

SPAN 1311: Beginning Spanish I
DEPARTAMENTO DE ESCRITURA Y ESTUDIOS DE LA LENGUA
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY

Fall 2017

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REQUIRED COURSE MATERIAL

- *Conectados* (Marinelli and Fajardo).
- iLrn access for *Conectados* (Marinelli and Fajardo).
- A Spanish/English dictionary. (Larousse, Oxford, and University of Chicago are good choices)

Only the hardcover version of the book can be used in face-to-face, on-campus classes. The hardcover version of the **Conectados package** (book and iLrn code) can be bought at the following places:

- the UTRGV bookstore. The UTRGV bookstore offers the best deal in the book and iLrn package.

Answer to frequently asked questions can be found in the iLrn Heinle Learning Center Technical support page:

<https://hlc.quia.com/help/book/Content/helpfiles/faq.html>

The following link will help you create an account in iLrn Heinle:

<https://hlc.quia.com/books?type=100>

Once you have created an account, the following link will help you log in to your iLrn Heinle page:

<https://hlc.quia.com/books>

Students will need an active UTRGV e-mail to log on to our course **Blackboard** page.

- The **Center for Online Learning Teaching and Technology (COLTT)** can help with questions regarding Blackboard (956-882-6792, Rusteberg 108, Brownsville / 956-665-5327, Education Complex (EDCC) 2.202, Edinburg).
- The **IT Help Desk** (956-665-2020) can assist with questions regarding technological issues.

THE CB EXEMPLARY OBJECTIVES FOR COMMUNICATION

1. To understand and demonstrate writing and speaking processes through invention, organization, drafting, revision, editing, and presentation.
2. To understand the importance of specifying audience and purpose and to select appropriate communication choices.
3. To understand and appropriately apply modes of expression, i.e., descriptive, expository, narrative, scientific, and self-expressive, in written, visual, and oral communication.
4. To participate effectively in groups with emphasis on listening, critical and reflective thinking, and responding.
5. To understand and apply basic principles of critical thinking, problem solving, and technical proficiency in the development of exposition and argument.
6. To develop the ability to research and write a documented paper and/or to give an oral presentation.

COURSE OUTCOMES

It is expected that by the end of the semester the student will have learned:

1. Some basic Spanish structures to allow the student to acquire basic levels of reading, writing, speaking, listening skills in the target language. Students will also be familiar with some of the most important cultural information of Spanish-speaking groups.
2. Meaningful contextualized vocabulary related daily tasks and activities, such as the classroom, the family, the city, the description of people, and places.
3. The communicative skills needed to introduce oneself to someone, to identify people and things, ask questions, to talk about immediate needs, express preferences and likes, and discuss activities in the present and the past.
4. The way that Spanish-speakers live, study, and work in their countries and how Spanish-speakers in the U.S. are similar or different to other Spanish-speaking communities.

1. Descripción y objetivos del curso: This is a beginning Spanish course designed for non-Spanish speakers. The course will be student-oriented and thus involve considerable interactive work in class. It will also require preparation at home, including online assignments. Specifically this will entail learning vocabulary and verb forms **before** the day these are practiced in class. Class time will be used primarily to engage these skills in various contexts. Students who successfully complete Spanish 1311 will develop basic communicative skills in the Spanish language in the area of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The student will also demonstrate understanding and appropriate application of basic grammatical aspects of the Spanish language. The course is designed to help the student learn enough Spanish to adequately communicate his/her basic needs in everyday life situations in a Spanish-speaking environment. The student will

also demonstrate general familiarity with different aspects of the Spanish culture in Latin America, Spain, and the United States. Spanish will be the target language of this course, it will be used in class to explain and discuss the material read and the vocabulary and structures memorized at home. **You are discouraged from using or translating assignments from English or from any other language.** This is a fundamental principle in order to practice Spanish in the classroom as much as possible, and, under the guidance of your instructor, acquire the necessary communicative skills. **This course is not intended for native speakers of Spanish.** Students who understand and speak Spanish are cautioned not to take this course; they will better develop their language skills in Spanish 2313 and 2315.

2. Evaluación del curso:

Exámenes (2):	30%	Participación:	10%
Pruebas (4) & Minipruebas (¿?):	10%	Presentación:	5%
Escrituras: (2)	10%	SIS (10):	10%
Tareas (4):	25%		

3. Exámenes. There will be at least two exams in this course. The specific dates for these exams are stipulated in your syllabus (see calendar below). The exams are not cumulative, that is, they will only test you on what was covered after the last exam. Normally, each exam will cover two chapters. There is no final exam. Each exam will cover the following sections: listening, vocabulary, grammar, reading, writing, and culture. Make-up policy for all Assignment and Evaluation categories is explained in Section 9 below.

