



Penn State
Lehigh Valley
A CAMPUS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Spanish 001 – Beginner Spanish Spring 2014

Prof. Ana Figueroa-Coddou

Classes: Tuesday – Thursday 1:40 pm – 2:55 pm.

Friday: 11:00 to 11:50 am.

Classroom: 207 Saucon 220 (Fridays)

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Office Hours: T-R-F 12:00-1:00 or by appointment

Spanish 001 Course Syllabus

Introduction:

Welcome to First-Year Spanish! We are glad that you have chosen to study Spanish with us. Over 300 million people from 24 countries in Latin America, Europe, Africa and the Philippines speak Spanish. Your study of Spanish will give you access and acceptance in this global community. This course provides a close encounter with one of the most famous Latin American indigenous culture, the INCA culture. Traveling to Perú students will engage in service learning in Cuchuma. We will be working with an NGO center in order to improve the living conditions of indigenous people by training and preparing them to face the new challenge of a global society. Students will interact widely with the Cuchuma community. Students have a rare opportunity to learn how Peruvians and Indigenous people lives and deepen in their culture to understand the evolving US-Latin American relationship.

This class will be conducted entirely in Spanish. If you have any questions which you would like to ask in English, ask them after class or during my office hours (feel free to make an appointment if necessary). You are invited to discuss your questions and concerns with me in my office. Please, do not hesitate to come by. You and I are both active partners in learning and teaching Spanish, and we must work together as a team! In this Semester you will do many activities and exercises in pairs and in groups. You are expected to speak only Spanish in these activities. To provide you with an informed Spanish-immersion experience, I will speak Spanish 90-100% of the time. Please refrain from using English unless necessary.

You may ask to speak English by saying *¿Puedo hablar inglés, por favor?*

If you would like something repeated, just say *otra vez, por favor*.

Key question:

How do you say _____ in Spanish? *¿Cómo se dice en español?*

If you don't understand something you can also ask: What is it mean _____? by asking *¿Qué significa _____?* Or *no entiendo, ¿me explica, por favor?*

If I feel you are capable of communicating in Spanish, I will encourage you to do so, because you need the practice.

Course and Program Goals:

The goal of this semester in Spanish 001 is to help you become proficient in communicating with native speakers of Spanish and help you interact with the Spanish speaking communities. Special focus is given to communicating about yourself and others, places, interests and activities and to speaking. Students will be expected to be able to compare and contrast and to learn many verbs and its conjugation, especially verbs like **Ser/ Estar (to be)**, two verbs in Spanish two different meaning. You will learn the present tense and preterit tense. Verbs like *gustar (to like – to be pleased) – odiar (to hate – to dislike)- encantar (to be more than happy for – to be enchanted by)* in order to express likes and dislikes. One of the main grammatical themes for Spanish 001 will be learning how and when to use the two different Ser /Estar – description of people, places, etc. Preterit and Imperfect are two different ways to talk about the past.

To take Spanish 001, you must have no knowledge of Spanish. If you have had 3 semester or more of Spanish (is doesn't matter what do think you learn/or not learn on it), you can not be

in this class. This is the same rule for Latino/Hispanic student. In both cases you have to talk to me after class to solve this problem.

Speaking competency is just as important as learning about the Spanish language. The successful student will develop a **novice-low** to **novice-mild** proficiency in the language by engaging in a variety of communicative activities that focus on developing reading, writing, speaking and listening skills in **Spanish**. In addition, the student will develop cultural awareness and become prepared to encounter real life situations outside of the classroom through discussions of cultural customs and behavior and by reading authentic materials written in **Spanish**. Your success in this class will depend on your active participation in the various class activities. Therefore, this is what I expect of you:

- to prepare all lesson materials before coming to class,
- participate actively and with a positive attitude, and
- speak in Spanish in class and to your classmates

Required materials:

- *¡Arriba! Beginning Spanish 5th Edition.*
- Recommended: one Spanish-English/English Spanish Dictionary (Though this is not a requirement it is an excellent tool for language learners. Any big bookstore currently offers a student edition for \$5.97 and a bit more advanced one for \$10.00—any basic dictionary will be sufficient.). ***Remember that I, prof. Figueroa will be your “dictionary” while you are in class.***

Required Computer Resources. A computer account. If you do not have one, please request one today at **Computer Center**.

Required Aspect of the Class

Attendance

Attendance is **mandatory**. A significant portion of your grade will depend on oral participation in class. Penn State University Rules and Regulation about attendance establish:

“A student should attend every class for which the student is scheduled and should be held responsible for all work covered in the courses taken. In each case, the instructor should decide when the class absence constitutes a danger to the student's scholastic attainment and should make this fact known to the student at once. A student whose irregular attendance causes him or her, in the judgment of the instructor, to become deficient scholastically, may run the risk of receiving a failing grade or receiving a lower grade than the student might have secured had the student been in regular attendance (...) ***An instructor might not consider an unavoidable absence legitimate if the student does not contact the instructor before the evaluative event.*** Students will be held responsible for using only legitimate, unavoidable reasons for requesting a make-up in the event of a missed class or evaluative event. Requests for missing class or an evaluative event due to reasons that are based on false claims may be considered violations of the policy on Academic Integrity (Policy 49-20).”

