

Spanish 120 • Fundamentals of Spanish • Fall 2009

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¡ BIENVENIDOS A LA CLASE DE ESPAÑOL!

Prerequisite: Two years of high school Spanish and appropriate placement exam score.

Course Description: The course objective is to attain basic reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills through intensive listening and speaking practice. The course will follow an accelerated pace since it is intended for students with two units of high school Spanish or an appropriate departmental placement exam score. Learning strategies include daily vocabulary and grammar exercises, conversation, quizzes, discussion of topics related to Spanish and Spanish-American culture and written assignments. The course is conducted in Spanish and demands the active participation of each student on a daily basis. Please be aware that you are not expected to understand every word your professor uses but rather encouraged to understand main ideas and try to clarify concepts and issues in Spanish as well.

Course Objectives: The instructional goal of this class is to develop communication skills in Spanish with an emphasis on listening and speaking, but you will develop your reading and writing skills as well. You will practice these four skills by learning about different cultures, making cognitive and social connections during in-class group work, and by completing written assignments.

Required Textbook and Materials:

- [*Mosaicos*](#) textbook, 5th Edition, Castells et al. (including [My Spanish Lab](#) code)
You may purchase your book directly online or from the UNCW bookstore but it is cheaper to buy it online. You may go to <http://www.mypearsonstore.com/bookstore/product.asp?isbn=0205757596> The price of the package is (\$139.25 online vs UNCW's \$185.65)
- Spanish/English Dictionary (Larousse is highly recommended)
- UNCW email account

Grade Distribution:

Written Tests (2):	20%
Final cumulative Exam:	10
Midterm Oral Interview :	5%
Final Oral Interview :	5%
Quizzes:	5%
My Spanish Lab Assignments:	20%
Composition, Movie Report, Conversation Center & Cultural Event	12%
Short Assignments	2%
Group Skits:	6%
Personal Presentation:	5%
Participation & attendance:	10%

Important Note: *Remember that you earn your own grade, your professor does not give you a grade, you pass or fail yourself so try your very best every day and plan accordingly for every assignment and event.*

Grading Scale:

93-100	A	80-82	B-	67-69	D+
90-92	A-	77-79	C+	63-66	D
87-89	B+	73-76	C	60-62	D-
83-86	B	70-72	C-	0-59	F

Important Information:

Blackboard:

The course calendar, general information, handouts and guidelines for assignments will be available online on Blackboard. It is your responsibility to print and bring all handouts posted to class. As a general rule, no handouts will be distributed in class. To get to the Blackboard site for this course, follow these steps:

1. Login to Blackboard (<http://ncvista.blackboard.com>)
2. Use your UNCW email username in all CAPS (without @uncw.edu)
3. Use your SeaNet PIN as the password

Course Calendar: Your course calendar is available on Blackboard. It is crucial that you review it regularly. You are responsible for following all deadlines. The calendar may be subject to changes and some assignments may be announced in class only so make sure to pay attention to announcements made both in class and by email.

Email: You must check your UNCW email account regularly. This is how your instructor communicates outside the class. You are responsible for reading all class announcements emailed to you. Make sure to have enough space available in your inbox to receive emails.

Grade Distribution explained

Written Tests (2): There will be 2 written tests in this course. Test 1 will be on chapters B -4. Test 2 will be on chapters 5-9. All written tests will have reading, writing and listening components. When taking a written exam please write as clear as possible. If your handwriting is not legible your exam will not be graded. No hats, dictionaries or electronic devices will be allowed when taking a test.

Final Exam: The final exam will be cumulative and will have a listening, reading and writing components. **All final exams must be taken during the university- designated time, no exceptions can be made.**

Midterm and Final Oral Interviews: There will be a midterm and a final interview. Interviews are conducted entirely in Spanish, one-on-one with your professor. Both interviews are cumulative and take approximately 6 minutes. You will be provided a study guide with a bank of questions for both interviews. The best way to study is with a partner. Your active participation in class is also crucial to do well on the interviews.

