

Beginning Spanish I

SPAN-1003 (3 credits)

Spain: Choose Your Track—Climate, Psychology, Economics OR Cinema

This syllabus is representative of a typical semester. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.

Course 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.

Instructional 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:

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

Course Requirements and Texts

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.

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

Course 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.

Assignments and Evaluation

Assignment Descriptions and Grading Criteria

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 classroom.

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

1) Written Exam (40%)

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.

2) Oral Exam (30%)

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.

3) Oral Presentation (10%)

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

4) Homework and Participation (20%)

This includes timely completion of homework assignments, active involvement in lectures, readings, discussions and excursions using the following criteria:

- Attendance - promptness to class and positive presence in class.
- Active Listening - paying attention in class and during field excursions, asking appropriate questions, showing interest and enthusiasm (this includes body language), entertaining contradictory perspectives, taking notes.
- Involvement in Class Discussions - either in small or large groups, sharing knowledge. This means challenging yourself to speak up if you usually don't, and also means allowing others to speak if you are a person who tends to dominate class discussions.
- Group Accountability – positive participation in the group during field excursions and classes; not keeping others waiting.
- Displaying Respect – culturally appropriate interaction with hosts, SIT program staff, SIT lecturers and communities.]

Assessment

Written exam	40%
Oral exam	30%
Oral presentation	10%

Homework	10%
Participation	10%

Attendance and Participation

Due to the nature of SIT Study Abroad programs, and the importance of student and instructor contributions in each and every class session, attendance at all classes and for all program excursions is required. Criteria for evaluation of student performance include attendance and participation in program activities. Students must fully participate in all program components and courses. Students may not voluntarily opt out of required program activities. Valid reasons for absence – such as illness – must be discussed with the academic director or other designated staff person. Absences impact academic performance, may impact grades, and could result in dismissal from the program.

Late Assignments

SIT Study Abroad programs integrate traditional classroom lectures and discussion with field-based experiences, site visits and debriefs. The curriculum is designed to build on itself and progress to the culmination (projects, ISP, case studies, internship, etc.). It is critical that students complete assignments in a timely manner to continue to benefit from the sequences in assignments, reflections and experiences throughout the program.

Example: Students may request a justified extension for one paper/assignment during the semester. Requests must be made in writing and at least 12 hours before the posted due date and time. If reason for request is accepted, an extension of up to one week may be granted at that time. Any further requests for extensions will not be granted. Students who fail to submit the assignment within the extension period will receive an 'F' for the assignment.

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

Program Expectations

- Show up prepared. Be on time, have your readings 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 accordingly to the specified requirements. This will help ensure that your assignments are returned in a timely manner.
- Ask questions in class. Engage the lecturer. These are often very busy professionals who are doing us an honor by coming to speak.
- Comply with academic integrity policies (no plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical).
- Respect differences of opinion (classmates', lecturers, local constituents engaged with on the visits). You are not expected to agree with everything you hear, but you are expected to listen across difference and consider other perspectives with respect.

SIT Policies and Resources

Please refer to the [SIT Study Abroad Handbook](#) and the [Policies](#) section of the SIT website for all academic and student affairs policies. Students are accountable for complying with all published policies. Of particular relevance to this course are the policies regarding: academic integrity, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), research and ethics in field study and internships, late assignments, academic status, academic appeals, diversity and disability, sexual harassment and misconduct, and the student code of conduct.

Please refer to the SIT Study Abroad Handbook and SIT website for information on important resources and services provided through our central administration in Vermont, such as [Library resources and research support](#), [Accessibility Services](#), [Counseling Services](#), [Title IX information](#), and [Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion](#) resources.