



Department of Literature, Journalism,  
Writing & Languages

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**Course:** Spa 101-14  
**Semester:** Fall 2018  
**Title:** Elementary Spanish I  
**Class Hours:** MWRF 4:00-4:55 pm  
**Units:** 4  
**Class Location:** MWF- BAC 104 (Lab. R –LW 215)

**Professor:** Noelia Domínguez  
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**Phone:** 619-564-2286  
**Office:** Bond Academic Center # 118  
**Office Hours:** by apt.

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**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 becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.*

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

An introductory course emphasizing 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. Conducted entirely in Spanish.

**GENERAL EDUCATION COURSE:**

Elementary Spanish is one of the components of the General Education program at PLNU, 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.

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

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

1. Speak Spanish at the mid to high novice level using basic formulaic and memorized materials within the student's own experience.
2. Comprehend basic connected discourse that uses vocabulary and grammar within the student's own experience.
3. Write discrete sentences as well as simple connected paragraphs using memorized vocabulary and grammar structures.
4. Read cultural readings that employ familiar vocabulary and cognates as well as learned grammatical structures.
5. Demonstrate comprehension of basic cultural mores and patterns of living of the target culture(s) studied.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

- PORTALES Code. For the best price and free shipping, go to: [https://vistahigherlearning.com/catalog/product/view/id/5393/s/portales-008/\(aprox. \\$220\)](https://vistahigherlearning.com/catalog/product/view/id/5393/s/portales-008/(aprox. $220)). It is optional to get the loose-leaf edition if you prefer having a hard copy.

- TalkAbroad conversation (One 30 minute conversation is required) for \$25. TalkAbroad website: <https://talkabroad.com>.
- Dictionary <http://www.wordreference.com/>
- Laptop for in-class online homework and group activities

### COURSE EVALUATION:

45%	Chapter Exams (7)
10%	Online Homework
10%	Individual Participation & Group Work
13%	Oral Exams (2)
15%	Final Exam
4%	Cultural Activities (2)
3%	Talk Abroad (1)

A=100-93; A- = 92-90; B+= 89-87; B= 86-83; B- =82-80; C+= 79-77; C=76-73;  
C- =72-70; D+= 69-67; D= 66-63; D- =62-60; F= 59-0

**Participation:** You are expected to actively speak in Spanish at all times; therefore, you will receive an individual grade based on the quality and quantity of your participation in Spanish (for individual, as well as small group activities in class). In order to earn participation points, you must be present in class; therefore, attendance and participation are inextricably linked. However, merely attending class does not guarantee a certain amount of participation points. Participation points cannot be made up; therefore it is to your best interest to attend class every day. Since the ultimate goal of this class is to help you communicate in the foreign language, actual communication in the classroom will be emphasized.

Participation will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- A **participates every single time is requested** (in Spanish) in oral activities with enthusiasm and a positive attitude; **always volunteers** answers to activities that are reviewed in class; frequently asks questions that reflect preparation of material; cooperates in small groups and works actively to keep the group on task; makes a concerted effort to maintain conversation in Spanish.
- B **frequently participates** (in Spanish) in oral activities with enthusiasm and a positive attitude; **almost always volunteers** answers to activities that are reviewed in class; occasionally asks questions that reflect preparation of material; makes constructive contributions in small group work and assists in keeping the group on task; almost always speaks in Spanish.
- C **sometimes participates** (in Spanish) in oral activities with enthusiasm; **sometimes volunteers** answers to activities that are reviewed in class, reflecting inadequate at-home preparation; infrequently asks questions which reflect preparation of material; is often unfocused or does not contribute in small group work; attempts to speak in Spanish, but is limited by vocabulary and/or grammar and English.
- D/F late or missed class; lack of at-home preparation makes it difficult for student to participate in oral activities; rarely volunteers answers to activities that are reviewed in class; does not ask questions which reflect prior review of material; lapses into English frequently and does not stay focused on tasks in small groups; browse the internet/cell phone while class is going on.

