

SPNS 101: Elementary Spanish I, Fall 2019

Course Information:

Instructor: Micaela Downey

Office: LA 440

Email: micaela.downey@umontana.edu

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 *Plazas* textbook, Chapters P - 5.
2. Produce comprehensible spoken and written Spanish, including short paragraphs and brief verbal responses to a range of communication topics, also specified by *Plazas*.
3. Acquire knowledge of the geography, culture and people of regions where Spanish is spoken, as indicated by the cultural units provided in *Plazas*.

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:** Hershberger...[et al.] *Plazas, Lugar de encuentros, 5th edition*, Student Edition. MindTap Online Access. Your textbook/access 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 a good part of the Spanish 101 course is hosted by MINDTAP (Cengage) and NOT Moodle. However, we will be using some Moodle features such as forums for asking questions and making posts, and for finding partners for conversation activities. We will also have sign up lists for class meetings and the final interview, and a dropbox for final presentations. And of course in Moodle you will find the syllabus, course activities lists and deadlines, how to videos and other documents and links pertaining to the course.

Course Link URL: <https://www.cengage.com/dashboard/#/course-confirmation/MTPNFZ0NR99J/initial-course-confirmation>

Course Link Instructions: [Print instructions](#)

Course Key: MTPN-FZ0N-R99J

Grading:

- MindTap: 60% (Assignments 40%, Quiz assignments 20%)
- Participation 20% (Forums 10%, Class meetings 10%)
- Interview 10%
- Presentation 10%

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.

Assignments:

MindTap assignments:

- **Assignments:** Check in Moodle or use the CALENDAR tool in MINDTAP to find out which assignments are due each week. Deadlines for MINDTAP 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 and oral assignments are included in MindTap. Those are manually graded.
- **Quiz Assignments:** Also in MindTap, under *¡A repasar!*, these assignments are timed. You will have two attempts to complete them. Once begun, quizzes must be completed as students cannot exit and re-enter the quiz. 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. 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.

Participation:

- **Forums:** For each chapter, in Moodle there will be forums (introduction and five more) in which you will have to make posts to practice the language, and share something about yourself in Spanish.
- **Class Meetings:** We will also have a class meeting for each chapter (a total of five) in which we will interact with each other in Spanish, using the vocabulary and structures we are learning. Class meetings will be held through Zoom.

Interview: There will be one interview assignment in which you will be required to meet with your instructor through Zoom. You will have more details on Moodle.

Presentation: You will record a video of yourself presenting on a topic that interests you. This will be your final project. 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 through Zoom.

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 "Ask profesora Downey" on the home page of the course in Moodle which students can use to post comments/questions about course material. I ask that you please refrain from posting anything quiz-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.

Course withdrawal:

Monday, Sept. 16, 2019 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.