

Spanish Language Program SPAN 1501 — Sp 2010

❖ **TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS: Package available at UH bookstore**

Spanish Communication and Culture: Special Edition for University of Houston. Adapted from: !Arriba!: Comunicacion y cultura. Fifth Edition by Eduardo Zayas – Bazán, Susan M Bacon and Holly J. Nibert [The package contains: Textbook, and Access code for electronic MySpanishLab]

If the book is used arrangements must be made to acquire the access code for MySpanishLab separately.

No instructor's edition book may be used in class.

❖ **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Bienvenidos to Spanish 1501! This is the first course of the Spanish Language Program and it has been designed for students of Spanish as a Second Language. Spanish 1501 follows a communicative approach: From the first day of class you will interact in Spanish in a meaningful context with your instructor and classmates. By the end of this course you will have a general knowledge of the grammar of the Spanish language and you will be able to communicate effectively in Spanish according to this level.

❖ **LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

1. Students will develop communicative competence at the beginners' level through the enhancement of listening and speaking skills in Spanish, which will allow them to converse with ease and confidence in communicative interactions.
2. Students will demonstrate knowledge of reading and writing competence in Spanish at the beginners' level, through reading activities and compositions assignments that will require analytical and critical skills.
3. They will demonstrate a fundamental knowledge of Spanish grammar at the beginners' level; in addition, they will be introduced to the cultures of the Spanish-speaking world and its people.

❖ **GRADING SYSTEM:**

Participation	10%	
Homework	10%	(5% MSL Writing Activities 5% MSL Oral Activities)
Interview	10%	
Oral Situation	10%	
Spanish Table	10%	
Vocabulary/grammar Quiz	10 %	(5 x 2% each)
Writing assignments	10%	(5 x 2% each)
Tests	10%	(5 x 2 % each)
Final exam	20%	
Final Grade:	100%	

University of Houston Grading Scale

A	93-100	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66
A-	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62
B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	F	below 59

Note: A minimum passing grade of C- is required to enroll in the next Spanish level, SPAN 1502.

❖ **PREREQUISITES:**

According to UH course catalog; this course may not be taken for credit by students who have successfully completed three or more years of high school Spanish or two years or equivalent of high school Spanish during the three years immediately prior to enrollment. Credit for SPAN 1501 may not be applied to a degree by students who have credit for SPAN 1505. Heritage speakers of Spanish are not eligible to enroll.

Students who have taken 3 or more years in High School or equivalent during the 3 years prior to enrollment and Heritage Learners must take a Placement Test

Students enrolled in the class must complete the Student Survey by the end of the first week of class or attendance to class will be denied.

❖ **STUDENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES:**

I. Attendance to scheduled sessions:

To derive the utmost benefit from this class, daily attendance is essential. We invite you to take advantage of the possibility of practicing the language in class. Attendance to each session is required.

- To validate enrollment in the class students must attend the first day of class or contact the instructor before the first day of class.
- More than five hours of unexcused absences per semester may result in you being dropped from the course. If you are registered, but do not attend or stop attending the course you are responsible for following the withdrawing procedures or an F will be entered as the final grade
- You should not make travel/employment plans that interfere with classes or exams. Make ups cannot be made in order to accommodate such plans.
- You are responsible for contacting other classmates to obtain any information discussed in the event of class missed.
- Student athletes, band members and members of other university sanctioned groups should bring a letter from their supervisor or specific department **during the first week of classes** indicating the dates they will miss class.
- Students who require special accommodations for religious holidays should make arrangements with their instructor **during the first week of classes**.
- Students with recognized disabilities will be provided reasonable accommodations, appropriate to the course, upon documentation of the disability with a Student Accommodation Form from the Center for Students with Disabilities. To receive these accommodations, you must request the specific accommodations by submitting them to the instructor in writing **during the first week of classes**. Students who fail to submit a written request will not be considered for accommodations. Visit www.uh.edu/csd
- In case of withdrawing from the class, it is the student's responsibility to follow appropriate procedures for officially withdrawing from the course.

II. Active Participation in sessions:

In-class participation provides one of the best opportunities to develop your communicative skills. Participation in this course is strongly encouraged, and you will receive a grade for your participation. Your instructor will evaluate your participation level twice per semester based on a given criteria posted on the course site.

III. Homework (Tarea):

The development of the language skills requires daily practice. Throughout the course there will be daily homework assignments (*Tarea*) from My Spanish Lab as detailed on the tentative calendar. In addition, at the instructor's discretion there will be additional homework assignments. Note that homework assignments are necessary preparation for activities in subsequent classes. They prepare you to attain the most benefit from the activities and help you to monitor your own progress in the learning of the language. Homework is a great opportunity to reinforce the learning of the contents studied in class.

