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SPNS 101.04: Elementary Spanish I

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SPNS 101: Elementary Spanish I, Fall 2021

M-Th 11:00-11:50, Liberal Arts Room 204

Instructor: Dr. Dora LaCasse

Email: dora.lacasse@mso.umt.edu

Office: LA 429

Office hours: T& Th 10:00-11:00, W 2:00-3:00, or by appointment.

Office hours will be held via zoom

IMPORTANT: University of Montana policy: you must use your official UM email account for any email correspondence with your instructor.

Course Description:

The purpose of this course is to begin developing proficiency in Spanish in all four skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing). While grammar topics are covered, the importance of using language for communicative purposes is emphasized. Since acquisition cannot take place without input in the target language, instructors will use Spanish as much as possible.

Learning Outcomes:

The successful student will be able to:

1. Understand spoken and written Spanish in the context of common situations and in a basic range of grammatical structures and expressions, specifically, those emphasized in the *Portales* textbook, Chapters 1 - 5.
2. Produce comprehensible spoken and written Spanish, including short paragraphs and brief verbal responses to a range of communication topics, also specified by *Portales*.
3. Acquire knowledge of the geography, culture and people of regions where Spanish is spoken, as indicated by the cultural units provided in *Portales*.

Your responsibilities in this class:

Spanish 101 is a cumulative course, so that your success in grasping the material presented one week will depend on your having mastered material presented in previous weeks. It is essential for you to keep up with the topics covered and assignments. Do not leave everything for the last minute before a deadline. Succeeding in a language course requires utilizing your organizational skills at their best.

All humans under normal conditions acquire one or more languages, but it is not possible to acquire Spanish in 75 to 150 hours of class instruction. Keep in mind that any classroom is at best an artificial simulation of the natural foreign language environment most conducive to learning the target language. To build communicative fluency, you must take responsibility for your out of class learning. In addition to completing all assignments on time, we recommend that you read Spanish-language magazines or stories, watch TV or converse with native speakers one to three times weekly. Take every opportunity to use your new skills in Spanish: read bilingual product labels, start a journal in Spanish, write notes and lists to yourself in Spanish, visit a Spanish-speaking country at some point in the future, spend time with other students of Spanish, - speaking only Spanish. Above all, make your extra activities fun and incorporate them into your daily life. Your instructor can open the door to Hispanic language and culture, but only you can enter.

Required Class Materials:

- **Textbook:** Blanco, J. *Portales 1*. Only the electronic version is required (eCompanion). We will use the Supersite that contains the ebook and activities. Your textbook is used for SPNS 101 and 102.

Recommended Materials:

- A Spanish-English Dictionary
- *wordreference.com*
- Any content in Spanish of interest to you such as music, news, movies, TV, radio, podcasts....

Logging on to the course:

A few days before the semester begins, you will receive instructions from your instructor about how to log on to the course. Please note that a good part of the Spanish 101 course is hosted by Vista Supersite and NOT Moodle.

However, we will be using Moodle for some activities and sign up lists. in Moodle you will also find the syllabus and other documents and links pertaining to the course

Grading:

- Homework: 15%
- Quizzes: 10%
- Participation/Preparation/Attendance: 25%
- Two Oral interviews, each worth 15%: 30%
- Two Written Exams (midterm and Final, each worth 10%): 20%

Grading scale * Be sure you know what grade you need for your major

Letter grade	Number grade	Letter grade	Number grade
A	94-100	C	73-76
A-	90-93	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	0-59

*For CR/NCR grading option, you must earn a D- or above to receive credit.

____ Please note that your instructor is not permitted to share grading information with you via email.

____ Please arrange an appointment with your instructor if you would like to discuss your grade.

____ All email communication with your instructor must take place through official UM email addresses.

Assignments:**Supersite assignments:**

- **Online Homework:** Use the CALENDAR tool on the Supersite to find out which assignments are due each week. Deadlines for Supersite exercises will be 11:59 p.m. on Fridays. Most of the assignments are automatically graded.
- **Lesson Quizzes:** Also on the Supersite; these assignments are timed. Once begun, quizzes must be completed as students cannot exit and re-enter the test. It is the students' responsibility to utilize a

reliable internet connection. Please try to troubleshoot your computer problems way before the deadline. Do not wait until the last minute to find out your computer is not working properly. For IT and Moodle questions, please call 243-4999.

