Spanish 1115 Beginning Spanish Syllabus

Course Description

Spanish 1115 introduces students to the fundamentals of Spanish grammar. In this class, we learn to use the present tense to describe family and friends, likes and dislikes, life at the university, clothing and style, and other topics. Students have opportunities to develop their speaking, writing, listening, and reading skills at their own pace, and they do so within a system that is highly accessible and supportive. This class does not count for major or minor credit in the Department of Modern Languages at OU.

Course Objectives

As a student in this course you will:

1. Learn the fundamental structures of Spanish.
2. Acquire a basic proficiency in the five skills of language learning: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and culture.
3. Develop vocabulary for communication in social and survival situations.
4. Learn about one's own language and culture by studying a foreign language.

Required Text and Supplementary Materials

The textbook for this class is the 10th Edition of Puntos de Partida. You have 3 options for purchasing your text, depending on your own personal preferences. Any of the options will work

1) Purchase Connect Plus. This option will give you access to the e-book and the Connect website, where you will watch the video tutorials and complete your homework for the class. If you do not need a hard copy of the textbook, this will be your cheapest option.

2) Purchase a copy of Puntos de Partida 10th edition with a Connect Plus access card. This option is for people who prefer a physical textbook. It also comes with the online access to Connect that you’ll need to watch the video tutorials and complete your homework.

3) If you are a student on OU’s Norman campus and want the same textbook package that people in traditional classes would purchase, the bookstores can sell you a packet that includes the textbook in a 3-ring binder format, supplementary materials (not required for this class but for face-to-face classes on the Norman campus), and access to Connect.

I have avoided associating ISBN numbers with these options, as McGraw Hill changes them so frequently that they can sometimes lead to confusion. However, if you are having trouble knowing which option is right for you, please get in touch with me and I can try to offer you some additional guidance.

Grading

Grading scale: 100-90=A; 89-80=B; 79-70=C; 69-60=D; 59-0=F

Note: A grade of C or above is highly recommended before continuing on to the next level.

Final Grade Components
Computation of the final grade in this course will be determined using the following point grading system:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage of Total</th>
<th>Total Points per Category</th>
<th>Points per assignment</th>
<th>Number of Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Video Blogs</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connect Assignments</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compositions</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>14 (16 – 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Exams</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listening Exam</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Text Comp Exam</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>700</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

There is no extra credit in this class, grades are not curved, and there will be no negotiation over grades at any time during the course. I do not consider external circumstances when assigning final grades, and I will not respond to messages from students who request a grade other than the one they earned in the class.

1. **Video blogs (Vlogs).** Your oral work in this class will consist of video recordings that you post to Canvas. In these recordings, you will talk about a topic of cultural relevance using the grammar and vocabulary that we’ve learned up to that point in the book. On these assignments, the idea is for you to speak Spanish in the most natural, spontaneous way possible. If you’re reading from notes or a script or reciting something that you’ve memorized, your grade will be lower than it will be if you speak naturally and spontaneously, even if your grammar is better with a script.

2. **Connect.** Your homework will be completed on the Connect website, which is an online workbook. For most exercises, you will have 3 attempts, and only your best attempt will count. If the exercise is true / false or multiple choice, you may only have one attempt. For information about how to register for Connect, please see the registration instructions that I have posted to the “Course information” module in Canvas. In order to do well on the exercises, you should do 2 things before attempting them:

   1. view the corresponding video tutorial on the Connect website,
   2. read the corresponding explanations in your textbook, and

Please understand that I have very limited control over Connect. If you have a question about a grammatical concept required to complete one of the activities, I would be more than happy to help you. If you are having technical difficulties with Connect, however, please contact Connect customer service directly at 1-800-331-5094.

**You will not receive any credit for exercises completed after you have taken that chapter's grammar quiz.**

3. **Compositions.** Composition assignments will provide you with the opportunity to describe in writing the topics that we have studied. Please do not try to write beyond your level. Use the
grammar and vocabulary that we've learned so far in the class, and keep it simple. You will be
evaluated on your ability to coherently communicate using a topic relevant to what we’ve studied
up to that point. You are not permitted to use your book, notes, or any electronic resources on the
compositions. In terms of their organization, all compositions should have 1) an introduction, 2) a
body, and 3) a conclusion, and these distinct parts should have their own paragraphs.

