

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY - CORPUS CHRISTI
Course Syllabus

Spanish 1311.204	Fall 2010
Professor:	Gregg Juárez
Office Location:	CCH - 117
Phone #:	361-463-9119
Office hours:	Before/After Class By appointment
E-mail:	Gregg.Juarez@tamucc.edu

Textbook:

- Jarvis, Ana C., Raquel Lebreo, and Franciso Mena Ayllón. *¿Cómo se dice...?* 9th ed. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2009. (required)
- A Spanish/English Dictionary = recommended

Course Description

This course is designed specifically for students with no previous knowledge of Spanish. It is aimed at developing listening, speaking, reading and writing skills, from the most basic notions to more elaborate ones, within a Spanish cultural framework. The student will develop the ability to function in natural contexts, conveying and understanding messages with reasonable accuracy in order to carry on a simple conversation in Spanish. During this semester special emphasis will be placed on the study of language structures: gender and number, present tense, verb usage, use of pronouns, and vocabulary.

Spanish Student Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course students will demonstrate ability to:

- Communicate in a range of situations at the basic level.
- Understand and use a variety of vocabulary in common usage in different situations at the basic level.
- Understand and respond to oral and written material at the basic level.
- Show and awareness of elements of the culture and their role in communication at the basic level.

Attendance. Regular attendance and active participation are vital in learning a foreign language. To understand linguistic concepts and practice them in a supportive environment, you must be in class. Therefore, you're expected to attend all of your classes. Absences will not only set you back, but will affect your final grade (**after the second absence, you will lose 2 points of your final average grade for every class you miss.**) Remember: you are responsible for the material covered, assigned or due in class during your absence. If you must be absent, it is your responsibility to provide written documentation (medical note, field trip itinerary, police report, or other) to be excused. Also, beware of tardiness; two of them constitute an absence. Please, keep track of your absences and tardiness.

Participation. Participation is essential to the language learning experience. To maximize your understanding of the language concepts and their role in language proficiency, prepare carefully for class by completing all assignments in advance and be ready to participate. In this course participation is evaluated by the level of engagement students' display in class, their general knowledge of the material discussed, and the accuracy of their linguistic performance. Remember: errors are intrinsic to the learning process; therefore, take a chance and participate.

Weekly lab assignments. These assignments will be completed at the Foreign Language Laboratory every week. They consist of exercises (listening, comprehension, etc) related to the language concepts taught in class. Their completion enhances the understanding of grammar and its application to the learning process. You may complete it in one visit or return as many times as you'd like during the week, as long as you complete it by Sunday at 6:00. For more information about the operation of the Foreign Language Laboratory, please read addendum # 1.

Composition. You will be asked to write a one-page composition in Spanish. Draft #1 should represent your best effort in this exercise. Draft #2 must contain all the corrections and necessary additions highlighted on Draft #1. Your instructor will provide a correction key to help you in the successful completion of Draft #2. **No late work will be accepted without previous arrangements with your instructor.** For a more detailed description of the composition guidelines, read addendum # 2.

Quizzes. There will be a total of **10** quizzes during the semester. If you come to class regularly, complete your weekly assignments carefully, and maintain continuous study habits throughout the semester, you should not have any problem with this exercise. If you're absent at any time, it is your responsibility to consult the syllabus and catch up with the help of a tutor or by visiting your professor during office hours. **You must bring a pencil and a scantron form to take the quiz. FMI: See addendum #3**

Interview/Presentation. During the last two weeks of the semester, you will have a brief interview/presentation (in Spanish, of course) with the instructor. This oral exercise consists of questions about you, your family, your occupation and your hobbies. To best prepare for it, review language structures and vocabulary learned during the semester. Your instructor will give you more details, as we get closer to its due date.