Quizzes: They will be pop and may be oral or written. They are usually given at the beginning of class. Students not present at the time of the quiz miss it. The lowest grade will be dropped. **There are absolutely no make ups for quizzes.**

My Spanish Lab Assignments: You are expected to keep up with assignments daily. They not only consist of a high percentage of your grade but they do help you study and develop a better understanding of class material. My Lab assignments are divided by chapters and consist of written and listening activities. You can try doing the exercises over and over again until you get your desired score. Everyone should be able to get a 100 on these assignments. Please be aware that these assignments consist of 25% of your final grade. So even if you do not do very well on tests but you keep up with you My Lab assignments you have a good chance to do well in the class. Assignments are automatically graded by the system and they are due by 11:59 pm on the due date. The system will not allow you to submit late work. The lowest grade will be dropped. On Monday, August 24th I will guide you through the registration process and explain how the system works. In order to register you **MUST HAVE** your textbook and code. Troubleshooting information and other important aspects will be posted on blackboard as well.

The codes for our courses are:

SPN 120- 006: CRSCD3V-417128 and SPN 120-007: CRSCDTF-417129

Composition: You will write one composition in class. The use of dictionaries, textbooks or notes will not be allowed for this exercise. You must be present in class to write this composition. There are absolutely no make ups for this exercise. You will be given 2 topics choices and you will have 40 minutes to write. You may only be excused if you have a doctor's appointment, court citation or UNCW official event for which you will have to provide official documentation.

Movie Report: We will watch a movie in class and you will be given a report sheet to fill out about the movie. You will also be asked to write a short composition about the movie in class.

Conversation Center: The conversation center is a wonderful resource to help you practice conversation and improve your pronunciation. You will be required to attend 4 hours during the semester. You may break it down into 8 thirty minute sessions or 4 one hour sessions. You will not be allowed to complete all 4 one hours at the end of the semester or all in one week. You may attend extra hours for extra credit. Each extra hour will count as one extra credit point on your final grade. You will only be allowed 3 extra credit points maximum so if you attend more than seven hours it cannot count for credit. Please remember to always sign the TA's log in order to get credit.

Cultural Event: You are required to attend or participate in one cultural event during the semester. These events can be university-sponsored (such as a lecture, concert by a Latino artist or a film in Spanish). Most of them are free but sometimes you may have to pay a small fee. There will be a list of possible events distributed to you via email and/or on Blackboard. After attending an event, please complete the cultural event response form (in Spanish) and submit it to your instructor during the next class period at the latest. Make sure to staple your ticket to the form. No later forms will be accepted. Also, **if I a form does not include a ticket it will not be valid.** You may attend extra events for extra credit as well. Remember that you will be allowed 3 extra credit points maximum of extra credit which will be added to your final grade.

Short Assignments: They will be normally announced in class. They will be very short and do not need to be typed. They will consist of a short description, research of a concept, or simply react to or think about something studied in class.

Group Skits: Students will work in groups of 4 members to develop 2 skits during the semester using vocabulary and grammar studied in class. You will be provided some time to work in class on the skits but they will require meeting outside class time to practice. Topics will be raffled in class. Students will follow the guidelines posted on blackboard.

Personal Presentation: Students will prepare a 5 minute presentation in Spanish. Topics and presentation dates will be raffled in class. Please refer to presentation guidelines on Blackboard. Presentations will be voted on towards the end of the semester and the winner will gain an extra point on the final grade.

Participation: Your participation grade is determined by your willingness to participate actively and voluntarily in all activities which will be conducted in Spanish. **Use every opportunity available to get involved, this is how learning will become fun and more importantly easy.** Please notice that your participation grade is not merely based on your attendance. Being in class does not mean that you are actively participating. Participating means that you are ready to voluntarily answer questions and work in groups with a positive attitude; proving that you have come to class prepared.

Common Attendance Policy:

- a) All students enrolled in Spanish language courses at UNCW (SPN 101, 102, 120, 201, 202) are allotted **3** free absences during the semester.
- b) For each absence in excess of the limit stated in **a)** above, **five** points will be deducted from the final grade.
- c) Any student who misses **8** or more than **8** classes will automatically fail the course. There are no exceptions to this policy. It is advisable to drop the class that if a student gets sick or has situation that will prevent her or him from following this policy.

Students participating in university-sponsored events (athletics, conferences, etc.) will be excused as long as they provide documentation of their absence before the event (i.e. schedule of games presented at the beginning of the semester). There is no way to 'make up' an absence, so please keep track of your absences throughout the semester.

Arriving late or leaving early more than twice will count as an absence. The classroom door will be shut 1 minute after the scheduled meeting time. Take care of personal business before arriving to class. Please do not leave early unless you truly have an emergency.