In case of class absence, student should submit a **class absence form a week in advance:**
<http://www.psu.edu/oue/aappm/classabs.pdf>

Two (2) class absences without a medical, or dean's, excuse will lower the course final grade by 10%; more absences will lower it proportionally. Three (2) late arrivals will count as one (1) absence

Peru Project

Students who decide to discover the joy of community service through visiting and working with local community in Peru, they will have also the possibility to write a journal or filming a journal explaining what are you experience. This personal journal is an opportunity to reflect on your place your ideas about the encounter with the new culture. Students have the opportunity to study and write about several topics on our trip. Topics such as: ecology, women culture, child work, history preservation, etc. Working with local communities, students have the possibility to interviewed shamans, herbalists, agriculturalists, women who work in the kitchen as well as worked with children and teachers in community schools of the region. Interactions with local people are often a highlight of student experiences.

Make-ups

As a general rule, **no absence will be accepted without justification**. The University policy recognizes that on occasion, students may opt to miss a class meeting in order to participate in a regularly scheduled university-approved curricular or extracurricular activity, or due to unavoidable or other legitimate circumstances such as illness, injury, family emergency, or religious observance. In any case, you must present an absence form in advance or a medical excuse. Also, no late work will be accepted. In order to arrange to make up a missed exam or to hand in late work due to illness or traveling, you **must** provide a note from any Health Center or doctor stating that you were unable to attend class the day in which an exam/work was scheduled. If you are a member of an athletic team and you need to travel for a scheduled game or meeting, you **must** bring a letter signed by your coach and addressed to me stating the reason for your absence, and all the dates when you will be absent.

Comprehensive Pruebas.

There will be two (2) **Comprehensive pruebas** Pruebas will test points of grammar, vocabulary and reading selections from *¡Arriba!*.

Pruebas.

It will be 4 "Pruebas", (40 min), the first Tuesday at the end of each month. Each "prueba" will test points on specifics grammar view in class, plus some specific vocabulary.

MySpanishlab Homework: We will be using myspanishlab system to evaluate your progress in class.

Final Exam: a comprehensive exam where you have to show how much do you know about the basic Spanish.

Presentation: This course provides strategies to help students improve their oral presentation skills. Organization, presentation style, pronunciation, and **cross-cultural issues will be addressed**. You will have **5 to 10 minutes** to make your oral presentation. This will be a team

work (groups). **I will be ABSOLUTELY NO READING in the oral presentation, Not even from your visual material:**

- When you make your oral presentation, **be sure you speak clearly and with sufficient volume so that those on the back row can hear you.**
- **Make sure you have sufficient inflection in your voice so it doesn't sound monotonous.**
- Any person in the audience should be able to understand you. Regardless of your mode of presentation, be sure you are sufficiently ready so that you don't fumble with your outline, or note cards.
- **It is important that your Power Point Presentation, video, or any other visual material, doesn't have grammar mistakes.**
- You should be able to be done within fifteen seconds of your ten minutes presentation.
- Be prepared both to ask and answer questions as part of your class participation grade.
- **Evaluation criteria:** Content - Organization of ideas Grammatical Accuracy – Creativity- Use of Vocabulary – Knowledge of the Subject - Overall Articulation of Presentation –

Compositions: There will be three (1) compositions of about 400-500 words and they will be done in two drafts. They should be typed, double-spaced. Each composition will be judged on the basis of how well it fulfills the assignment including issues of purpose, structure, tone, audience, style, *grammar, and format.*

All written material should follow the given criteria:

- ✓ typed in Spanish
- ✓ double spaced
- ✓ 12 fonts Times New Romans
- ✓ *Spell checked*
- ✓ With typed accent marks
- ✓ With **ONLY** your name and assignment number on the top left corner of the paper (single space)
- ✓ With both margins (left and right) up to 0.5 inches

The first draft of your first two compositions will be returned to you with errors indicated and specified, and a grade. The first draft of your third composition will be returned to you **only with errors indicated** (they will not be specified). For each composition, you will make the necessary corrections and then submit a final draft along with the first draft by the date specified in your syllabus. A second and final grade will be given on the revised/final draft; it will be based on an average of the first and second versions of your composition. This system is designed to help you improve your writing skills in Spanish. Class time will be set aside for discussing grammatical points, style, or other specific problems that may recur in your compositions.