Exams. Exams are an important part of your progress in class and the learning process. You will have two major exams during the semester (see attached "Programa del curso" for exam dates). **No make-ups will be given under any circumstance, unless previously arranged with the instructor.**

Miscellaneous. Please reduce unnecessary distractions to the minimum. **Cell phones must be set on vibration mode and no eating is allowed in class.** Visitors/children are not allowed in class, unless previously arranged with the instructor. Students are expected to follow the Student Code of Conduct as described by the University Student Handbook and to have an amicable and respectful attitude towards their instructor, language lab staff, and fellow students. A Spanish tutor is available at the TLC. Do not wait for this class to become unmanageable. Meet with your professor and seek the tutor's help as soon as you need to.

Course Evaluation: Grade Distribution:

Participation.....	10 %	90 -100 =	A
Weekly Lab Assignments.....	10 %	80 - 89 =	B
Quizzes.....	20 %	70 - 79 =	C
Composition.....	10 %	60 - 69 =	D
Interview	10 %		
Exams (2).....	40 %.	59 & below=	F
Total:.....	100 %		

IMPORTANT INFORMATION – FALL 2010

Dates to remember:

August	25	Wednesday	Classes begin
September	01	Wednesday	Last day to register or add a class
September	06	Monday	Labor Day Holiday
November	05	Friday	Last day to drop a class
November	25/26	Thursday/Friday	Thanksgiving Holidays
December	06	Monday	Last day to withdraw from university
December	07	Tuesday	Last day of classes
December	08	Wednesday	Reading Day
December	09-15	Final Examinations
December	18	Saturday	Fall Commencement

Academic Advising:

Academic advisors are available to assist students with course selection, degree plans, and other academic matters. Each college has an academic advising center, staffed by full-time, professional advisors. In our college the undergraduate advisor is Natasha Crawford (825-3466, Natasha.crawford@tamucc.edu). The graduate advisor is Rachelle Stanley (825-3466, Rachelle.stanley@tamucc.edu). Both are located on the second floor of Driftwood. Students who have yet to declare a major are advised by the Academic Advising Transition Center. For more information please call (361) 825-5931 or log on to <http://www.tamucc.edu/~aac>.

Americans with Disabilities Act: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Services Office at 825-5816 or visit their office in Driftwood 101.

Grade Appeal Process:

As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

ADDENDUM 1

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS AT THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE LABORATORY

Description. Weekly assignments are to be completed every week at the Foreign Language Laboratory located at Corpus Christi Hall 207. The description of every assignment will be available at the lab as of Monday morning. These assignments are a very important part of your course work, not only because they represent 10% of your grade, but also because they reinforce language structures, helps you to carry out tasks in different linguistic and cultural contexts, and gives you the necessary practice to understand the class material. Bring your textbook for reference.

- 1. Language Lab Registration.** Every class will report to the language lab on designated days to insure the registration of all its students. If you missed this visit, please report to the language laboratory to register on your own and be ready to complete the language lab assignments. There are some important details that only the lab attendants are able to inform you appropriately. Make sure you visit with the Foreign Language Laboratory no later than the second week of class.
- 2. Tutoring services.** There will be a Spanish tutor available to you at no charge. The tutor will have office hours at the Tutoring and Learning Center (CASA). Tutoring hours will be posted early on during the semester.
- 3. Completion dates.** The completion dates for each assignment are provided on your syllabus. You have a full week to complete an assignment. Your weekly lab assignment MUST be completed by Sunday at 6:00 PM. The lab will generate a report for your professor every week, with information about assignment completed and time spent in the lab. Although the language lab assignments will be available for two weeks, each assignment has a completion date. If you are not able to complete an assignment on time, it will be at the discretion of the instructor to allow you to make it up for credit.
- 4. Material covered by assignments.** Weekly assignments are based on material covered in class during the week before, so you should be familiar with the language concepts and related exercises. If you have problems understanding the material (and consequently the exercises), do not keep it to yourself, discuss it with your instructor. S/he may need to refer you to the tutor for extra help.
- 5. Individual work.** Weekly assignments are meant to be an individual activity. Group work is not allowed at the Foreign Language Laboratory. However, you are urged to study in groups outside of class, to help each other with new concepts and to put it into practice. No textbook copies are available at the lab, remember, bring your own.
- 6. You and the Staff at the Foreign Language Laboratory.** The Labbies have been asked by the First Year Spanish Coordinator to help you with the technical part of this work only. They will not help you with your exercises, nor provide answers regarding your assignment. Do your best to complete the lab assignments on your own.
- 7. Beyond the completion of assignments.** Try to make the best out of your time at the Foreign Language Laboratory. If you finish your assignments and feel like trying something else for practice or to get ahead, you are more than welcome to try all the software available for this purpose. The staff can help you with the resources available to develop your language skills. The use of the lab resources for purposes other than language development will be at the discretion of our staff.