If you have perfect attendance at the end of the semester, meaning not missing any classes at all you are entitled to an extra point on your final grade.

Classroom policies: Students in this course are expected to behave as professional, courteous adults. Disruptive behavior and disrespect toward fellow students or the instructor will not be accepted.

- Come prepared to class. Read and practice at home. Please understand that class is the time to practice. Do not expect to be lectured but rather expect to be asked to put in practice what you studied at home.
- Please understand that the role of your instructor is more of a facilitator vs. a lecturer.
- I will provide clarifications and guide you everyday but I expect you to come prepared.
- Turn off all electronic devices including laptops and cell phones.
- You are expected to be fully dedicated to the class and the discussions that take place; studying for a different class, text messaging, reading email or reading a personal book will not be allowed.
- Students are expected to arrive in time to class and stay for the entire class.

- Food, tobacco and alcohol are prohibited in UNCW classrooms. You may bring water or soda to class.
- Bring your textbook and dictionary daily.
- Be prepared to be corrected and feel fine with it. It is my responsibility to provide you with plenty of opportunities to practice in class and to give you as much feedback as possible. It is natural to make mistakes while learning a language, however, I will encourage you to keep trying and do your best.
- When working in groups you may help and correct your classmates but please do so in a respectfully manner.
- Learn from your mistakes and laugh at them so you will never make them again. Do not take personal offense if your professor corrects you.
- Remember, even the smallest activities and assignments count and serve an important purpose.
- **Finally, bring a smile and yourself with a positive attitude!! Believe me, it truly makes a difference!**
- **Access to the instructor:** It is very important to me that you know that you can count on me to give you my very best each and every class. As time allows I make myself available to the students as much as possible. Feel free to talk to me if needed and DO NOT wait until it is late in the semester to discuss an issue that could and should have been handled earlier. If you need to get in touch with me or have a personal question please visit me in my office during office hours or make an appointment. I receive an extremely large load of emails daily and I may not be able to get in touch with you in a timely manner. If you feel that you are getting behind and are honestly making an effort to study, please get a tutor at the writing center as soon as possible. Tutors are available for this class and the service is free of charge. Please take advantage of this wonderful service. *University Learning Services* – free tutoring; 962-3549; tlc@uncw.edu; <http://www.uncw.edu/stuaff/uls/> (1056 Westside Hall)

Extra Credit: If time allows it, I will approve 1 or 2 extra credit activities or events not to overpass 3 points of your final grade. These points will be added to your final grade. When doing extra credit assignments, make sure to follow all guidelines and fill out the appropriate form, otherwise, it will not be accepted.

Academic Honor Code: Students in this course are expected to abide by the Academic Honor Code. Please read the Code of Student Life available at (<http://www.uncw.edu/stuaff/doso/documents/Code.Of.Student.Life.pdf>). Dishonest behavior will carry severe consequences. The use of online translators is not allowed. If working with a partner it is fine to help each other and correct each other but turning the same work is not acceptable.

Make-up Policy: Homework cannot be made up. It must be submitted on time. Tests, compositions, and the oral test can only be made up with proper, official documentation as stated above under the composition description. There is no make-up for the final exam though.

Disability Services: If you have a disability and need reasonable accommodations in this course, you should inform the professor of this fact in writing **within the first week of class**. If you have not done so already, you must register with the UNCW Office of Disability Services. UNCW Disability Services supplies information about disability law, documentation procedures and accommodations. This information can be found at <http://www.uncw.edu/stuaff/SDS/disability.html>.

Useful Services at UNCW:

- *Foreign Language Resource Center* – bring your own headphones and student ID; <http://www.uncw.edu/fll/about-resource.html> (253 Leutze Hall)
- *University Learning Services* – free tutoring; 962-3549; tlc@uncw.edu; <http://www.uncw.edu/stuaff/uls/> (1056 Westside Hall)

If you feel like you need extra help or more explanation please visit the Learning Center. Get in touch with them ASAP and do not wait until late in the semester.

Getting a tutor may help you getting back on track and be successful in this class.

Safety on campus:

UNCW practices a zero-tolerance policy for violence and harassment of any kind. For emergencies contact UNCW CARE at 962-2273, Campus Police at 962-3184, or Wilmington Police at 911. For University or community resources visit <http://uncw.edu/wrc/crisis.htm>.

*I am glad to have you as my student, I am sure we will have a wonderful semester.
Buckle up, get ready and enjoy the ride! ☺*