- **Midterm & Final Exams:** The written midterm and final exams will also be conducted on the supersite, and will have similar parameters to the lesson quizzes. More information to follow

Participation:

A satisfactory participation and preparation grade assumes that you come to class each day prepared to be actively engaged in all class activities. You will have the responsibility of reading over a new grammar point or learning new vocabulary on your own before we go over it in class so that class time can be used to answer questions and practice but not to simply reiterate what is explained in the book. If you are assigned textbook activities, you should come with those completed so you are ready to review. You should have access to your textbook during class.

You are expected to attend every class. Your participation/preparation/attendance grade will be negatively impacted by more than 3 unexcused absences, or by frequent tardiness.

Oral Interviews:

There will be two opportunities in which you will be required to meet with your instructor for an oral interview. More details will be provided in class.

Announcements and contacting the instructor:

The instructor will attempt to answer student email within 24 hours, except during weekends and holidays. The best way to contact instructor is by e-mail: dora.lacasse@mso.umt.edu. Students should look for instructor email responses Monday through Friday anytime between 9:00 to 5:00 p.m. Office hours will be held through Zoom.

A Note on Email and Spam Filters

All email communication for the course will be sent to your official university email, and not to other email providers. If you don't normally check your university email you will miss important emails. You can have your university email forward messages to other email addresses (e.g., gmail, yahoo, etc). When I email the whole class the message will go to lots of email addresses, and some email providers will block this as spam. You will want to check the settings of your spam filters so that they allow such messages.

Academic honesty:

Honesty and integrity are the foundations to being a good student. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the [Student Conduct Code](#).

Turning in work that you did not write, for which you had considerable direct help from someone else, or which a translation service or computer program has translated, will be considered cheating. Computer-aided or assisted translated work is highly awkward. If the instructor suspects this kind of work, the instructor reserves the right to additionally interview and/or retest the student, or arrange for proctored testing. Anyone caught copying from others or allowing others to copy his/her work is subject to receiving an "F" in the class.

Course withdrawal:

Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2021 is the last day to withdraw from the course with a partial refund. For a detailed listing of important University dates and deadlines, please see the [Registrar's Calendar links online](#).

Special Considerations and/or Disabilities: The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and the Office for Disability Equity. If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with the Office for Disability Equity, please contact them in Lommasson Center 154 or 406.243.2243. I will work with you and the Office for Disability Equity to provide an appropriate modification.

Computers and Course Website Information

Students are expected to be familiar with computers and the Internet. Students are responsible for their own software and computer equipment maintenance and setup as recommended by the University of Montana.

<http://umonline.umt.edu/student-support.php>

Class-Specific Computer Requirements:

- Students are expected to have a ‘back up plan’ if personal computers become compromised.
- The University of Montana maintains several computer labs on campus:
<http://www.umt.edu/it/support/computerlabs/default.php>
- Students are expected to download copies of course information as necessary and to check email for class announcements.
- Students should access the Supersite regularly. Technical support for the VHL supersite can be found at <http://support.vhlcentral.com/> or by calling Student Tech Support: (800) 248-2813
- For technical support for using Moodle, please contact UM IT support:
<http://www.umt.edu/it/support/default.php>

Did you know that...?

- The United States has the second largest Spanish-speaking population in the world after Mexico. In the US there are over 50 million Spanish speakers (41 million native speakers, 11 million fluent 2nd language speakers).
- Spanish is the third most widely spoken language in the world after English and Mandarin.
- Spanish is the official language in twenty-one countries.
- There are over 400 million Spanish speakers worldwide.
- Hispanics are the largest minority in the US, and Spanish is the second most spoken language in the US. In fact, Spanish is currently spoken by 16% of the US population.
- Experts predict that by the year 2050, there will be 530 million Spanish speakers, of which 100 million will be living in the US.
- Latin American countries are some of the US’s most important trading partners.
- Being able to speak Spanish greatly enhances your resume, no matter your major. If you are bilingual, you are more competitive in the workplace.