All compositions must be written at a CIDL-approved testing center or taken through Examity.
You will be monitored during the writing of the compositions, and if any attempt is made to use
outside resources (for example online dictionaries / translators or another human being), you will
be assigned a 0 for the assignment. I will provide you with a preparation sheet to give you an idea
about what to study prior to writing your composition, so you will at least have some clue about
what to expect.

4. Quizzes. At the beginning of each chapter, you will take a vocabulary quiz, and after
completing a chapter, you will take a grammar quiz for that chapter. In addition to that, we will
have occasional listening and reading quizzes to help you develop those skills. Your 2 lowest quiz
grades will be dropped. Quizzes do not have to be proctored, and you are encouraged to use your
book as a study aide while taking them.

5. Projects. Throughout the course, you will create Powerpoints with voice narrations over the
topics we have covered in the book. In these presentations, you will create a visually appealing
description of a particular concept, and in your presentations you will include text, images, and
voice recordings.

6. Chapter exams. There will be two chapter exams during the class. The first exam will cover
chapters 1 - 3, and the second exam will cover chapters 4 – 5, though the second exam will
necessarily include materials from previous chapters also. All exams will be proctored and must
be taken at a CIDL-approved testing center or through Examity. You are not permitted to use
your book, notes, or any electronic resources on the exams.

7. Listening exam. The listening exam will evaluate your ability to understand native speakers of
Spanish. To prepare for the listening exam, I have assigned you listening exercises on Connect
for each chapter, starting with chapter 2. In addition, starting with chapter 4, we will have less
consequential listening quizzes on Canvas as a way to prepare you for your exam. I also
encourage you to take advantage of online listening sources outside of class. I have posted a
document to the “Course information” module in Canvas that contains some useful resources to
aid with your listening comprehension.

As with the chapter exams, the listening exam must be taken at a CIDL-approved testing center or
through Examity.

8. Text comprehension. The text comprehension will evaluate your ability to read and
understand a text in Spanish. To prepare for this assignment, I have assigned you reading
exercises on Connect, starting with chapter 2. In addition, starting with chapter 3, we will have
less consequential reading quizzes on Canvas to help you prepare for the text comprehension.

The text comprehension must be taken at a CIDL-approved testing center or through Examity.

9. Final exam. The final exam will cover chapters 1 – 6 and evaluate your ability to synthesize
what you have learned in the class.
As with the other exams, it will be taken at a CIDL-approved testing center or through Examity.

**Using Examity**

Should you choose to complete your assignments using Examity, please understand that you are taking on certain risks and responsibilities. It is your responsibility to make sure that you are taking the exam on a fast connection. Use a broadband connection that will allow the pages of the exam to load quickly. Also, use a (relatively) new computer with all of the latest software updates and relevant plugins.

Students who use slow connections, older computers, or computers that lack the latest software put themselves at risk of not being able to access certain portions of the exam. This is especially true with respect to the audio portions of the exam.

**You get only one shot at the exam.** If you take an exam with Examity and experience technical problems that are no fault of Examity or the CIDL, then you will have to live with the results. The audio in the vocabulary and grammar quizzes will work the same as those found in your proctored exams. So if you are having no issues with the audio in standard quizzes, you should have no issues on the exams. **Ignorance of this policy is not an excuse for requesting a retake.**

Also, be aware that arrangements to take your exams through Examity should be made as early as possible. If you wait until the last minute to make those arrangements, you risk facing a delay and falling behind in the class.

**Go in order**

Complete the assignments in the order that they are listed on the course schedule. Doing assignments out of order could result in you not receiving credit for your work or getting stuck in the class. As long as you follow the sequence that is outlined on the course schedule, there should never be a time when you have to wait for an assignment to open. If you can’t access an assignment, it’s almost always because you’re trying to go out of order.**

**Course timeline**

This is a 6 month course. You are responsible for making your own schedule and sticking to it. If you run out of time, you will not be given an extension. If the class ends before you complete all of the assignments, you will be given a “0” for all unattempted items and I will assign your final grade accordingly.

