



Department of Literature, Journalism, Writing & Languages

SPA1001-1: Elementary Spanish I

4 units

Spring 2025

Meeting days/times: MTWF | 7:25 AM – 8:20 AM

Meeting location: T/W/F Bond Academic Center BAC-151 | M Ryan Library 215 (LW-215)

Final Exam: 05/09/2025 (In-Person)

Instructor name:	A. Lorena Verduzco
Phone:	619-849-2695
Email:	<i>averduzc@pointloma.edu</i>
Office location and hours:	BAC-127 Friday 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM and by appointment

PLNU Mission

To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

Foundational Explorations Mission

PLNU provides a foundational course of study in the liberal arts informed by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In keeping with the Wesleyan tradition, the curriculum equips students with a broad range of knowledge and skills within and across disciplines to enrich major study, lifelong learning, and vocational service as Christ-like participants in the world's diverse societies and culture.

Course Description

Welcome to the Elementary Spanish sequence. This course is one of the components of the General Education Program at Point Loma Nazarene University, under the category of Seeking Cultural Perspectives. By including this course in a common educational experience for undergraduates, the faculty supports the survey of human endeavors from a historical, cultural, linguistic, and philosophical perspective, including developing critical appreciation of human expression--both artistic and literary. This course emphasizes four basic skills: aural comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Also noted is the cultural and historical background of the areas where the language is spoken. Participation and active use of the language is emphasized in the classroom.

Course Format

All class materials, assignments, and lectures can be found on Canvas. Homework, as well as extra practice and grammar explanations are in the Portales textbook and on the vhcentral.com website. If students are unable to attend in-person classes, they can access the in-class practice worksheets on Canvas, but they cannot gain attendance/participation credit.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of the 101-102 sequence, students will be able to:

1. Speak (**application**) at the mid to high novice level using (**application**) basic formulaic and memorized materials within the student's own experience. (PLO 3)
2. Recognize (**comprehension, knowledge**) basic connected discourse that uses (**application**) vocabulary and grammar within the student's own experience. (PLO 2,5)
3. Write (**application, knowledge**) discrete sentences as well as simple connected paragraphs using memorized vocabulary and grammar structures. (PLO 1,5)
4. Read (**application**) cultural texts that employ familiar vocabulary and cognates as well as learned grammatical structures. (PLO 4)

5. Demonstrate (**application, knowledge**) comprehension of basic cultural mores and patterns of living of the target culture(s) studied. (PLO 4,6)

Foundational Explorations Learning Outcomes:

2C: Students will demonstrate an understanding of complex issues faced by diverse groups in global and/or cross-cultural contexts.

Required Texts and Recommended Study Resources

Portales 2.0 ebook plus Supersite. <https://vistahigherlearning.com/school/pointloma>

Talkabroad. One 30-minute TalkAbroad conversation.

Assessment and Grading

20%	Portales Homework (Daily online lab activities)
20%	Cultural Assignments
10%	In-class participation / Group work / Attendance
10%	Quizzes (Quizzes / Oral presentations / TalkAbroad)
30%	Lesson Exams (1 of 7 dropped)
10%	Final Exam

Grading Scale

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

Course Requirements

Active participation in each class. Active participation is defined to include the following:

1. Group work, oral participation, and completion of daily in-class assignments. Any day a student is absent he/she loses points of class participation.
2. Completion of required readings, written, oral, lab, video, and web assignments.
3. Successful completion of written and oral examinations.

Homework

In order to provide consistent input and practice, regular daily homework will be assigned on-line and can be found at your Portales website <http://vhlcentral.com> You will need to follow the instructions and enroll in the appropriate course. Assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. PST on the date due, so please give yourself enough time to complete these before your clock runs out. Further assignments and Discussions will be assigned through Canvas. Please read all instructions carefully and be aware of due dates.

Tests & Quizzes

Since language learning is a skill, it will be imperative to ensure the necessary proficiency is attained. To this end, there will be a test given after every unit during the term. It will be necessary for students to do a thorough review before each test since the material is cumulative. Exams and assessments are tentatively scheduled on the calendar.

Vocabulary knowledge is extremely important. Vocabulary quizzes require students to memorize the vocabulary list from each lesson. This most complete list can be found on the last page of each chapter. Words must be spelled correctly for credit. Structures and vocabulary from outside your lessons **will not** receive credit.

There are no make-up exams. In order to allow for illness and any other necessary absences, the lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Please maintain clear and timely communication with your professor regarding any unforeseen emergencies you may have. There will also be one Final Exam which is comprehensive in nature. **This final exam cannot be taken at any other time than that assigned by the University calendar.**

Final Examination Policy

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination on its scheduled day. The final examination schedule is posted on the [Class Schedules](#) site. If you find yourself scheduled for three (3) or more final examinations on the same day, you are authorized to contact each professor to arrange a different time for one of those exams. However, unless you have three (3) or more exams on the same day, no requests for alternative final examinations will be granted.