- All homework from My Spanish lab should be completed in writing or recorded orally, as required by each activity, online by the date listed on the tentative daily schedule, and your instructor will check and assign grades for completed assignments.
- The homework assigned by the instructor should be completed and turned in according to what the instructors determines.
- Late homework will not be accepted. Incomplete homework will not be given a mark.
- You must score at least 70% in order to earn a grade.
- Homework assignments will be scored either “1” or “0”.
- You can access MSL the *Language Acquisition Center* <http://www.class.uh.edu/lac/> to do your homework.

V. Assignments:

Compositions: You will write five short writings. The specific topic or strategy to use is outlined in the textbook or My Spanishlab and you will submit them to a classmate for peer review, and then to your instructor to separate grading.

- Your instructor may request a hard copy of all the activities leading up to the final version of the writing activity or strategy
- Your instructor may also request that you submit the final version through **turnitin.com** website.
- In addition to using turnitin.com, these compositions must be typed, doubled spaced, 12 pt font, and with typed accents (á, é, í, ó, ú), and: ¡!, ¿?, ñ. A hard copy may be requested.
- You **may not seek tutoring help** for writing compositions; only your instructor is authorized to give such help.
- You may not submit a writing assignment already submitted in another class for a grade. This constitutes a violation of Academic Honesty Policy.

1. Interview, Oral Situation and Spanish Tables:

Interview: You will have an oral interview with your instructor. The interview will last 10 minutes approximately and will take place **OUTSIDE OF CLASS** during your instructor’s office hours.

Oral Situation: Each student will be evaluated in an oral situation. It will be presented in groups of 2 students with maximum duration of 5 minutes. The topic will be select by choosing a situation from the list available in your textbook or from your instructor. Marks for the presentation will be granted on an individual basis.

Spanish Table: You will complete one Spanish Table during the semester. This will be a Spanish conversation session that takes place **OUTSIDE OF CLASS** in the Learning Support Services Center located in room 321 Social Work Building. It is conducted by an instructor of Spanish Language Program. You will receive a grade and proof of your participation immediately following the session this must be submitted to your instructor for proper credit assignment.

2. Quizzes:

There will be 5 Quizzes given. Each will last between 10 and 15 min. They cover the vocabulary and grammar corresponding to the first half of each chapter in the textbook, MySpanishLab, class activities and discussions.

3. Test (Pruebas):

There will be 5 Tests (*pruebas*) in this course. Each will last approx. 40-50 minutes and will cover material from the chapter in the textbook, MySpanishlab, class activities and discussions.

4. Final Exam:

There will be a Final Exam in this course. It will cover all the material learned during the semester. The date is indicated in the tentative daily schedule. The location of the final exam will be announced in class. Students requiring special testing procedures must provide documentation to the instructor during the first two weeks of classes.

➔ Absence from exams tests or quizzes:

- Only one make up will be granted per semester. In exceptional circumstances another make up may be approved. In this case the final exam grade will be entered as the makeup grade.
- If you will be absent from an exam, test or quiz, you must contact your instructor at least a week in advance to determine if there is grounds for a make up.
- You must provide written documentation for any absence before a make-up exam, test or quiz is authorized. No make-ups will be considered without written, justifiable documentation for your absence.
- Students must take the make-up within two working days from the date of the original exam. Any additional extensions may be granted only under exceptional circumstances and will be done at the discretion of the Coordinator of the Spanish Language Program.
- 'Preexisting travel plans' will not be considered a reasonable cause for missing an exam, test or quiz!
- Sickness without a Dr.'s excuse will not be considered reasonable cause for Make up authorization.

❖ SOME OTHER IMPORTANT CLASS POLICIES:

- ✓ Any behavior considered disruptive or that does not contribute positively to the learning environment of the classroom will be sanctioned as stated in the Student Code of Conduct:
- ✓ **All cellular phones and pagers must be turned off and not be visible during class time.**
- ✓ **Tardiness:** Your instructor may deny admission to students who arrive **10 minutes late.**
- ✓ Violations of the Code of Conduct will not be tolerated. This means that homework assignments, writing assignments, exams, test and quizzes must be your own work. Any violation of this policy will result in expulsion from the class, and implementation of sanctions as stated in the Student Code of Conduct.
- ✓ Submitting previously submitted material for this or other classes will be considered a violation of the Academic Honesty code of conduct.
- ✓ No eating, chewing or smoking is allowed in the classroom.
- ✓ **No Extra Credit is available for this course.**

VI. Final note

If you have any problems you should contact your instructor. If, after having done this, you feel the problem has not been solved, feel free to contact the **Coordinator of your course:**

Aymara Boggiano
Department of Hispanic Studies
438 Agnes Arnold Hall
Office hours: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm M W or by appointment
Telephone: (713) 743-9914

Buena Suerte!