Note that the final grade of the compositions will be calculated in the following manner:

- Composition (400 - 500 words) grade will be an average of 70% for the first draft and 30% final version. **11% of the total grade**

Plagiarism. Here, in language, is included the use of electronic translator. Remember

- *Use of any previous semester course materials, such as tests, quizzes, homework, projects, and any other coursework, is prohibited in this course. Using these materials will be considered a direct violation of academic policy.*
- *Plagiarizing is defined by Webster's as "to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own: use (another's production) without crediting the source." If caught plagiarizing, you will be dealt with according to the University regulations. The University's policy on academic integrity can be found on the Web at www.psu.edu/polreg/studguid.html#R64. Section 49-20 of this code, describes academic dishonesty by including cheating, plagiarizing, fabricating information or citation, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized examination, submitting the work of others or previously submitted work without instructor's permissions, and tampering with the work of others. Student violating this code will fail the course and be referred to Judicial Affairs for further disciplinary action.*
- *Please note that any proofreading of written assignments by **another person** and/or the use of bibliographical sources (including Internet materials) without proper acknowledgment is an infraction of the University regulations.*

Classroom Behavior:

I strongly recommend that students should:

- be respectful to one another at all times,
- Turn-off all **cellular phones** before class starts, **texting, sending emails or doing other activity not connected with the class (while you are in class) or going back and forth to the restroom is COMPLETELY FORBIDDEN.**
- Refrain from eating and drinking in class (not chew gum while in class);
- Arrive on time to class. To be tardy is disrespectful to both your teacher and your classmates. Please let me know about conflicts with your other classes. If you arrive late, enter the class and sit near the door, if possible, instead of walking across the room in front of everyone. **If you arrive after the roll has been checked, you are responsible for letting me know so that I can make the necessary corrections.**
- Attend class; if unable to attend, know that you are responsible for what you have missed (homework and knowledge of class material).
- Come prepared for class each day; do not expect others to supply you with paper or a pen/pencil or share their book with you.
- Come to class prepared and ready to actively participate.
- Take notes in class; this requires good listening skills and attentive involvement in the class.
- Seek help from your instructor and/or the Learning Center as soon as you experience academic difficulties. Do not let yourself get further and further behind. Help is available. If you schedule an appointment in the Learning Center, do not miss the appointment.
- Be prepared with class notes and textbook when seeking help; the instructor or tutor is there to help you and not do your homework for you.
- Be on time for appointments; if you miss an appointment, let the person know why you did not show up. A simple apology goes a long way.

- Be able to answer questions on a test that are different than those presented in class, during a review session, or at any other time; you are in college, and the test questions can most definitely be different and even more challenging than those covered previously. If you are presented with a study guide or copies of previous tests, they are NOT meant to tell you the questions on a test but are simply intended as a guide.
- Be academically ethical in all assignments, and do your own work.
- Respect the academic environment of the university classroom as well *as* each other.
- Understand that ***the grading system established by your professor is for everyone***; asking for extra credit assignments to help raise a grade, turning in assignments late and expecting no penalty, or asking for more points than those earned ***are inappropriate requests***.
- Hand in grammatically correct written assignments in all disciplines, not just in English classes.
- Hand in assignments when they are due.
- Understand that grades are earned not given by the instructor.
- Respect copyright laws.
- Not use a computer in class or tape record a lecture unless granted permission by the instructor.

In keeping with the professionalism of the class, students are requested to address Dr. Figueroa, either as Dr. Figueroa or Professor Figueroa, in both speaking and writing. All other forms of address are inappropriate in a professional setting.

Class Participation grading criteria:

Points	Criteria
8-10	The student communicates very well (according to Spanish 001 level) in discussion contexts; he/she really tries to never uses English (unless is completely necessary) in conversation, pair or group activities, or when asking questions; responds fully, voluntarily elaborates on answers, and asking pertinent questions; is respectful of and attentive to others helping them to understand the material cover in class.
7-6	The student communicates insufficiently in some discussion contexts; frequently uses English; gives short answers (yes-no), has difficulty elaborating when requested; he she does not memorize the material; is respectful.
1-5	The student is unable to communicate in most or all discussion contexts. He/she is always asking what's going on. Responds to on textual questions with isolated words or silence; is tardy or leaves early; speaks mostly English in class; makes mostly errors.
0	The student is absent, he/she does not answer to questions. And regardless of cause, the work was not completed on time.

Grades. Final grades will be computed as follows:

Comprehensive Pruebas (2)	15%
Final Exam	10%
Pruebitas (4)	15%
Compositions (1)	10%
Presentation	10%
Class participation	10%
My Spanish Lab H.	15%
Peru Project	15%

Numerical correspondences to letter grades

95-100	A	77-79	C+
90-94	A-	70-76	C
88-89	B+		
83-87	B	60-69	D
80-82	B-	0-59	F