



Department of Literature, Journalism, Writing and Languages

SPA 1001-1: Elementary Spanish I

4 Units

Fall 2025

Meeting days: MWTHF	Instructor title and name: Professor Jennifer Rodríguez
Meeting times: 7:25 – 8:20 AM	Phone: (619) 849-3489
Meeting location: Bond Academic Center 104 (BAC 104) *Thursdays at Ryan Library 215 (LW 215) (Language Lab 215)	Email: jrodrig4@pointloma.edu
Final exam: Monday, Dec 15, 2025 from 10:30 – 1:00 pm. In person. No exceptions.	Office location and hours: By appointment in person at BAC 126 or virtual through zoom.

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.

General Education 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 education 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.

Program and Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of the 1001-1002 sequence, you 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)**

General Education Learning Outcomes

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

The signature assignment that assesses your learning for the complex issues faced by diverse groups in the Spanish-speaking world, inside and outside of the United States, is the cultural component of this class (5 assignments throughout the semester/your culture portfolio). 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 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 (Spa 1002), you will complete this work, worth 20% of your overall grade, and provide a culminating reflection at the end of Spa1002, as part of the final exam.

Link to the GE courses and corresponding GELO'S: <https://assessment.pointloma.edu/academic-assessment/general-education/assessment-plan/>

Required Texts and Recommended Study Resources

- Portales 2.0 ebook plus supersite. <https://vistahigherlearning.com/store/school/pointloma>
- TalkAbroad conversation. Two 15-minute conversations are required for \$25.00. Instructor will provide more instructions. TalkAbroad website <https://talkabroad.com>

Students are responsible for having the required course textbooks prior to the first day of class.

All supplemental materials posted on this course site (including articles, book excerpts, or other documents) are provided for your personal academic use. These materials may be protected by copyright law and should not be duplicated or distributed without permission of the copyright owner.

Course Requirements

1. Active participation is defined to include the following: group work, journal writing, and sharing, oral participation, and completion of daily assignments. Any day a student is absent he/she loses 10 points of class participation.
2. Completion of required readings, written, oral, lab, video, and web assignments.
3. Successful completion of written and oral examinations.

Student Responsibilities

Class participation and attendance

Regular and punctual attendance in all meetings for which a student is registered is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. Therefore, regular attendance and participation in each class are two of the course requirements to be met. There are no allowed or excused absences except when absences are necessitated by certain university sponsored activities and approved in writing by the Provost of the University. Any day a student is absent, the student will lose 10 points on the class attendance and participation grade. You must be in meetings to participate, since we do conversation, review, and active practice with the material. The first two absences do not count, but after, 1% of grade will be deducted per absence (10 points per absence). After 6 unexcused absences, the professor reserves the right to de-enroll the student from the class. After 12 absences (20% of the grade), a student cannot pass the class, and will receive an F for the course (per university policy). Also, coming late twice equals one absence. Students are expected to come to class prepared, and to be active participants in their own learning for the duration of the class period. Our classroom environment will be one of “**mutual respect**” and a “community of learning”. What this means is that you should not be embarrassed or discouraged to participate – and mistakes will be considered part of the learning process that everyone can benefit from. If you do not understand something, do not hesitate to ask for further explanation. Participation means coming to class with a positive attitude, making original comments in Spanish while minimizing the use of English or getting off task.

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 withdrawal date or, after that date, receive an “F” grade.

How to determine your verbal production grade:

9-10%	• I speak and participate in class every day. • I do all the class exercises assigned by the professor. • I always give my opinion • I can talk about the material in class because I read it well. • I speak Spanish in class most the time.
7-8%	• I always speak and participate in class. • I frequently express my opinion. • I am able to answer all questions asked by the professor. • I speak Spanish in class every day.
6%	• I regularly participate and speak in class. • I try to express my opinion regularly. • Generally, I answer the questions of the lessons or homework. • I try to speak Spanish in class every day.
5-4%	• I speak in class now and then, for instance, when the professor asks me a question. • I do not express my ideas well enough because I failed to read the material or did not do my homework. • I do not speak Spanish when it is necessary or when working in groups.
3-2%	• I am never prepared. • I do not answer the professor's questions. • I sometimes try to speak Spanish.
1-0%	• I am never prepared. • I only speak English.

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 16 weeks. It is anticipated that students will spend a minimum of 37.5 participation hours per credit hour on their coursework. For this course, students will spend an estimated 150 total hours meeting the course learning outcomes.

Assessment and Grading

Percentage of Assignments		Grading Scale		
Homework/In-class Assignments. - Canvas -VHLCentral -TalkAbroad	15%	Grade scale: A=93-100 A-=92-90 B+=87-89 B=83-86 B-=80-82 C+=77-79 C=73-76 C-=70-72 D+=67-69 D=63-66 D-=60-62 F=0-59		
Cultural Events Portfolio.	20%			
Chapter Tests	25%			
Verbal Production and attendance	15%			
Quizzes	15%			
Final Exam.	10%			

Homework

Homework will be assigned online through Canvas and www.vhlcentral.com. Assignments are due by Sunday 11:59 p.m. Please give yourself enough time to complete these before your clock runs out. This is especially important if you need to use the feature on vhlcentral.com “Ask your instructor” for any questions on the homework.

