

## SPA 101 FIRST YEAR SPANISH I

**Credits:** 4

### **Texts and Required Materials:**

1. Blanco, J., & Donley, P. (2016). VISTAS. Introducción a la lengua española. 5<sup>th</sup> edition. Vista High Learning.
2. Material provided by the instructor.

### **Course Description:**

This course provides an introduction to the Spanish language to students with little or no previous experience or formal study. The goal of the course is to help students develop the ability to communicate in Spanish, while at the same time introducing them to the Hispanic culture. A strong emphasis is placed on using the language in practical situations, while also helping students grasp the basics of Spanish grammatical rules, word order, and word formation. This course teaches the students to see the world as the other culture sees it. It is also learning to see your own culture from a new perspective. Knowledge of a foreign language will enable you to compare and contrast cultural concepts among different people.

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

Active engagement with the content of this course will allow students to:

1. Understand the main idea and some of the supporting details of spoken Spanish intended for beginning college students regarding topics related to their daily life and current affairs.
2. Initiate and respond verbally to non-complicated, basic communicative tasks and familiar social situations with sufficient accuracy in pronunciation and grammar so as to be understood by persons accustomed to interacting with learners of Spanish.
3. Read simple, edited written material (e.g., articles, novelettes, short stories, etc.) on topics related to everyday uses of the Spanish language and the Hispanic culture with an understanding of the main idea and most of the supporting details.
4. Write short, coherent compositions of paragraphs on familiar topics with sufficient accuracy in grammar, spelling, punctuation, and vocabulary so as to be understood by persons accustomed to interacting with learners of Spanish.
5. Understand some significant cultural traits of the Spanish-speaking world (customs, lifestyles, attitudes, geography, famous people, etc.) so as to be able to function appropriately in typical social situations.

Please keep in mind that Spanish classes are designed to present the basic tools necessary for learning Spanish. To be successful in the achievement of the course goals, students should actively participate in the learning experience in class (e.g., by participating in class discussions, being productive in group work) and outside class (e.g., conversation workshops, interacting with locals in Spanish, seeing movies in Spanish). Students do not automatically become either fluent or proficient by completing the introductory Spanish courses, as language acquisition must also occur outside of the classroom. Students hoping to become proficient in Spanish are strongly encouraged

to actively participate in all activities and take advantage of all opportunities this immersion program has to offer to that purpose.

### **Assessment of Learning Outcomes:**

*Quizzes* (4): You will be given quiz (prueba) every other day, except when there is an exam or other major activity. Study and memorize the “vocabulary” list located on the first few pages of each chapter. Key grammar points may also appear. Your instructor will detail the specific format, content, and date for each quiz.

*Portfolio* (3): This portfolio is a story about you and your life. It is recommended to present it as a webpage or blog (hard copy presentation by permission from your instructor). It should contain individual pieces of work. You have specific dates to submit your portfolio. Please be creative, add pictures, sound, color, etc. Portfolio is graded based on a) extension, b) creativity, c) grammar accuracy, d) vocabulary use and e) originality.

Topics that should be included on the portfolio: (Topics to be develop in 3 weeks).

- a) Information about you (nombre, de dónde es, características físicas y de personalidad). Write about your family back home. Who are they, how are they like, what do they do.
- b) Write about your possessions and the things that are important to you.
- c) Write about a field trip destination in Costa Rica. How is the place like. Explain what students do during the field trip.

If you do not have experience in designing Web-Pages, a good start is to use sites offering personal websites for free such as: <https://es.wix.com> <http://www.blogger.com/>

### *Exams:*

a) 50-minute exam (1): There will be one 50-minute tests, all of which will include listening comprehension, grammar, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and composition. Remember all exams are cumulative. Information you learn through spaced repetition stays with you longer than information you “cram”. Daily study periods of shorter duration are more productive than marathon study sessions just before an exam.

b) Oral presentation (1): Because the development of your ability to understand spoken Spanish is one of our primary goals and because it is essential for success in subsequent courses, you will have an oral presentation that shows your ability to explain the main ideas and give details about a specific topic. Oral Presentation: This presentation will be about the topics you have presented in your Webpage. Be sure you explain the content in your web page; only reading will dock points off your grade.

c) Oral assessment (3): An assessment of your speaking abilities will be conducted at the end of each week, providing you with an opportunity to demonstrate your abilities to communicate about every-day topics and situations in Spanish. This assessment may be conducted as an interview

between you and the instructor, as role-plays performed between you and a classmate, or as a short presentation about the topics or events covered during the course time.

d) Final exam (1): The final exam in this course will be comprehensive; testing you on all of the chapters studied this course. Details in terms of content will be provided at the appropriate time.

**The Final Grade:**

SPA 101	
4 Quizzes	10%
3 Portfolios	15%
1 Exam	20 %
1 Oral Presentation	15 %
3 Oral Assessment	15 %
1 Final Exam	20 %
Attendance & Participation	5 %
<b>TOTAL</b>	100%

Your grade for this course will be based on the following: 100-90 = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D; below 60 = F

**Attendance:** Daily attendance to class is required, not optional.

Students are expected to attend every class session and to make up all missed worked because of legitimate absences. In case of an absence, the student is responsible to seek the information and/or materials from fellow students before seeking it from the instructor. After 1 unexcused or unexplained absence, your final grade will be automatically lowered by 10%, after 2 absences 20%, after 3 absences 30%, and after 4 absences 40%. Instructors are under no obligation to make special arrangements for students who have been absent or who miss assignments, deadlines and/or examinations. . For every day absent (4 class hours), the teacher reserves the right to drop student's grade down a whole letter grade. Attendance to the conversation workshop is mandatory.

Cellphones are not allowed out of your backpacks unless we are using them for an activity. The use of cellphone during class time (unless it is an emergency) will result in the loss of participation points.

**Take note that use of online translators are strictly forbidden and is considered plagiarism.**

**Tentative Plan (subject to change upon instructors discretion)** The due dates of homework assignments, will be announced in class.

<b>SEMANA # 1</b>			
<b>Lunes</b>	Presentación del Syllabus		Lección 1
<b>Martes</b>	<b>Quiz #1</b>		Lección 1
<b>Miércoles</b>	Práctica para el examen oral.		Lección 1
<b>Jueves</b>	<b>Portafolio draft 1:</b>		Lección 2
<b>Viernes</b>		<b>EXAMEN ORAL# 1</b>	Lección 2
<b>SEMANA # 2</b>			
<b>Lunes</b>	<b>Quiz #2</b>		Lección 2
<b>Martes</b>		REPASO PARA EL EXAMEN	Lección 2
<b>Miércoles</b>	EXAMEN 1		Lección 3
<b>Jueves</b>	<b>Quiz #3</b>	Práctica para el examen oral.	Lección 3
<b>Viernes</b>	<b>Portafolio draft 2:</b>	<b>EXAMEN ORAL# 2</b>	Lección 3
<b>SEMANA # 3</b>			
<b>Lunes</b>	Práctica para el examen oral.		Lección 4
<b>Martes</b>	<b>Quiz #4</b> <b>Portafolio draft 3</b>	<b>Presentación oral</b>	Lección 4
<b>Miércoles</b>	<b>EXAMEN ORAL# 3</b>		Lección 4
<b>Jueves</b>	<b>Entrega de portafolio (final draft)</b>	REPASO PARA EL EXAMEN	Lección 4
<b>Viernes</b>		<b>EXAMEN FINAL</b>	