**Sending e-mails to your instructor**

Writing an e-mail to your instructor is different than sending a text to a friend. When e-mailing your instructor, please include the following information:

1) a salutation. This doesn’t have to be anything formal, and it can be as simple as “Chris” or “Hola profesor,” but it should not be omitted. Once you have started an e-mail conversation, it’s not necessary to repeat the salutation in each subsequent message.
2) specific information about the class number and section number in which you're enrolled.

3) if you’re referencing a quiz, exam, homework assignment, or composition, be as specific as possible. If it’s a quiz, tell me “chapter 3 grammar quiz for Spanish 1115 section 400 (know what section you’re in),” for example, or if it’s a homework assignment, tell me the name of the homework assignment and the chapter in which I can find it. I teach a lot of classes, and this will help me to respond to your e-mail in a timely manner.

4) your name at the end of the message.

Instructor accessibility. I hope that you will reach out to me when you want help. The more you’re in touch with me, the better. I’m available via e-mail or Skype, and if you don’t understand something, ask me for help. I am here to help you, and I care about your experience in my class.

Final grades. I will aim to have all of your work graded and your final grade posted within a week of you finishing the course. If you need your grade posted by a certain date, then you should finish at least a week prior to that date. Also, keep in mind that there will likely be a delay of at least a few days between the time I post your grade and the time that grade appears on your official transcript. If you are graduating and need the grade on your transcript by a certain time, or if your employer needs to see it by a certain date, plan accordingly and give me and the Office of Records a reasonable amount of time to get everything posted for you.

Academic Misconduct (Please read carefully)

As a student taking a course at the University of Oklahoma you are expected to uphold the academic integrity code. Please visit http://integrity.ou.edu and familiarize yourself with the standards you will be held to while taking your course.

In addition to this, I will add that drastic discrepancies in your performance on different assignments will earn you heightened scrutiny in my class. For example, if you turn in a composition that is flawless only to fail miserably on an exam, you will be required to chat with me about your composition, either in my office or via Skype. I may ask you to rewrite the composition either under my supervision or using a different proctor than the one you used the first time around, just to make sure that your academic integrity was not compromised during the first writing of your composition. If you do your own work and follow the rules, then this won’t be a problem for you.

Religious Observance:

It is the policy of the University to excuse the absences of students that result from religious observances and to reschedule examinations and additional required classwork that may fall on religious holidays, without penalty.

Reasonable Accommodation Policy:

Students requiring academic accommodation should contact the Disability Resource Center for assistance at (405) 325-3852 or TDD: (405) 325-4173. For more information please see the Disability Resource Center website http://www.ou.edu/drc/home.html Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities
should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities.

**Title IX Resources and Reporting Requirement:**

For any concerns regarding gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking, or intimate partner violence, the University offers a variety of resources, including advocates on call 24/7. To learn more or to report an incident, please contact the Sexual Misconduct Office at 405-325-2215 (8 to 5, M-F) or OU Advocates at 405-615-0013 (24/7). Also, please be advised that a professor/GA/TA is required to report instances of sexual harassment, sexual assault, or discrimination to the Sexual Misconduct Office. For more information, please see [http://www.ou.edu/eoo](http://www.ou.edu/eoo).
Class Introduction

1. Review the Student Help Page and complete the 1) Pre Course Survey and 2) Student Information quiz from the Student Introduction module.
2. Read the syllabus and all the other documents in the Course information module on Canvas (canvas.ou.edu).
3. Register for Connect (see Registration Instructions on Canvas).
4. Write out a schedule for yourself in a Microsoft Word Document indicating the dates by which time you will have completed each chapter and taken each exam (including the final).

Many students wait until the last minute to do things and then try to cram all the work into a short time frame. This doesn’t work with a language class. First, there are too many Connect activities to do them all well in a short period of time, and second, you won’t retain much of the information if you procrastinate and cram.

Instead, set aside an hour a day for the class, 5 days a week, just as if you were taking the class in a face-to-face setting. If you work five hours a week, you can usually finish a chapter every 2 – 3 weeks.

Print out the schedule and put it in a place where you will see it every day, and e-mail a copy to your instructor, Chris Kneifl, at kneifl@ou.edu.