ADDENDUM 2

COMPOSITION GUIDELINES

Description:

During the semester you will be asked to write a one-page composition in Spanish. Your professor will discuss the topic with the class in advance and provide additional information as needed. Draft #1 should represent your best effort in this exercise. Your instructor will highlight and/or code the mistakes on your composition (draft #1) without making any corrections. Then, for draft #2, you will be asked to make all the corrections and necessary additions highlighted on draft #1. To help you in the successful completion of your final draft, your instructor will provide a correction key. This exercise is meant to help you learn from your own mistakes while developing your writing skills in Spanish. **No late work will be accepted without previous arrangements with your instructor.**

Objective:

Compositions are designed to provide opportunities to practice the concepts taught in the classroom. You are expected to use only the concepts covered in the class up to the time of the composition. To avoid any confusion, please follow the guidelines provided.

Format:

- Composition must be written entirely in Spanish.
- Composition itself should be one page long.
- Composition must be typed, double-spaced and with 1" margins.
- Use structures, tenses and vocabulary learned up to that point only.

Guidelines:

Your work should be evidence of your performance in the class. ***Please write it by yourself and only at the basic level.*** No more will be expected of you. Should your work not coincide with your overall performance in the class, the instructor will suspect the use of outside help, such as Internet online translators or Spanish-speaking proofreaders, and he/she will ask you to rewrite your composition. To avoid complicating the writing process, do not write it in English and then translate to Spanish; your English structures will be far more advanced than you can handle in Spanish. There are many concepts and expressions that do not translate literally between the two languages. Once again, stick to simplicity. Use grammar and vocabulary covered in class in short basic sentences.

Composition Topic:

SPAN1311: An autobiography

Divide your composition in three paragraphs. The first paragraph should address your identity, the second your occupation(s) and responsibilities, and the third your pastimes. Keep it SIMPLE and in the present tense. ***Write it yourself.***

Helpful Websites: The following websites have been provided to assist you in finding the best academic support that reflects your learning style.

- 123teachmen.com
- Drlemon.net/grammar
- Musicalsspanish.com
- Spanishspanish.com
- Trinity.edu/mstroud/grammar
- Colby.edu/~bknelson
- Lingolex.com
- Spaleon.com
- Studyspanish.com
- Verbix.com

