Basic Spanish Program
SPAN 1505 — Fall 2006

❖ GENERAL INFORMATION:

Instructor’s Name: _______________________________________________________________

Office Hours: ___________________________________________________________________

Office Phone Number: _________________________ Email: _____________________________

❖ TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS:


❖ COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Bienvenidos to Spanish 1505! This is a condensed version of the first two courses of the Spanish Language Program, and it has been designed for students of Spanish as a Second Language who have previously studied Spanish for at least two years. Spanish 1505 follows a communicative approach: From the first day of class you will interact in Spanish in a meaningful context with your instructor and classmates. By the end of this course you will have a general knowledge of the grammar of the Spanish language and you will be able to communicate effectively in Spanish according to this level.

❖ LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Students will develop communicative competence at the advanced beginners’ level through the enhancement of listening and speaking skills in Spanish, which will allow them to converse with ease and confidence in communicative interactions.
2. Students will demonstrate knowledge of reading and writing competence in Spanish at the advanced beginners’ level, through reading activities and compositions assignments that will require analytical and critical skills.
3. They will demonstrate a fundamental knowledge of Spanish grammar at the advanced beginners’ level; in addition, they will be introduced to the cultures of the Spanish-speaking world and its people.

❖ STUDENTS’ RESPONSIBILITIES:

I. Attendance to scheduled sessions

To derive the utmost benefit from this class, daily attendance is essential. We invite you to take advantage of the possibility of practicing the language in class. Attendance to each session is required.

➢ More than five hours unexcused absences per semester will result in you being dropped from the course.
➢ You should not make travel/employment plans that interfere with classes or exams since make up exams cannot be made in order to accommodate such plans.
You are responsible for contacting other classmates to obtain any information discussed in the event of class missed.

Student athletes, band members and members of other university sanctions should bring a letter from their supervisor or specific department during the first two weeks of classes indicating the dates they will miss class.

Students who require special accommodations for religious holidays should make arrangements with their instructor during the first two weeks of classes.

Students with recognized disabilities will be provided reasonable accommodations, appropriate to the course, upon documentation of the disability with a Student Accommodation Form from the Center for Students with Disabilities. To receive these accommodations, you must request the specific accommodations by submitting them to the instructor in writing during the first two weeks of classes. Students who fail to submit a written request will not be considered for accommodations.

Note: A minimum passing grade of C- is required to enroll in the next Spanish level, SPAN 2301.

II. Active Participation in sessions

In class participation provides one of the best opportunities to develop your communicative skills. Participation in this course is strongly encouraged, and you will receive a grade for your participation. Your instructor will evaluate your participation level twice per semester based on the criteria s/he will give you the first week of classes.

III. Homework (Tarea)

The development of the language skills requires daily practice. Throughout the course there will be daily homework assignments (Tarea) as detailed on the tentative daily schedule. Note that many of the homework assignments are necessary preparation for activities in subsequent classes. The homework activities prepare you to attain the most benefit from the activities and help you to monitor your own progress in the learning of the language. Homework is a great opportunity to reinforce the learning of the contents studied in class.

All homework should be completed in writing/online by the date listed on the tentative daily schedule.

Late homework will not be accepted. Incomplete homework will not be given a mark.

Homework assignments will be scored either “1” or “0”.

You can use the Language Acquisition Center to do your homework. Your instructor will inform you of the LAC hours and location.

IV. Assignments:

Compositions: You will write five compositions of 275 words or more each. Two of these will be done in class. The other three will be home assignments and your instructor may request the use of ATAJO for them. Your instructor will request that you submit them through the turnitin.com website. They will be based on a section of each chapter in your book or workbook. In addition to using turnitin.com, these compositions must be typed, doubled spaced, 12 pt font, and with typed accents (á, é, í, ó, ú), and: ¡!, ¿?, ñ., and must be turned in at the beginning of the class. Compositions will be evaluated following writing assignment criteria. Your instructor will give you more information on it before the first composition is due. No late compositions will be accepted without appropriate written documentation.
V. ORAL PRESENTATIONS:

Each student has to give an oral presentation. It will be presented in groups of 2 or 3 students with a maximum duration of 7 min. The topic will be selected with the help of the instructor. Before the date of the presentation the group must submit a summary for the instructor’s approval. Marks for the presentation will be granted on individual basis.

VI. QUIZZES (PRUEBAS):

There will be 6 quizzes (pruebas) in this course. Each prueba will last approx. 30 minutes and will cover material from the textbook, the Workbook and Lab Manual, and class activities and discussion.

VII. EXAMS:

There will be three partial exams and a final exam in this course. The dates are indicated in the tentative daily schedule. The location of the final exam will be announced in class. Students requiring special testing procedures must provide documentation to the instructor during the first two weeks of classes.

⇒ Absence from Exams or Quizzes:

⇒ If you will be absent from an exam or quiz, you must contact the Coordinator for your class at least a week in advance.
⇒ You must provide written documentation for any absence before a make-up is authorized. No make-ups will be considered without written, justifiable documentation for your absence.
⇒ Students must take the make-up within two working days from the date of the original exam. Any additional extensions may be granted only under exceptional circumstances and will be done at the discretion of the Director of the Basic Spanish Program.
⇒ ‘Preexisting travel plans’ will not be considered a reasonable cause for missing an Exam or Quiz!

❖ SOME OTHER IMPORTANT CLASS POLICIES:

✓ All cellular phones must be turned off during class time.
✓ Tardiness: Your instructor may deny admission to students who arrive 10 minutes late.
✓ Violations of the Code of Conduct will not be tolerated. This means that homework assignments, writing assignments, exams and quizzes must be your own work. Any violation of this policy will result in expulsion from the class, and implementation of sanctions as stated in the Student Code of Conduct.
✓ Any behavior considered disruptive or that does not contribute positively to the learning environment of the classroom will be sanctioned as stated in the Student Code of Conduct.
✓ No food is allowed in the classroom.
✓ No Extra Credit is available for this course.
GRADING SYSTEM:

Participation: 10%
Homework: 10%
Oral Presentation: 10%
Compositions: 20% (5 compositions x 4% each)
Quizzes: 20% (6 quizzes)
Partial exams: 15% (3 Partial exams x 5% each)
Final exam: 15%
Final Grade: 100%

University of Houston Grading Scale

A 94-100  B 84-86  C 74-76  D 64-66
A- 90-93  B- 80-83  C- 70-73  D- 60-63
B+ 87-89  C+ 77-79  D+ 67-69  F below 60

VIII. Final note

Try to resolve any problems that might arise with your instructor. If, after having done this, you feel the problem has not been solved, feel free to contact the Coordinator of your course:

Prof. Aymara Boggiano
Coordinator of 2000 level, Spanish Language Program
Modern and Classical Languages Department
437 Agnes Arnold Hall
Phone: 713-743-3055
Office Hours: M T W Th; 1-4 pm; or by appt.
Email: aboggiano@uh.edu

In the event the coordinator cannot give a satisfactory answer to your problems, she will give you an appointment with the Director of the Basic Spanish Program:

Prof. Carlos Ramirez
Director of Spanish Language Program
Modern and Classical Languages Department
438 Agnes Arnold Hall
Phone: 713-743-9914
Office Hours: W-Th 10-12
T Th F 1-5, and by appointment
Email: cjrámirez@uh.edu

¡Buena suerte!