

Beginning Spanish I

SPAN 1003 (3 credits / 45 hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:
Spain: Policy, Law, and Regional Autonomy in Europe

PLEASE NOTE: This syllabus represents a recent semester. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.

Description

This course seeks to provide students with broader access to the host culture and enable participation in daily social life. Students are introduced to basic concepts and principles of grammar, developing the ability to function easily in predictable daily social situations and maintain basic face-to-face conversations. With a focus on communicative competence and linguistic functional ability, the lessons cover grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation as well as skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Instructors adapt the content of the courses to students' needs in order to achieve much greater fluency in a short period of time. Instructors use a wide variety of materials and exercises, including authentic recorded material, role-plays, newspapers, and magazines. Through a homestay residence, each student becomes a member of a family and shares in its daily life. This opportunity facilitates cultural immersion and helps develop language skills further.

Learning Outcomes

The course comprises 45 hours of instruction and field visits. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Communicate in basic conversations to give and receive basic information, greet and introduce themselves;
- Ask and answer simple questions on familiar topics;
- Understand the main ideas of clearly written texts in standard language;
- Write short notes and messages such as postcards and emails;
- Orally describe people, places, things, experiences and wishes;
- Relate efficiently in simple situations where the interlocutor speaks clearly and slowly.

Language of Instruction

This course is conducted entirely in Spanish.

Course Requirements

Students are responsible for completing all required readings. Students should be prepared to discuss these in class. Readings enable students to challenge and engage lecturers, to generate questions for class discussions, and to frame their daily experiences outside of class.

Course Schedule

*Please be aware that topics and excursions may vary to take advantage of any emerging events, to accommodate changes in our lecturers' availability, and to respect any changes that would affect student safety. Students will be notified if this occurs.

Methods

The teaching methodology of this course is based on experiential learning and focuses on developing the student's Spanish basic communication skills in the cultural context of Spain through two main aspects:

1. Interaction with Spanish speaking people in everyday situations and during field activities.
2. Participation in classroom activities through individual and group presentations, participation in panel discussions and role-play activities.

Required Readings:

Rose, M. and Ellis, M. (2011). *Pasos 1: Spanish Beginner's Course Coursebook*. Holden Education Publishers.

Alarcos Llorach, E. (1994). *Gramática de la lengua española*. Madrid: Espasa Calpe.

Excerpts from several texts will be used in class and will be available via a course packet and/or on the course's Moodle page.

Recommended Readings:

Gili y Gaya, S. (1998). *Curso Superior de Sintaxis Española* (15 ed.). Barcelona: Bibliografía

Bosque, I. y Demonte, V. (1999). *Gramática descriptiva de la lengua española*. Madrid: Espasa Calpe.

RAE. (2005). *Diccionario Panhispánico de Dudas*. Espasa-Calpe, Madrid.

Pinilla, R., & Muñoz, R. A. (2005). *¡Bien dicho!: ejercicios de expresión oral*. Sociedad general española de librería, Madrid.

Rodríguez Rodríguez, M. (2003). *Escucha y aprende: Ejercicios de comprensión auditiva*. SGEL; Madrid.

Lengua Española: www.rae.es

Content

Communicative

Pragmatic

- Assertive speaking (affirm, announce, assent, etc.);
- Compromise speaking (express will, intention, etc.);
- Expressive speaking (express admiration, surprise, etc.);
- Fact speaking (greet and say goodbye, introduce someone, invite, etc.);
- Directive speaking (give and receive instructions, give and receive consent, etc.).

Grammatical

- Simple sentences
- Syntactic order;
- Interrogation in Spanish (Interrogative pronouns)
- Gender, numbers, nouns, adjectives;
- Present and simple past tenses;

- Direct objective / indirect objective pronouns;
- Periphrastic future;
- Pronunciation;
- Comprehensive speaking in present, past and future;
- Use short paragraphs with medium fluidity;
- Simple narration and description.

Lexis - semantic

- Personal identification;
- Activities of daily living;
- Free time and leisure;
- Transportation;
- Social and human relations;
- Health;
- Education;
- Commercial activities;
- Food;
- Weather, etc.
- Different registers formal / informal.

Intercultural

- Behavioral and social interaction;
- Accepted behavior in social groups;
- Religious and moral beliefs;
- Behavioral conventions;
- Geography: meaningful geographical factors about the country;
- Socialization: socialization institutions such as family, work or school, social or religious ceremonies, etc.

Evaluation and Grading Criteria

Description of Evaluation:

Diagnostic evaluation: This evaluation has two parts, one oral and other written, and includes the development of the student's language skills and how this is shown in formal and informal contexts;

Formative evaluation: During the semester there will be different instances of support and self-evaluation which will enable assessment of the concretion of initial objectives;

Last evaluation: The evaluation criteria will be directly linked to the stated outcomes.

Evaluation also includes the student's:

1. Positive attitude, and participation in class activities;
2. Initiative in the use of Spanish, use and acquisition of new vocabulary and use of Spanish in and out of the class room.

During the program students will have to show knowledge and skills acquired, through the following assignments:

Description of Assignments:

Written Exam

Written exam on grammar, listening and reading comprehension, written production; short answer; use of simple vocabulary to write about Basque culture and Spanish way of life.

Oral Exam

Ten minute oral exam with your teacher and the academic director, assessing fluency, use of grammar and vocabulary, corresponding to the content of the course.

Oral Presentation

The oral presentation will be assessed by the use of vocabulary and grammar corresponding to language level, capacity to speak without reading notes.

Homework and Participation

Students will be evaluated on homework assignments, overall oral participation and motivation.

Assessment:

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Written exam | 40% |
| Oral exam | 30% |
| Oral presentation | 10% |
| Homework | 10% |
| Participation | 10% |

Grading Scale:

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

Grading Criteria:

All grades assigned will take into account the students' special circumstances and challenges they face as foreign students. An "A" grade for an assignment entails superior (not just "very good") performance in terms of not only technical correctness, but also in structure and organization of assignments, analysis, logic of writing, and consistency.

In terms of Class Participation, an "A" grade refers to full attendance, punctuality, attentive listening, and active engagement in all lectures, discussions, field trips, and other activities. It also means polite and respectful behavior. The level, frequency, and quality of the student's participation will be monitored and taken into account.

Expectations and Policies

- Show up prepared. Be on time. Have your Reading completed and points in mind for discussion or clarification. Complying with these elements raises the level of class discussion for everyone.

- Have assignments completed on schedule, printed, and done according to the specified requirements. This will help ensure that your assignments are returned in a timely manner.
- Ask questions in class. Engage the professor.
- Comply with academic integrity policies (no plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical).
- Respect differences of opinion (those of classmates, lecturers, local constituents engaged with on the visits, etc.). You are not expected to agree with everything you hear, but you are expected to listen across difference and consider other perspectives with respect.

Please refer to the SIT Study Abroad Handbook for policies on academic integrity, ethics, warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment, and the academic appeals process.

Disability Services: Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Disability Services at disabilityservices@sit.edu for information and support in facilitating an accessible educational experience. Additional information regarding SIT Disability Services, including a link to the online request form, can be found on the Disability Services website at <http://studyabroad.sit.edu/disabilityservices>.