4. Pruebas & Minipruebas. There will be several quizzes throughout the semester. It is important to study the material, as we will base an important part of the exams on these quizzes. Each quiz will include material from the different sections presented in that lesson (Mainly *Gramática* and *Vocabulario*). The specific dates for these quizzes are not stipulated in your syllabus, but your instructor may opt to advice on the tentative dates and material covered. If applicable, the instructor will correct each quiz within 48 hours (excluding weekends). For each *lección*, students should expect at least one in-class **prueba**. It is important to study the content in *Gramática* and *Vocabulario* before taking each quiz. Instructor may also opt to have shorter Minipruebas, such as vocabulary translations or *dictados* to test particular grammar structures or vocabulary knowledge. Again, instructor may opt to advice on the tentative dates and material covered.

5. Tareas: Any homework indicated in the syllabus **needs to be completed or turned in** on that due date. In the case of hard-copies, homework needs to be prepared before that class. In the case of in-class assignments, your instructor may choose to go over the homework in class or pick it up as he/she sees fit. It is your responsibility to have it prepared. This is extremely important in the case of vocabulary, as you are expected to know it before that class. On-line *Tareas* will be

completed on the iLearn page for *Conectados* <https://hlc.quia.com/books> under Assign – and the assigned exercises. For homework assignments, depending on instructor, students may be allowed multiple attempts (2 or 3). If that is the case, your final score for an assignment will be based on your highest score attempt. *Tareas* are due on the day indicated before midnight (11:59pm, Central Time). Extensions will not be given under any circumstances for online assignments, as students will have ample time to complete each *Capítulo* (See section 6 for make-up policy). See each lesson overview and estimated time, so you can plan ahead.

It is the student's responsibility to enroll in the correct class and to complete assignments and evaluations before due date, failure to do so will affect the overall grade in this course.

6. Escrituras. These are writing assignments given throughout the semester. Once your instructor grades your essay, looking over any comments or suggestions (content, spelling, or punctuation) will improve your writing. It is important to do these assignments on your own with the help of a dictionary, as Exams will have a writing section. Essays should be 100-120 words, computer-written assignments, using double space, font 12, one inch margin, and Times New Roman font. Instructor may use the following rubric (or a variation of it) when evaluating *escrituras*: content and originality (50%), sentence structure (20%), spelling and punctuation (10%), grammar (10%), and format (10%). Instructor may opt to give further instructions.

7. Supplemental Instruction Sessions: Students are required to attend **10** Supplemental Instruction Sessions (**SIS**) during the semester. Students are encouraged to go as many times as needed during each week, but only one 60-minute session per week will count towards the required SIL hours. Students must also plan to be in each weekly session at least 60 minutes and to actively participate in the planned activity for the day to receive a grade. Students are responsible for obtaining days and times from SIL leader and for signing in every time attended. Students attending SI should be ready to provide course number, section number, and instructor's name. Sessions are held in the Learning Assistance Center (LEAC) next to the UTRGV Library in the Edinburg campus.

8. Presentaciones. Students will prepare a 5-minute oral presentation in Spanish on a specific subject related to any aspect of the culture of a Spanish speaking country or region. If the instructor allows it, students may work in groups, but the grades will be assigned individually. The topic of the presentation should be approved by the instructor prior to presentation. Presentations are due on the date and time assigned by instructor. Students should be aware that if they miss their scheduled presentation, make-up of presentation is up to instructor. If instructor decides not to have *Presentaciones*, the 5% portion of the grade will be included in the *Tareas* category. Instructor may use the following rubric (or a variation of it) when evaluating *Presentaciones*: Creativity and originality (25%), content, knowledge of content, and organization (25%), oral delivery, including fluidity, use of vocabulary, and pronunciation (25%), and spelling, punctuation, and grammar (25%). Instructor may opt to give further instructions.

