Stephen F. Austin State University  
Department of Languages, Cultures, and Communication  
Spanish 131.004  
Spring 2016  

Instructor: Wilber Arias  
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Class meeting: Spa 131.004 TR 2:00 – 3:15 pm; Ferguson 175  
Office Hours: MW 4-5:30 pm; TR 3:30 – 5 pm (or by appointment)  

Texts: *Vistas, 5th Ed, Student Edition with Supersite Plus(vText) and WebSAM Code*  

Description: Spanish 131 serves as the foundation of the first-year Spanish program at SFASU. It is designed to help students develop skills in speaking, reading, writing and listening comprehension in Spanish, and provide them with a better understanding and appreciation of Hispanic culture. Class work will be in the target language in order to facilitate and encourage the students’ interest in becoming fluent in Spanish. This course will present grammatical structures, vocabulary and cultural knowledge necessary for effective communication in the target language.  

Organization: This course will cover “Lección 1” through “Lección 6” in *Vistas*.  

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. Students who miss more than three classes must see the professor. After the third absence, 5 percent will be taken off the final grade average for each additional absence. There is no make-up of missed quizzes.  

Participation: Although understanding the grammatical system and learning to read and write Spanish is part of the course objectives, another equally important objective is learning to communicate by speaking and listening. All students are expected to participate actively during the class period. This type of participation also insists that students are respectful and attentive to others. Distracting behavior will result in a low participation grade. **The use of cell phones and texting are not permitted in the classroom. Ringing phones and text messaging are considered rude and disrespectful.**  

Homework: Any homework assigned in class will be due at the beginning of the following class period. Late assignments will have a deduction of ten percent for each day and will not be accepted after the third day. Online assignments are assigned on the Vistas website.  

Quizzes: We will have frequent short quizzes, at least once a week, usually on Thursdays. Missing class or arriving late won’t be an excuse to make up any quiz.
Missed Exams: Exam dates are indicated in the course syllabus. There are no make-up exams unless the student has an excused absence according to university policy. If, for reasons beyond your control, you know that you will not be able to make an exam, talk to your instructor before the day of the test to arrange an alternate day or time. A student who misses an exam without previously arranging for an alternate day or time must present appropriate documentation of a personal tragedy, or medical emergency in order to avoid a zero on the exam.

Study Spanish: The website www.studyspanish.com will be used as grammatical preparation for the student. Topics will be assigned in class and you will be responsible for the “Mini-test”, which will be posted on d2l.

Final Grade Calculation
Grades will be calculated according to the following scale. Grades will not be curved. (100-90%) A, (89.9-80%) B, (79.9-70%) C, (69.9-60%) D, and (59.9% and below) F.

Homework 15%
Exam I 15%
Exam II 15%
Final Exam 20%
Quizzes 15%
Participation 10%
Study Spanish 10%

* Students must pass SPA 131 with a 70% or higher to enroll in SPA 132. Exam Dates are indicated in the course syllabus. Exams will be given on the indicated date and there will be no makeup tests unless the student has an excused absence according to University policy.

Tentative Course Schedule Spring 2016

January 19th – February 9th (7 Days)  Lessons 1 and 2
February 16th – March 8th (7 Days)  Lessons 3 and 4
March 22nd – May 5th (13 Days)  Lessons 5 and 6

IMPORTANT DATES
Monday, January 18th  Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Wednesday, March 9th  Mid-Semester
Monday, March 14th – Friday, March 18th  Spring Break
Thursday, March 24th – *Monday, March 28th  Easter Break

EXAM DATES
Thursday, February 11th  Exam 1
Thursday, March 10th  Exam 2
Tuesday, May 10th, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm  Final Exam
Student Learning Outcomes:
SPA 131 is part of the university’s Core Curriculum and as such strives toward both the
general goals of the core and the specific objectives as a communication course
designated for inclusion in the Component Area Option as defined by the Texas Higher
Education Board.

In addition to helping students develop skills in speaking, reading, writing and listening
comprehension in Spanish, and providing them with a better understanding and
appreciation of Hispanic culture, SPA 131 will also demonstrate the more general ability to:

- Communicate effectively by developing and expressing ideas through
  written and oral communication.
- Think critically, which includes the ability to analyze, evaluate, and
  synthesize information about the history, culture, family, and artistic
  production of the Spanish-speaking world.
- Work as part of a team, by demonstrating the ability to consider different
  points of view and to work effectively with others, supporting a shared
  purpose or goal.
- Understand the role that personal responsibility has played throughout history and
  gain the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to making ethical
decisions.

Core Curriculum Objectives:
- Students will be exposed to and actively engage in discussions regarding songs,
  comics, videos, news, Internet materials, and readings from text that relate to the
  culture of places where Spanish is spoken.
- Students will use vocabulary dealing with the following themes in their writing
  and speaking: numbers, the calendar, time, interrogative words, weather, seasons,
  personality, the city, location, colors, clothing, family, physical traits, food.
- Students will be able to correctly utilize the following grammatical structures:
  articles, gender, number, present tense, future (verb + infinitive), adjective
  placement and agreement, ser and estar, direct object pronouns, indirect object
  pronouns, the verb gustar.
- Students will be able to communicate, in oral and written form, about what one
  normally does, where one lives, what one likes to do, and one’s family.
- Students will investigate very simple topics on the Internet in Spanish and record
  their findings.

Academic Integrity (A-9.1)
Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty
members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the
components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for
cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)**
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Students with Disabilities**
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.