

SPNS 101: Elementary Spanish I, Fall 2018

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IMPORTANT: University of Montana policy: you must use your official UM email account for any email correspondence with your instructor.

Course hours and location: This course is taught online via Moodle (<http://moodle.umt.edu>)

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to begin developing proficiency in Spanish in all four skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing). While grammatical topics are covered, the importance of using language for communicative purposes is emphasized. Since acquisition cannot take place without input in the target language, instructors use Spanish almost exclusively.

Learning Outcomes: The successful student will be able to:

1. Understand spoken and written Spanish in the context of common situations and in a basic range of grammatical structures and expressions, specifically, those emphasized in the *Puntos de partida* textbook, Chapters 1 - 6.
2. Produce comprehensible spoken and written Spanish, including short paragraphs and brief verbal responses to a range of communication topics, also specified by *Puntos de partida*.
3. Acquire knowledge of the geography, culture and people of regions where Spanish is spoken, as indicated by the cultural units provided in *Puntos de partida*.

Your responsibilities in this class: Spanish 101 is a cumulative course, so that your success in grasping the material presented one week will depend on your having mastered material presented in previous weeks. It is essential for you to keep up with the topics covered and assignments. Do not leave everything for the last minute before a deadline. Following an online class requires putting your organizational skills at their best.

All humans under normal conditions require one or more languages, but it is not possible to acquire Spanish in 75 to 150 hours of class instruction. Keep in mind that the online classroom, much like the traditional classroom, is at best an artificial simulation of the natural foreign language environment most conducive to learning the target language. To build communicative fluency, you must take responsibility for your out of class learning. In addition to completing all assignments on time, we recommend that you read Spanish-language magazines or stories, watch TV or converse with native speakers one to three times weekly. Take every opportunity to use your new skills in Spanish: read bilingual product labels, start a journal in Spanish, write notes and lists to yourself in Spanish, visit a Spanish speaking country, spend time with other students of Spanish, - speaking only Spanish. Above all, make your extra activities fun and incorporate them into your daily life. Your instructor can open the door to Hispanic language and culture, but only you can enter.

Required Class Materials:

- **Textbook:** Dorwick, Thalia...[et al.] *Puntos de partida: an invitation to Spanish, 10th edition*, Student Edition. Connect Online Access. Your textbook is good for SPNS 101 and 102.

Recommended Materials:

- A Spanish-English Dictionary
- *501 Spanish Verbs*
- Any content in Spanish of interest to you such as music, news, movies, TV, radio, podcasts....

Logging on to the course:

A few days before the semester begins, you will receive instructions from your instructor about how to log on to the course. Please note that most of the Spanish 101 course is hosted by the CONNECT (Mc Graw Hill Education) and NOT Moodle. However, we will be using some Moodle features such as a forum for questions, dropbox for written assignments and recordings, email, and posting syllabus, course calendar, and other documents pertaining to the course.

Grading:

- Exams 50% (Exams 1-2 = 15% each, **Final Exam = 20%**)
- Chapter quizzes (6) 18%
- Homework 32% (Connect assignments 20%, Written assignments PARA ENTREGAR 9%, Recording 3%)

Quizzes and exams will be given online at announced times (check the course's assignment board and/or calendar schedule on Connect), and will be available for the length of time specified. In the rare instance where a student may be unable to do testing during its scheduled availability due to unforeseen reasons properly documented, the test availability may be extended at the discretion of the instructor.

Once begun, quizzes and exams must be completed as students cannot exit and re-enter the test. It is the students' responsibility to utilize a reliable internet connection. If you experience technical difficulties, please contact me as soon as possible. Please try to troubleshoot your computer problems way before the deadline to be sure that Moodle is accessible and labs run accordingly. Do not wait until the last minute to find out your computer is not working properly. For IT and Moodle questions, please call 243-4999.

Homework:

- **Online Assignments:** Use the CALENDAR tool in CONNECT to find out which assignments are due each week. Deadlines for CONNECT exercises will be 11:59 p.m. for the date assigned. You will not receive credit for late assignments. Most of the assignments are automatically graded. Your best attempt by the deadline counts for your grade.
- **Written assignments to turn in:** You will find these under topic 16 in Moodle. This written assignments "PARA ENTREGAR" should be double-spaced, font 12, and dropped by the due date. You will be expected to use only vocabulary and grammatical structures that you have learned by the time of the assignment to complete these. Students often find this both creative and challenging. Ultimately, you will have much more success in a second language if you are able to engage in this process. Please limit your use of online translation tools to single words or short phrases.
- **Recording:** There will be one recording assignment in which you will be required to record yourself by answering a few questions that will serve as a prompt. You will have more details on Moodle.

Technical Requirements: Students must have software capable of downloading and reading Power Point and PDF files. **IMPORTANT** - it is imperative that you take the Moodle tutorial. This important orientation will require less than 1 hour of your time and will be a graded assignment. You will earn a Moodle certificate which is a requirement for this course. For those who have done it in other courses, you may upload your certificate to Moodle or send it to me via email.

Announcements and contacting the instructor: The instructor will attempt to answer student email within 24 hours, except during weekends and holidays. Best way to contact instructor is by e-mail: micaela.downey@umontana.edu. Students should look for instructor email responses Monday through Friday anytime between 9:00 to 5:00 p.m. Office hours will be by appointment.