Important information regarding attendance:

- Course attendance policy:**  
 Students are expected to be present when class begins and remain the entire class time. Students' participation grade will be affected every time they miss a class. *Each unexcused absence after the second will also reduce student's final grade by 1 point.*  
If a student misses a class, it is his/her responsibility to find out what was discussed in class and what homework was assigned. If the student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings, the faculty member can file a written report which may result in 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 the appropriate grade for their work and participation. See Academic Policies in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog.
- What constitutes an excusable absence:**  
 Excusable absences include: medical emergencies, illnesses, subpoenas, jury duty, military service, religious holidays, and participation in university sponsored events. Students must provide an official letter or note with contact information from the agency, organization, or institution involved. Work, family vacations, planned trips or social events are not acceptable excuses.
- How tardiness affects student grades:**  
 Arriving late to class or leaving early disrupts the class and negatively impacts the learning experience. The student's participation grade will be lowered for tardiness. *Each two days late will count as one absence.* Students who arrive late to an exam will only be given the remaining exam time to complete the exam. No oral sections will be repeated due to tardiness. If the tardiness is the result of an excusable situation the student must see his/her instructor immediately after the exam.

**Homework & Study Time:** Students will have daily homework. These will include online activities as well as any other activities assigned by the instructor. Doing the homework without studying first is NOT the way to succeed in this course. Students are strongly encouraged to study grammar rules and vocabulary before doing the online homework. For every hour of in-class instruction, it is reasonable to expect to spend approximately 2 hours of self-guided studying and memorization outside the classroom. Please, plan your schedule accordingly.

**Chapter Exams:** The *cumulative* chapter exams will assess listening-comprehension, vocabulary, grammar, writing and reading. Students are encouraged to: a) plan each answers before start writing. Exams written with erasable pens or pencils will not be collected; b) review the spelling before turn in the exam. Partial grade will not be granted. Exam grades will not be curved. *The lowest test grade will be dropped in the final calculation of the course grade.*

**Oral Exams:** Two individual oral exams will be administered by your instructor during the semester; one mid-semester and the second toward the end. Your instructor will provide you with additional information regarding the date, format, procedure and evaluation criteria in advance. Your instructor will provide time to practice during class.

**Final Exam:** A *cumulative final exam* will be administered on **Friday, December 14th, 10:30am-1:00pm**. Location TBA. It will assess listening-comprehension, vocabulary, grammar, writing and reading of ALL materials covered during the semester. No requests for early examinations or alternative days will be approved.

**Cultural Credit and Talk Abroad:**

Spanish is much more than a fifty-five-minute class four days a week. PLNU students will have many other opportunities to speak Spanish and/or to learn more about Hispanic cultures. Cultural engagement assignments are specific events or activities that challenge students to get out and see something concerning

Spanish-speaking culture in the San Diego/Tijuana area (Spanish church service, “Día de los Muertos” cultural event, dance classes, film festivals, performances and shows, Ministry with Mexico weekend or day trips, or other activities put on by the community for the community). Not just any assignment can fulfill this requirement; the two activities will be approved by the instructor. Students will turned in a proof of attendance (church program, photographs, tickets, etc) and a brief description of what students have learnt written in Spanish.

Students also will have the chance to practice their oral skills through a Talk Abroad session with a native speaker of Spanish. More instructions will be provide it during class.

#### **ADDITIONAL INFO:**

**Late assignments:** It is the student’s responsibility to keep informed of current due dates of all assignments. NO MAKE UPS on any assignments will be granted. There will not be extra credits at the end of the semester. Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances.

#### **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.

#### **Honor Code Statement:**

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.

#### **PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy**

If you have a diagnosed disability, please contact PLNU’s Disability Resource Center (DRC) within the first two weeks of class to demonstrate need and to register for accommodation by phone at 619-849-2486 or by e-mail at [DRC@pointloma.edu](mailto:DRC@pointloma.edu). See [Disability Resource Center](#) for additional information.