Chapter Tests and 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 short test given every chapter during the term. It will be necessary for students to do a thorough review before each test since the material is cumulative. All exams and quizzes are scheduled on the calendar and will be completed online. In order to allow for illness and any other necessary absences, students will be allowed to drop **one** quiz. There will also be one Final exam which is comprehensive in nature. This exam cannot be taken at any other time than that assigned by the University calendar.

Cultural Engagement Assignments

This grouping of signature assignments is designed to help you better understand the diversity and complexity of cultures of those who speak Spanish. This work is conducted in English to allow deeper reflection and completion of the FE Learning Outcome 2C. You will be required to complete five cultural engagement assignments during the semester to examine the cultural production of Hispanic voices. This will allow you to gain insight into their customs, experiences and worldview. These assignments will give you an opportunity to think more deeply about the global world and your role in it as you strive to learn another language, in order to better communicate and understand your “neighbor.” Completing these assignments in a thorough and comprehensive manner will enhance your knowledge, critical

thinking, as well as your overall grade (worth 20%). Your professor will provide more information about your options for completing these assignments. Alternatively, you may choose to attend cultural events happening in the San Diego/ Tijuana. These events **MUST** be pre-approved by your professor and you will need to attach a photo of yourself at the event and a ticket stub or brochure to show that you were there. **No photo & ticket = no credit!**

TalkAbroad

Each student will be required to conduct **two** 15-minute conversations through Talkabroad.com for \$25 dls (total cost). The professor will provide more instructions. TalkAbroad website: <https://talkabroad.com>

Final Examination Policy

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination on its scheduled day which will be administered **in person on Monday, Dec 15, 2025 from 10:30 to 1:00 pm**. The final examination schedule is posted on the [Final Exam Schedule](#) site. No requests for early examinations or alternative days will be approved.

Content Warning

I acknowledge that each of you comes to PLNU with your own unique life experiences. This contributes to the way you perceive various types of information. In [class name], all of the class content, including that which may be intellectually or emotionally challenging, has been intentionally curated to achieve the learning goals for this course. The decision to include such material is not taken lightly. These topics include [list topics]. If you encounter a topic that is intellectually challenging for you, it can manifest in feelings of discomfort and upset. In response, I encourage you to come talk to me or your friends or family about it. Class topics are discussed for the sole purpose of expanding your intellectual engagement in the area of [subject/major], and I will support you throughout your learning in this course.

Trigger Warning

I acknowledge that each of you comes to PLNU with your own unique life experiences. This contributes to the way you perceive several types of information. In [class name], we will cover a variety of topics, some of which you may find triggering. These topics include [list topics]. Each time this topic appears in a reading or unit, it is marked on the syllabus. The experience of being triggered versus intellectually challenged are different. The main difference is that an individual must have experienced trauma to experience being triggered, whereas an intellectual challenge has nothing to do with trauma. If you are a trauma survivor and encounter a topic in this class that is triggering for you, you may feel overwhelmed or panicked and find it difficult to concentrate. In response, I encourage you to take the necessary steps for your emotional safety. This may include leaving class while the topic is discussed or talking to a therapist at the Counseling Center. Should you choose to sit out on discussion of a certain topic, know that you are still responsible for the material; but we can discuss if there are other methods for accessing that material, and for assessing your learning on that material. Class topics are discussed for the sole purpose of expanding your intellectual engagement in the area of [subject/major], and I will support you throughout your learning in this course.

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 Recording Notification

In order to enhance the learning experience, please be advised that this course may be recorded by the professor for educational purposes, and access to these recordings will be limited to enrolled students and authorized personnel.

Note that all recordings are subject to copyright protection. Any unauthorized distribution or publication of these recordings without written approval from the University (refer to the Dean) is strictly prohibited.

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. For all student appeals, faculty and students should follow the procedures outlined 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, Gemini Pro 1.5, GrammarlyGo, Perplexity, etc) 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.

PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). 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 work with the student to create an Accommodation Plan (AP) that outlines allowed accommodations. The EAC makes accommodations available to professors at the student's request.

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. Accommodations are not retroactive so clarifying with the professor at the outset is one of the best ways to promote positive academic outcomes.

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. Students cannot assume that because they had accommodations in the past, their eligibility at PLNU is automatic. All determinations at PLNU must go through the EAC process. This is to protect the privacy of students with disabilities who may not want to disclose this information and are not asking for any special accommodations.

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.

If you (or someone you know) have experienced a bias incident regarding language, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/bias.

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.

If you (or someone you know) have experienced other forms of discrimination or bias, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/bias

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 you 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](#).