

Spanish 201 - Intermediate Spanish I

Cecilia Benenati

benenati@lclark.edu

Office: Miller Building, 3rd floor, office #335

Phone: 503-768-7432

This syllabus is a written contract between student and instructor. Please read it carefully and contact the instructor if you need further clarification. If you decide to continue in this course, it means that you have thoroughly read the syllabus and accept all requirements as stated. Syllabus and course calendar are subject to change by the instructor. The instructor reserves the right to modify course content and/or substitute assignments and learning activities in response to institutional, weather or class situations.

Course objectives: Spanish 201 is the third semester of the two-semester first year sequence. The objectives of the course are: 1) to reinforce and strengthen the basic language skills learned in the first year through an active learning experience with emphasis on speaking, 2) to develop students' awareness and understanding of the Hispanic world through the use of authentic materials and situations. This course emphasizes all five areas of language-learning: listening, speaking, reading, writing and culture. The course will be conducted in Spanish.

Learning Outcome: By successfully completing this course, it is expected that the student will reach the **Intermediate Low** level in the four language skills, as defined by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). For more information, go to [ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines - Intermediate Low](#).

Three very important words to remember: **PATIENCE - PERSEVERANCE - DISCIPLINE**

Class meetings will be dedicated to a variety of activities designed to help you practice the material you have studied at home. It is imperative that you prepare for class by reading assigned pages and completing the assigned homework. As a rule, you should study an average of two hours outside of class for every hour spent in class. You will frequently work with a partner, in small groups or cooperate as a whole class. It is very important that you make every effort to speak only Spanish in class.

Preparation for class: Exercises from the textbook VISTAS. If the exercises require you to give complete answers, please write them down, so you will be ready to read from your notes and participate in correcting things in class. **PLEASE DO NOT USE Supersite to do the exercises assigned from the textbook. I don't want the program to correct your mistakes without explaining why they are wrong. I want to do that in class together.**

Grades will be based on the following areas: (all areas are worth the same, so you need to pass all areas to pass the class)

Note: Since this course fulfills a Lewis & Clark general course requirement, it is only offered for a grade.

1- ORAL: Attendance, preparation, participation, improvement of your pronunciation and oral skills, special oral presentations, oral interviews and/or oral exams. [Please see detailed explanation of the GRADING CRITERIA for participation in class.](#)

Participation: You are required to participate orally in class. Learning a language requires practice. One of the main goals of this course is to achieve oral proficiency, the ability to get a message across to a listener and understand what he or she says in response. Time in the classroom will be devoted to developing oral communication skills, and you will be expected to take an active role in all activities. Basic grammar is also seen in class but since the book explains it in English, you are required to study the grammar at home before each class, as assigned in the TAREAS page on my website. **PLEASE DO NOT USE Supersite to do the exercises assigned from the textbook. I don't want the program to correct your mistakes without explaining why they are wrong. I want to do that in class together.**

You cannot learn a language passively - You cannot learn a language by cramming
- You cannot learn to speak fluently in one semester

It is important to remember that you can't learn a language just by joining the class and sitting there. Your brain needs to internalize the new data then rehearse it by practicing the newly acquired speech patterns. This means that dedicated and serious participation pays dividends. Since language acquisition is by nature a cumulative cognitive process, you can't hope to learn it all the night before an exam.

Do a little every day and you'll progress faster. Last, you need to realize that you will not be a fluent speaker of Spanish after one semester, or even one year of college Spanish. **Don't get frustrated, don't give up; nobody learns a language that quickly.**

Class is conducted in Spanish, and you are expected to participate in Spanish at all times.

Cell phones: You are NOT allowed to use your cell phone in class, unless your instructor asks you to do so. Keep them in your bag at all times and off or silenced.

Please DO NOT bring food to class. You can't eat, talk and pronounce correctly at the same time!

PLEASE USE THE RESTROOMS BEFORE COMING TO CLASS. Having students coming and going during class is extremely disrupting.