9. Participación y asistencia: Attendance is a fundamental part of this course. In case of emergencies, it is your responsibility to find out and turn in any assignments due on the date you were absent or the following date. Make ups and late assignments of any sort require official hospital, clinic or doctor documentation stating your inability to be on campus. Plane tickets for

personal travel or a note written by a third party on your behalf do not constitute official documentation. Any work or evaluation must be made two days upon your return and under your initiative. Assignments or evaluations must be made before an equal category assignment or evaluation is due. e.g. Quiz 2 may not be made up after class has taken Quiz 3, and so on. In cases of predetermined absences due to military or academic related events, documentation must be presented before you leave in order to make arrangements with your instructor as to when assignments will be turned in and evaluations will be taken, failure to do so voids any possibility of negotiating with instructor (See also ATTENDANCE below). Official documentation with military letterhead and a personal explanation from your supervisor stating that you will not be available for the specified amount of time is needed. Cases of hospitalization require documentation with hospital letterhead and a personal explanation from your doctor. Instructor may opt to communicate with supervisor or doctor. University policy may dictate against long absences from class if that is the case, instructor may opt to get University administration involved to determine whether the student's best option is to postpone enrolling in that particular course. Be aware that at and **after the third unexcused, undocumented absence your final grade will either drop one letter grade or you may be dropped from course by instructor**. It is your responsibility to inform the instructor and provide him/her with the appropriate documentation upon your return. It is also your responsibility to keep track of your absences and any excuses that you have failed to submit. Students will have at least 24 hours to complete every on-line assignment and evaluation; given their asynchronous nature, there are no make-ups for on-line assignments and evaluations. Students present in the classroom will earn participation points if they are engaged and contribute to the class discussions. You will **NOT** earn participation points if you do not bring book to class, use electronic devices in class, refuse to participate in class discussion, or are disruptive in any way (See also "Classroom Conduct"). In any of these situations, instructor reserves the right to ask you to leave the classroom in order to preserve an ambiance conducive to learning. If you are asked to turn off any type of electronic device three times during the semester, your grade will either drop one letter grade or you may be dropped from course by instructor. Be aware that a grade must be assigned to every student enrolled in the course at the end of the semester. It is the responsibility of the student to withdraw in order to avoid any undesired grade. See also COURSE DROPS below.

10. Integridad académica. Absolutely no cheating will be tolerated. Your assignment will not count towards your grade and you will not be able to make it up in any way. You may use tutoring services or other reference materials, but you must do your own work and not ask anyone else to do it for you. If you have any questions regarding academic integrity, ask your professor before you take any action. See also SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY below.

11. Students with Disabilities: If you have a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects your academic performance) and would like to receive academic accommodations, please inform your instructor and contact Student Accessibility Services to schedule an appointment to initiate services. It is recommended that you schedule an appointment with Student Accessibility Services before classes start. However, accommodations can be provided at any time. **Brownsville Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at accessibility@utrgv.edu. **Edinburg Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at accessibility@utrgv.edu. Special accommodations will be dictated by the

documentation offered by SAS and not by the student, and the student does not decide when exams and quizzes are taken, date and time is dictated by syllabus. If a student fails to take an evaluation or to turn in an assignment on a specified date, official documentation must be presented. The same restrictions apply as in **Section 7**. Any student that decides to take evaluations in class will have the same amount of time as peers.

12. Classroom Conduct: All students are expected to help to maintain a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. To ensure that all students have the opportunity to gain from time spent in class, students are prohibited from engaging in any form of disruptive behavior (cellular phones or electronic devices, eating or drinking in the classroom, arriving late to class, leaving the lecture early, making offensive remarks, missing deadlines, prolonged chattering, texting, reading newspapers or doing other work in class, sleeping, talking out of turn, shuffling notebooks, overt inattentiveness, etc). Inappropriate behavior in the classroom will be dealt with seriously and will be resolved according to university regulation (See also Section 6). Any offense of this kind may result in student being asked to leave class and/or being dropped from class by instructor.

13. Communicating with your instructor: Your instructor may correspond with you through e-mail, Blackboard messaging, and announcements. It is your responsibility to check email and course announcements on a daily basis. Your instructor will make every attempt to respond to your emails within 24 hours, except on weekends and holidays. Any technical questions should be directed to the UTRGV IT Help Desk (956-665-2020). Please refrain from emailing your instructor with personal problems, and/or technical issues, that are outside the instructor and/or the University's control.

More on UTRGV Policy Statements

MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD:

Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (<http://my.utrgv.edu>); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Online evaluations will be available April 12 – May 3, 2017. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades.

ATTENDANCE: Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange to make up missed work or examinations.

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY: As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, and VIOLENCE: In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “responsible employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that

promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

COURSE DROPS: According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.