

MISSOURI WESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Dept. of English, Foreign Languages and Journalism
Spanish 102 - 01, Elementary Spanish I, Summer 2008

Classroom and Times: 9:00 A.M.-10:15 A.M. MTWR in Eder Hall, Room 223

Instructor: Sandra Dibella Office: Eder Hall 212-E Phone: 816-271-4312

Office hours: By appointment E-mail: dibella@missouriwestern.edu

Required Text: Vistas 3rd Edition, authors Blanco / Donley. ISBN 1 600075401 in highervista.com

COURSE DESCRIPTION

SPA 102 fulfills the Category IV of General Studies requirement. SPA 102 is a first-year introductory course in language and culture. Students will learn basic grammatical structures and vocabulary, as well as cultural information. By the end of the semester, the dedicated student will be able:

1. To understand Spanish spoken at a slow-normal rate of speed within a limited range of vocabulary.
2. To respond appropriately in simple Spanish.
3. To read and write Spanish within a limited range of grammar and vocabulary.
4. To understand basic cultural differences and similarities between Hispanic and American lifestyles, world perspectives, etc.

The language and grammar will be taught through reading, writing, speaking, and listening assignments from the text and workbook exercises as well as through participation in pair/small group role-plays and oral performance exercises.

COURSE BELIEFS

Studying a foreign language broadens one's perspective of the world and enhances one's understanding of self. It enables you to participate in a multi-cultural community, prepares you for graduate school, a career, and for use of the language in the future. It helps dispel stereotypes and enhances respect for others.

EVALUATION AND GRADING POLICY

The final grade will be determined by test scores (quizzes/chapter tests), daily participation, text and workbook activities, writing assignments, and the attendance policy stated in the syllabus.

Grading Scale:

100% - 90% = A
89% - 80% = B
79% - 70% = C
69% - 60% = D
59% and below = F

Daily preparation, homework and participation

Attendance is crucial and mandatory. Please see the Attendance Policy section below for the university's official attendance policy. Class attendance and participation are essential to your progress in this course. Persistent, active in-class participation develops your speaking and comprehension skills. Therefore, it is essential that you attend every class. Trying to catch up once you have fallen behind will be difficult, as much new material will be introduced in each class.

Late arrivals are disruptive to the class and will reflect upon your grade.

Homework will not be accepted after the date on which it is due.

Foreign Language Lab in Murphy 107 - You will have access to the Foreign Language lab from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday unless the lab has been reserved. Please check the schedule posted in the lab. As in any other lab, *you need to sign in when you enter.*

In-class assignments or quizzes given during a missed class period cannot be made up under any circumstances.

Philosophy

Success in this course depends on the combined efforts of the student and instructor. The responsibility of the student is to prepare thoroughly for class and to participate actively in class. The primary role of the instructor is to **facilitate** real communication in Spanish. Classroom time is planned according to this philosophy so that lack of preparation will severely impede any benefits students may gain from the classroom experience.

Exams and Quizzes

There will be an exam at the end of each chapter covering the material in the chapter. Make-up exams are at the discretion of the instructor. If you know in advance that you will not be able to take a test, you may make an appointment with your instructor to take it **early**. There may also be other quizzes and oral exams.

Official Policy: Attendance and missed work

In order to improve student learning as well as to achieve compliance with federal financial aid policies, Western has a mandatory attendance policy for all 100 and 200 level courses. Instructors are required to monitor and track student attendance. You will be given an excused absence when acting as an official representative of the university, provided you give prior written verification from the faculty/staff supervisor of the event. Any additional excused absences are at the complete discretion of the instructor.

All other absences will be deemed unexcused. The maximum number of unexcused absences allowed for this class before June 30 is 4. Thus, when you have 5 unexcused absences you will be reported to the Registrar's Office, who will automatically withdraw you from this class. The Financial Aid Office will reduce financial aid as appropriate.

MY POLICY:

For SPA 102, students are allowed 3 "free" absences. After three absences, a student's final grade will be lowered 1% for each subsequent absence (whether excused or not). In ALL cases, students are responsible for all materials covered during their absence. Late arrivals are disruptive to the class and will be counted as absences.

Official Policy: Academic Honesty Policy and Due Process

Academic honesty is required in all academic endeavors. Violations of academic honesty include any instance of plagiarism, cheating, seeking credit for another's work, falsifying documents or academic records, or any other fraudulent activity. Violations of academic honesty may result in a failing grade on the assignment, failure in the course, or expulsion from the University. When a student's grade has been affected, violations of academic honesty will be reported to the Provost or designated representative on the Academic Honesty Violation Report forms. Please see the 2007-08 Student Handbook and Calendar for specific activities identified as violations of this policy and the student due process procedure. This handbook is also available online at <http://www.missouriwestern.edu/handbook/index.pdf>

MY POLICY:

Cheating or plagiarism is not acceptable. You will receive a 0 (zero) for any work that shows evidence of cheating and/or plagiarism.

Assistance

The Center for Academic Support offers free tutoring for Spanish courses. The website in order to obtain more information is <http://www.missouriwestern.edu/CAS>.

Handicapped Policy

Any student in this course who has a disability that prevents the fullest expression of abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss class requirements.