A Note on Email and Spam Filters All email communication for the course will be sent to your official university email, and not to other email providers. If you don't normally check your university email you will miss important emails. You can have your university email forward messages to other email addresses (e.g., gmail, yahoo, etc). When I email the whole class the message will go to lots of email addresses, and some email providers will block this as spam. You will want to check the settings of your spam filters so that they allow such messages.

Forums and "Office Hours" There is a forum "Preguntas al profesor" on the first page in Moodle which students can use to post comments/questions about course material. I ask that you please refrain from posting anything exam-related. I will read the posts and answer them if appropriate. I aim to provide answers within 24 hours. If additional feedback is required, students can request a video conference by appointment only to be facilitated through Zoom in Moodle or meet me at my office on the UM campus.

Academic honesty: Honesty and integrity are the foundations to being a good student. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the [Student Conduct Code](#).

Turning in work that you did not write, for which you had considerable direct help from someone else, or which a translation service or computer program has translated, will be considered cheating. Computer-aided or assisted translated work is highly awkward. If the instructor suspects this kind of work, the instructor reserves the right to additionally interview and/or retest the student, or arrange for proctored testing. Anyone caught copying from others or allowing others to copy his/her work is subject to receiving an "F" in the class.

Grading scale * Be sure you know what grade you need for your major

Letter grade	Number grade	Letter grade	Number grade
A	94-100	C	73-76
A-	90-93	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	0-59

*For CR/NCR grading option, you must earn a D- or above to receive credit.

___ Please note that your instructor is not permitted to share grading information with you via email.

___ Please arrange an appointment with your instructor if you would like to discuss your grade.

___ Also, all email communication with your instructor must take place through official UM email addresses.

Course withdrawal: Monday, Sept. 17, 2018 is the last day to withdraw from the course with a partial refund. For a detailed listing of important University dates and deadlines, please see the [Registrar's Calendar links online](#).

Students with disabilities: The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and [Disability Services for Students \(DSS\)](#). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with [DSS](#), please contact [DSS](#) in Lommasson 154. I will work with you and [DSS](#) to provide an appropriate accommodation.

Computers and Course Website Information

Students are expected to be familiar with computers and the Internet. Students are responsible for their own software and computer equipment maintenance and setup as recommended by the University of Montana.

<http://umonline.umt.edu/student-support.php>

Class-Specific Computer Requirements:

- Students are expected to have a 'back up plan' if personal computers become compromised.
- The University of Montana maintains several computer labs on campus:
<http://www.umt.edu/it/support/computerlabs/default.php>
- Students are expected to download copies of course information from the Moodle website and to check email for class announcements.
- For technical support for using Moodle, please contact UM IT support:

<http://www.umt.edu/it/support/default.php>

Did you know that...?

- The United States has the second largest Spanish-speaking population in the world after Mexico. In the US there are over 50 million Spanish speakers (41 million native speakers, 11 million fluent 2nd language speakers).
- Spanish is the third most widely spoken language in the world after English and Mandarin.
- Spanish is the official language in twenty-one countries.
- There are over 400 million Spanish speakers worldwide.
- Hispanics are the largest minority in the US, and Spanish is the second most spoken language in the US. In fact, Spanish is currently spoken by 16% of the US population.
- Experts predict that by the year 2050, there will be 530 million Spanish speakers, of which 100 million will be living in the US.
- Latin American countries are some of the US's most important trading partners.
- Being able to speak Spanish greatly enhances your resume, no matter your major. If you are bilingual, you are more competitive in the workplace.

	Spanish 101 Communicative Goals	Spanish 101 Grammatical Structures
Cap. 1 (Weeks 1 & 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • meet and greet others • describe yourself and others • use alphabet for communicative clarification • count to 30 and do simple math • talk about likes and dislikes • tell time • get information by asking questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ser, some uses and forms • some interrogative words • gustar • hay
Cap. 2 (Weeks 3 & 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • talk about your university • discuss your schedule, courses and professors • talk about activities you do on campus • get information by asking questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • articles, grammatical number and gender • -ar verbs, pres. tense • estar • negation • interrogative words
Cap. 3 (Weeks 5 & 6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • describe friends and family and their relationships to one another • tell your age and birthday, use numbers 0 - 100 • identify a person's nationality • indicate purpose and reason for doing something • tell what belongs to you and others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ser • possessive adjectives • -er and -ir verbs, pres. tense • placement and forms of adjectives
Cap. 4 (Weeks 7, 8 & 9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discuss clothing and colors, and shopping • ask for and give prices, numbers 0 - millions • point out people and things (demonstratives) • discuss preferences and wishes • talk about the future 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrative adjectives and pronouns • stem-changing pres. tense verbs • tener idioms • ir + a + infinitive • the contractions al and del
Cap. 5 (Weeks 10 & 11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discuss weekly and daily routines and sequences • describe where you live 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • more stem-changing verbs, pres. tense • reflexive verbs, • prepositions of time
Cap. 6 (Weeks 13, 14 & 15)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • talk about the weather • talk about seasonal activities • point out where things are located • talk about what you are doing right now • describe personality traits and conditions • make simple comparisons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prepositions of place • present progressive • ser vs. estar • más/menos...que • tan/tanto/a/os/as... como