence in Spanish. Suffolk Madrid will organize a number of activities such as cultural visits and excursions, tapas nights, flamenco performances, etc. All SPAN 101 students should take advantage of these opportunities to advance in their linguistic and cultural competence. Particular events will be announced in class by the professor or other SUMC staff member.