Chapter 1

1. Review the charts, graphs, notas culturales, and notas comunicativas on pages 4 – 19.
2. Do the LearnSmart activities for chapter 1 on Connect.
3. Study the chapter 1 vocabulary (pages 5, 13, 17, & 24)
4. Do the Vocabulario exercises for chapter 1 on Connect.
5. Take the chapter 1 vocabulary quiz (on Canvas).
6. Look over and print out the list of adjectives that I have posted to Canvas. You will want to refer back to this as you prepare to record your first Vlog.
7. Complete the Gramática and Cultura assignments for Chapter 1 on Connect.
8. Record Vlog #1 on Canvas.
9. Take chapter 1 grammar quiz on Canvas.

Chapter 2

1. Watch the video tutorials for chapter 2 on Connect.
2. Do the LearnSmart activities for chapter 2 on Connect.
3. Study the chapter 2 vocabulary (pages 58 – 59).
4. Do the Vocabulario exercises for chapter 2 on Connect.
5. Take the chapter 2 vocabulary quiz (on Canvas).
6. Complete the Gramática and Cultura assignments for chapter 2 on Connect.
7. Complete proyecto #1 and submit to dropbox on Canvas.
8. Complete the chapter 2 grammar quiz.
Chapter 3
1. Watch the video tutorials for chapter 3 on Connect.
2. Do the LearnSmart activities for chapter 3 on Connect.
3. Study the chapter 3 vocabulary (pages 94 – 95)
4. Do the Vocabulario exercises for chapter 3 on Connect.
5. Take the chapter 3 vocabulary quiz (on Canvas).
6. Complete the Gramática and Cultura assignments for Chapter 3 on Connect.
7. Record Vlog #2 and turn in to appropriate dropbox on Canvas.
8. Take chapter 3 grammar quiz.
10. Review study guide for exam #1.
11. Take exam #1.

Chapter 4
1. Watch the video tutorials for chapter 4 on Connect.
2. Do the LearnSmart activities for chapter 4 on Connect.
4. Do the Vocabulario exercises for chapter 4 on Connect.
5. Take the chapter 4 vocabulary quiz (on Canvas).
6. Complete the Gramática and Cultura assignments for Chapter 4 on Connect.
7. Review the study guide for composition #1.
8. Write composition #1 on Canvas. The composition must be written at a proctored location approved by the CIDL, and you may not use your book, notes, or any outside resources on the composition.
9. Take listening quiz #1.
10. Complete proyecto #2 and submit to dropbox on Canvas.
11. Take the chapter 4 grammar quiz.

Chapter 5
1. Watch the video tutorials for chapter 5 on Connect.
2. Do the LearnSmart activities for chapter 5 on Connect.
3. Study the chapter 5 vocabulary (pages 160 – 161).
4. Do the Vocabulario exercises for chapter 5 on Connect.
5. Take the chapter 5 vocabulary quiz (on Canvas).
6. Complete the Gramática and Cultura assignments for Chapter 5 on Connect.
7. Record Vlog #3 on Canvas.
8. Complete proyecto #3 and submit to dropbox on Canvas.
9. Take chapter 5 grammar Quiz.
10. Take reading comprehension quiz #2.
11. Take listening quiz #2.
12. Review study guide for exam #2.
13. Take exam #2.

Chapter 6
1. Watch the video tutorials for chapter 6 on Connect.
2. Do the LearnSmart activities for chapter 6 on Connect.
3. Study the chapter 6 vocabulary (pages 196 – 197).
4. Do the Vocabulario exercises for chapter 6 on Connect.
5. Take the chapter 6 vocabulary quiz (on Canvas).
6. Complete the Gramática and Cultura assignments for Chapter 6 on Connect.
7. Review the study guide for composition #2.
8. Write composition #2 on Canvas. Composition must be written at a proctored location approved by the CIDL, and you may not use your book, notes, or any outside resources on the composition.
9. Take the chapter 6 grammar quiz.
10. Review study guide for listening exam.
11. Take listening exam.
12. Review study guide for text comprehension exam.
13. Take text comprehension exam.
14. Review the study guide for the final exam.
15. Take final exam.

Congratulations on finishing the class, and best of luck to you in the future!