Cultural Events Portfolio

Cultural assignments and experiences. The *signature assignment* that assesses your learning for the complex issues faced by diverse groups in the Spanish-speaking world, inside and outside the United States, is the cultural component of this class. You will be attending events, completing assignments, reflecting on your own cultural background and how you may compare or contrast to the situations and cultures studied. Deeper reflection is encouraged by allowing these responses to be recorded in English instead of in Spanish. In all these assignments, you will be delving deeper into the human experience, as opposed to studying cultural production devoid of its people (such as food, music, or sports).

Throughout this semester, as well as in the next sequence (Spa1002), you will complete this work (5 assignments throughout the semester), worth 20% of your overall grade, and provide a culminating reflection at the end of Spa1002, as part of the final exam.

This grouping of assignments is designed to help you better understand the diversity and complexity of cultures of those who speak Spanish. By examining the cultural production of Hispanic voices, you will gain insight into their customs, experiences, and worldview.

TalkAbroad

Students will be required to conduct and record **one** 30-minute conversations through *Talkabroad.com*. There is a \$15 charge for a 30-minute conversation (this is part of your course materials). The conversation must be scheduled 36 hours in advance.

Course Credit Hour Information

In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a 4-unit class delivered over 15 weeks. It is anticipated that students will spend a minimum of 10 participation hours per credit hour on their coursework. For this course, students will spend an estimated 150 total hours meeting the course learning outcomes.

Incompletes and Late Assignments

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in when they are due—including assignments posted in Canvas. **Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances.**

Spiritual Care

Please be aware PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as whole persons. To this end, we provide resources for our students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith. If students have questions, a desire to meet with the chaplain or have prayer requests you can contact your professor or the Office of Spiritual Life and Formation.

State Authorization

State authorization is a formal determination by a state that Point Loma Nazarene University is approved to conduct activities regulated by that state. In certain states outside California, Point Loma Nazarene University is not authorized to enroll online (distance education) students. If a student moves to another state after admission to the program and/or enrollment in an online course, continuation within the program and/or course will depend on whether Point Loma Nazarene University is authorized to offer distance education courses in that state. It is the student's responsibility to notify the institution of any change in his or her physical location. Refer to the map on [State Authorization](#) to view which states allow online (distance education) outside of California.

PLNU Copyright Policy

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

PLNU Academic Honesty Policy

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

You are allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g, ChatGPT, iA Writer, Marmot, Botowski) to generate ideas, but you are not allowed to use AI tools to generate content (text, video, audio, images) that will end up in any work submitted to be graded for this course. If you have any doubts about using AI, please gain permission from the instructor. **IMPORTANT:** Structures and vocabulary from outside your lessons **will not** receive credit.

PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities. Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center (EAC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2486). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will issue an academic accommodation plan ("AP") to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course and/or if they do not wish to utilize some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC.

Language and Belonging

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe and hospitable learning environment for all students. As Christian scholars we are keenly aware of the power of language and believe in treating others with dignity. As such, it is important that our language be equitable, inclusive, and prejudice free. Inclusive/Bias-free language is the standard outlined by all major academic style guides, including MLA, APA, and Chicago, and it is the expected norm in university-level work. Good writing and speaking do not use unsubstantiated or irrelevant generalizations about personal qualities such as age, disability, economic class, ethnicity, marital status, parentage, political or religious beliefs, race, gender, sex, or sexual orientation. Inclusive language also avoids using stereotypes or terminology that demeans persons or groups based on age, disability, class, ethnicity, gender, race, language, or national origin. Respectful use of language is particularly important when referring to those outside of the religious and lifestyle commitments of those in the PLNU community. By working toward precision and clarity of language, we mark ourselves as serious and respectful scholars, and we model the Christ-like quality of hospitality.

You may report an incident(s) using the [Bias Incident Reporting Form](#).

Sexual Misconduct and Discrimination

In support of a safe learning environment, if you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of sexual discrimination or misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that accommodations and resources are available through the Title IX Office at pointloma.edu/Title-IX. Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, faculty and staff are required to disclose information about such misconduct to the Title IX Office.

If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact Counseling Services at counselingservices@pointloma.edu or find a list of campus pastors at pointloma.edu/title-ix.

PLNU Attendance and Participation Policy

Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university drop date or, after that date, receive an "F" grade.

Lomabooks Instructions for Students:

*This course is part of our course material delivery program, **LomaBooks**. The bookstore will provide each student with a convenient package containing all required physical materials; all digitally delivered materials will be integrated into Canvas.*

You should have received an email from the bookstore confirming the list of materials that will be provided for each of your courses and asking you to select how you would like to receive any printed components (in-store pick up or home delivery). If you have not done so already, please confirm your fulfillment preference so the bookstore can prepare your materials.

For more information about LomaBooks, please go: [HERE](#)