**SPANISH 1 BEGINNING SPANISH (4 UNITS) SCHD# 58101**

**Fall 2015 M, T, W, Th & Friday (4 hours lecture and 1 hour of lab)**

**Instructor:** Francisco León

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**Class hours:** Monday - Friday 8:00am – 8:50am. (**Lab** on Wednesday 8:00 -8:50)

**Location:** Portable Classrooms, Room 2.

**Spanish 1 Course Description (Catalog):**

Beginning course in conversational and written Spanish for non-native speakers; intended for students without previous exposure to Spanish. Introduction to pronunciation, vocabulary, idioms, grammar, basic composition, and exploration of the cultures of Spain and Latin America and the Hispanic cultures of the US. (See pg. 4 of this syllabus for Student Learning Outcomes and Objectives as per the Reedley College Credit Course Outline, Spanish 1.)

**Spanish 1 Course Description (for this particular section):**

This course stresses communication skills in Spanish. Much of the practice work will be done in pairs. The goal is for beginning students to acquire minimal conversational ability in Spanish. By the end of the semester you will have studied the present and past tenses. In the process, you will learn certain cultural details. For example, you will learn that there are two ways of saying "you" in Spanish, and they are not interchangeable. It is assumed that you are in this class because you want to learn how to communicate in Spanish. You will not have developed that ability completely by the end of the semester, but you will be surprised at how many communicative skills you will have acquired!

**Method of instruction:**

Every effort will be made to make this class student-centered. That is, an activity will be modeled, and then you will work in pairs and small groups to assimilate the vocabulary and structures under consideration. You should make every effort to speak only Spanish and to prepare for the classroom learning activities. *Partners who speak English will be separated.*

**Specific course goals and objectives:**

1. To develop your "survival" language skills.

2. To develop sensitivity to differences and similarities in cultural issues.

3. By the end of the semester, you will be able to: a. when shown a drawing of several actions, describe what is happening b. discuss your habits, vacation plans, describe your home, friends/family c. interview other students to find out their experiences d. tell about your daily routine: the 20-30 things you do in a normal day e. describe other persons and things using appropriate adjectives f. tell some important things you did yesterday, or last summer.

**TEXTBOOK--REQUIRED:**

1. **¡*ADELANTE! UNO*** (2nd Edition. Blanco, José A., Vista Higher Learning, Boston, MA, 2015) and a new/ unused ***Supersite*** code for Internet access. This is **not** the same as the *web SAM* code, which IS available online BUT we do not use it. Do not purchase a used book –it won’t have a valid unused code. It is NOT possible to purchase this code separately online.

The ***¡ADELANTE!*** work-text we will be using in the class offers a great Supersite. Go to [www.vhlcentral.com](http://www.vhlcentral.com), register, and you will find a wide range of online resources including interactive activities, audio, and video.

**Grading Scale**. The final letter grade will be determined according to the following chart:

90%-100% A 70%-79.99% C 0%-59.99% F

80%-89.99% B 60%-69.99% D

**Grading categories are weighted in the following manner:**

On-line assignments (SSP) 10% Written Exams (5) 40%

Textbook homework 10% Final Written Exam 10%

Oral tests (2) 10% Participation and Preparation 10%

Quizzes (5) 10%

**TOTAL 100%**

**ON-LINE ASSIGNMENTS (Super Site Practice)** Assignments from the on-line Supersite (Practice) must be submitted on-line to the instructor by the due date. Normally assignments will be assigned after Wednesday. They will be due Sunday, by 11:59pm.

**TEXTBOOK HOMEWORK:** Homework will be assigned from the textbook or from handouts provided by instructor. All homework must be turned in on the due date at the beginning of class. There are no make-up homework assignments. Homework must be stapled, neat, and written in pen. Your name and the date must clearly be written on the top right-hand corner of the paper. The page number and the exercise number must precede each exercise.

**Oral tests**. An oral midterm and an oral final will be administered. These exams will be structured as impromptu group presentations. Further details will be provided by your instructor.