ADDENDUM 3

<u>DATE</u>	<u>QUIZ SCHEDULE</u>	<u>CONTENT</u>
Septiembre 20 / 21	Quiz # 1	The alphabet, cardinal numbers, colors, days of the week, months and seasons, subject pronouns, present indicative of <i>SER</i> , pp. 12 – 23
Septiembre 27 / 28	Quiz # 2	Gender and number, definite and indefinite articles, cardinal numbers, telling time, pp. 40–47
Octubre 4 / 5	Quiz # 3	Present indicative regular <i>-ar</i> verbs, negative and interrogative sentences, possession with <i>de</i> , pp. 49 – 55
Octubre 11/ 12	Quiz # 4	Possessive adjectives; cardinal numbers; descriptive adjectives: forms position, and agreement with articles and nouns, pp. 72 – 76
Octubre 18 / 19	Quiz # 5	Present indicative of regular <i>-er</i> and <i>-ir</i> verbs, present indicative of irregular verbs <i>tener</i> and <i>venir</i> , the personal <i>a</i> , pp. 78 - 83
Octubre 25/26	Quiz # 6	Pronouns of objects of prepositions; contractions; present indicative of the irregular verbs <i>ir</i> , <i>dar</i> , and <i>estar</i> ; <i>ir a + infinitive</i> , pp. 106 – 111.
Noviembre 08 / 09	Quiz # 7	Present indicative of <i>e:ie</i> stem-changing verbs, expressions with <i>tener</i> , pp. 112-14
Noviembre 15 / 16	Quiz # 8	Comparative forms, irregular comparative forms, present indicative of <i>o:ue</i> stem-changing verbs, pp. 132 - 136
Noviembre 22 / 23	Quiz # 9	Present progressive, uses of <i>ser</i> and <i>estar</i> , weather expressions, pp. 137 - 142
Diciembre 6 / 7	Quiz # 10	Demonstrative adjectives and pronouns, present indicative of <i>e:i</i> stem-changing verbs, affirmative and negative expressions, verbs with irregular first-person forms, <i>saber</i> vs <i>conocer</i> , direct object pronouns, pp. 160 - 169

<u>Semana</u>	<u>En clase</u>	<u>Tarea semanal</u>
Semana #1 25 - 26 de agosto	<u>Evaluación inicial</u>	
Semana # 2 30 de agosto-2 de septiembre	Lección 1: <i>Saludos y despedidas</i> , pp.2-19	Lab registration CCH 207
Semana # 3 06 - 09 de septiembre	Lección 1: <i>Saludos y despedidas</i> , pp. 20-29	Lab registration CCH 207
Semana # 4 13 - 16 de septiembre	Lección 2: <i>En la universidad</i> , pp. 30- 48	Laboratorio #1
Semana # 5 20 - 23 de septiembre	Quiz # 1 Lección 2: <i>En la universidad</i> , pp. 49-60	Laboratorio #2
Semana # 6 27 Sep - 30 Oct	Quiz # 2 Lección 3: <i>Por teléfono</i> , pp. 62-77	Laboratorio #3
Semana # 7 04 - 07 de octubre	Quiz # 3 Lección 3: <i>Por teléfono</i> , pp. 78-88	Laboratorio #4
Semana # 8 11-14 de octubre	Quiz # 4 Lección 4: <i>Costumbres y tradiciones</i> , pp. 96-111	Laboratorio #5
Semana # 9 18 - 21 de octubre	Quiz # 5 Lección 4: <i>Costumbres y tradiciones</i> , pp. 112-120 <u>Composición- Draft I (el jueves)</u>	Laboratorio #6
Semana # 10 25 - 28 de octubre	Quiz # 6 Repaso <u>Examen de medio semestre</u> (el jueves)	NA
Semana # 11 1º - 04 de noviembre	No hay quiz esta semana Lección 5: <i>Las comidas</i> , pp. 122-136	Laboratorio #7
Semana # 12 08 - 11 de noviembre	Quiz # 7 Lección 5: <i>Las comidas</i> , pp. 137-149	Laboratorio # 8
Semana # 13 15 - 18 de noviembre	Quiz # 8 Lección 6: <i>Los quehaceres de la casa</i> , pp. 150-164 <u>Composición – Draft II (el jueves)</u>	Laboratorio # 9
Semana # 14 22 - 24 de noviembre	Quiz # 9 Lección 6: <i>Los quehaceres de la casa</i> , pp. 165- 177	NA
Semana # 15 Nov. 29-Dic. 02	No hay quiz esta semana Lección 7: <i>En un hotel</i> , pp. 184-199	Laboratorio # 10

Semana # 16

06 - 08 de diciembre

Quiz # 10

Lección 7: *En un hotel*, pp. 200-201, 204-211

Repaso

Diciembre 09-15

Exámenes finales