COVID-19 Considerations:

- Mask use is required within the classroom
- Each student is provided with a cleaning kit. Please clean your personal workspace when you arrive for class, and before you leave the classroom
- Please do not congregate outside the classroom before and after class
- Please choose one seat and use it throughout the semester
- Class attendance will be recorded to support contact tracing efforts
- Drinking liquids and eating food is discouraged within the classroom (which requires mask removal)
- Please stay home if you feel sick and/or if you are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms! Additionally, please contact the Curry Health Center at (406) 243-4330
- Up-to-Date COVID-19 Information from the University of Montana can be found at:
UM Coronavirus Website: <https://www.umt.edu/coronavirus>

Course Schedule:

Portales, SPNS 101				
Day		Date	Pages	Topic
1	M	8/30	1-3	L 1: Intro to course, intro to Spanish Language, making Introductions/greetings
2	T	8/31	2-5	Introductions, pronunciation, alphabet
3	W	9/1	8-11	Alphabet, pronunciation, saludos
4	Th	9/2	12-14	Nouns and articles, saludos
	M	9/6		Labor Day No Classes
5	T	9/7	12-16	Nouns and articles, numbers
6	W	9/8	16-18	Numbers 0-30
7	Th	9/9	19-20	Subject pronouns and present tense of Ser
8	M	9/13	20-24	Uses of Ser/ Telling time
9	T	9/14	24-27	Telling time
10	W	9/15	28-29, 36-37	Recapitulación and Spanish in the US
11	Th	9/16	40-43	L 2: Classroom vocabulary, en la universidad
12	M	9/20	42-43, 47	Days of the week, pronunciación
13	T	9/21	50-52	Present tense of regular -ar verbs
14	W	9/22	50-54	-ar verbs and the verb gustar
15	Th	9/23	50-54	More practice with present tense of regular -ar verbs and gustar
16	M	9/27	55-61	Forming questions and present tense of estar
17	T	9/28	55-61	Questions/ uses of estar with prepositions and adverbs
18	W	9/29	62-63	Estar/ numbers 31-100
19	Th	9/30	64-65	Estar/ numbers 101 and higher
20	M	10/4	66-67, 74-75	Recapitulación and España
21	T	10/5	78-84	L 3: Family Vocab
22	W	10/6	86-87	Cultura; la familia y los apellidos
23	Th	10/7	85; 88-89	Pronunciación, descriptive adjectives
24	M	10/11	90-92, 93-95	Position of adjectives, possessive adjectives

25	T	10/12	96-97	Adjectives, present tense of -er & -ir verbs
26	W	10/13	98-99	Present tense of -er and -ir verbs
27	Th	10/14	100-103	Present tense of tener and venir verbs
28	M	10/18	101-102, 112-113	Idiomatic expressions with tener/Ecuador
29	T	10/19	104-105	More practice with -er, -ir verbs and idiomatic expressions
30	W	10/20		Recapitulación/(review for midterm)
31	Th	10/21		First oral interview/movie
32	M	10/25		First oral interview/movie
33	T	10/26		First oral interview/movie
35	W	10/27		First oral interview/movie
36	Th	10/28		Written Midterm on Supersite. Discussion of movie.
37	M	11/1	116-119	L 4: Pastimes vocab, places vocab Written Midterm on Supersite
38	T	11/2	123-126	Pronunciación/ cultura/ the verb IR
39	W	11/3	126-128	Present tense of ir
40	Th	11/4	129-131	Stem-changing verbs e-ie, o-ue
41	M	11/8	133-138	Stem-changing verbs e-i, verbs with irregular yo forms
42	T	11/9	133-135	Irregular yo forms, verbs ver and oír
43	W	11/10	136-138	More practice with stem-changing verbs and irregular yo forms
	Th	11/11		Veteran's Day. No Class
44	M	11/15	140-141, 148-149	Recapitulación, México
45	T	11/16	152-153	L5: Vacation vocabulary, Seasons/months/weather vocab
46	W	11/17	152-153	Seasons/months/weather vocab
47	Th	11/18	154-156	Estar with conditions/emotions/present progressive
48	M	11/22	154-156	More practice with estar
49	T	11/23	164-169	Uses of ser and estar (General Concept)
	W	11/24		Thanksgiving. No Class
	Th	11/25		Thanksgiving. No Class
50	M	11/29	171	Ser and estar w/ adjectives (Specific Differences)

51	T	11/30	164-171	More practice with ser and estar
52	W	12/1		Review for second Oral Interview
53	Th	12/2		Second oral interview
54	M	12/6		Second oral interview
55	T	12/7		Second oral interview
56	W	12/8		Second oral interview
57	Th	12/9		Review for Final Written Exam
			FINAL	Final exam due by 11:59 pm Thursday December 16th