**Quizzes**. Your progress will be assessed frequently in the form short quizzes on material covered. Quizzes will include material from the chapter(s) most recently covered. They may cover any aspect studied such as: verbs, grammar, culture, and vocabulary. Quizzes will be administered at the beginning of class. No make-ups will be given. Do not ask your instructor for special allowances.

**Written Exams**. Written exams will be administered at the end of every chapter. There will be a total of 5 written exams. A make-up will be given only in the case of a prior College-sponsored commitment or an excused absence for documented illness.

**Written Final Exam**. A comprehensive written final will be given according to the College finals schedule.

**Participation and Preparation**. Active participation is crucial in learning to speak a foreign language. The participation grade (10% of course grade) is based on both quality and quantity of your participation. Quality participation is determined by active, on-task participation in group activities, arriving to class with homework prepared, volunteering and being prepared when called on, and avoiding English conversation with classmates.

*Preparation* refers to the student’s preparation for that day’s class. Students must arrive to class having studied all assigned materials and having completed all exercises assigned, whether they are to be handed in for a grade or not. Students who come to class unprepared are unable to participate actively or profitably in the class, and their grade in this area will be lowered accordingly.

**Attendance** Regular attendance is required. Roll will be taken at the beginning of each class period. Anyone absent any day of the following two weeks may be dropped. You may also be dropped if you have more than four nonconsecutive absences from class during the first nine weeks of the semester. It is your responsibility to drop the class if you would like to withdraw from taking the class. If you wish to withdraw and do not drop the class before the college-established deadline, you will receive an F for the course. After the first nine weeks you may not drop the class.

**Spanish use in class.** It is my intention that you try your best to communicate in Spanish; especially when you are contributing to the class topics, and at the time of in-class activities. Remember, your participation in class contributes 10% of your grade. For this reason, I encourage you to use Spanish at all times in our classroom.

**Cell Phones** It is best that you turn your phone off and do not attend to it. Be respectful of your instructor and classmates! Points will be subtracted from participation if you attend to your device, and if the problem persists, more serious measures will be taken.

**Students with special needs**: If you have special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) act including alternate media requests, please notify your course instructor

immediately. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate your special needs.

**Office Hours**  As a part time instructor, I don’t have office hours. If you need to contact me, the best way to reach me is via e-mail. For this reason, it is important that you have access to your e-mail. If you need to talk to me, please, request a meeting outside of class time.

**Important Dates**

Aug 28 (F) Last day to drop a full-term class for a full *refund*

Sep 4 (F) Last day *to register* for a full-term fall class in person

Sep 4 (F) Last day *to drop* a fall full-term class to *avoid a “W” in person*

Sep 7 (M) Last day *to drop* a fall full-term class to *avoid a “W” on WebAdvisor*

Sep 7 (M) Labor Day (*No classes*)

**Oct 16 (F) Last day to drop a Fall 2015 full-term class:**

Nov 11 (W) Veterans Day (*No classes*)

Nov 26-27 (Th-F) Thanksgiving (*No classes*)

Dec 14-18 (M-F) Final Exams Week

**Final exam date: Thursday, December 14, 2015 from 8:00am-9:50**

**Study Hints**

1. Whenever you study, do it orally. Pronunciation will improve if you practice aloud.

2. Don't feel you have to sit at a desk to study. Try using the new words to describe people and things you see as you walk or drive.

3. As you prepare for class, get to the point where you can say the utterances without looking at the book.

4. Where possible, study with a classmate. Also, at the beginning of the semester you can register for tutorial help.

* Cheating and disruptive behavior are intolerable in an academic environment and may result in an automatic F and/or dismissal from class. Copying someone else’s homework or having someone do your assignments for you is cheating.
* In order to avoid receiving an “F” (when you stop attending class without dropping it from you enrollment list) pay attention to the withdrawal date stated by the college. If you need to drop, do it before this deadline. After that, you will receive the earned grade.

**This syllabus is subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances. If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to find out from a reliable classmate or instructor what happened during your absence, and what work was assigned.**