Absences: You have up to **3 absences** with no impact on your grade. If you must miss a class, please notify me before class if possible. Further absences will lower your grade. If you are absent for medical reasons or other extreme and unforeseen events, it is your responsibility to provide me with official written documentation as soon as possible. Students with 6 or more absences will automatically fail the course.

Tardies: If you are 5-9 minutes late to class, it is considered as one tardy (4 tardies = 1 absence). If you are 10 minutes late, it is considered an absence.

2- HOMEWORK TO HAND IN: "Para entregar" homework (to hand in) **must be typed and it has to follow a specific format.** **Accents** are very important in Spanish, so I **will not accept** any homework with no accents or accents done by hand. These papers (3/4 altogether) will be typed, printed and left on the instructor's desk at the beginning of the class the day they are due. If you can't come to class that day, make sure you email me a copy of the paper or share it with me before our class starts. These papers are not "graded". I want you to practice new structures and new vocabulary, so I will not "punish" you with a grade. If you hand it on time and follow the process, your paper is approved and you are done. Failure to do this will result in an F. Hand it in on time, correct it, meet with the instructor, hand in the final/corrected version. Everything should be done within 2 weeks.

Explanations of [homework corrections](#)

3- HOMEWORK FOR CLASS: Is assigned to be done with the textbook, my website, etc.

4- LESSON/CHAPTER TESTS: This grade will be the average of all the lesson/chapter tests. Test dates are posted on the chart at the beginning of the homework page. If you are planning on missing a lesson test, YOU HAVE to email me as soon as you know. If you miss a test and you haven't talked to me beforehand to make arrangements, the test grade is F.

5- FINAL EXAM: Since the final reflects the overall comprehension and ability to communicate in Spanish, it is an area in itself and you have to get a minimum of 60% on it to pass. At the same time, because it is a comprehensive test and causes a lot of stress to students, I will average the exam's grade with the rest of your lesson/chapter tests. In this way if the test is not that good, it will not affect your final grade in a big way. If it is better than what you've been getting during the semester, I'll consider this and adjust your final grade to reflect this improvement.

It is your responsibility to keep track of your progress in the class. If you have questions about grades or your standing in the class don't hesitate to ask me during office hours. I will give you a midterm grade report with an estimate of your grade at that point.

EVALUATION AND GRADES

Exams and final grade: Grades on exams and your final grade are based on the following scale:

A: 95-100 A-: 90-94.5 B+: 86-89.5 B: 83-85.5 B-: 80-82.5 C+: 76-79.5 C: 73-75.5
C-: 70-72.5 D+: 65-69.5 D: 60-64 F: 0-59

Accommodations: If you have a disability or learning difference that may impact your academic performance, you may request accommodations by submitting documentation to the [Office of Student Accessibility](#) in Suite 206 Albany Quadrangle (x7156). After you have submitted documentation and filled out paperwork requesting accommodations for our course, staff in that office will notify me of the accommodations for which you are eligible. I also hope you will talk with me at the beginning of the semester about how I can assist you with your learning preferences.

Academic Integrity: Acts of academic dishonesty involve the use or attempted use of any method or technique enabling a student to misrepresent the quality or integrity of their academic work (This includes the use of A.I. to write your papers instead of using your creative ability, unless instructed by your professor). If you can't reproduce a similar level of communication of what you wrote on a paper or a test at a later time in a conversation with me or a proctored re-write, I'll assume you got help. Academic dishonesty with respect to examinations includes but is not limited to copying from the work of another, allowing another student to copy from one's own work, using crib notes, arranging for another person to substitute in taking an examination, giving or receiving unauthorized information prior to or during the examination, or using any type of electronic help during the test. Academic dishonesty with respect to written or other types of assignments includes but is not limited to failure to acknowledge the ideas or words of another that have consciously been taken from a source, published or unpublished; placing one's name on papers, reports, or other documents that are the work of another individual or A.I., whether published or unpublished; flagrant misuse of the assistance provided by another in the process of completing academic work; submission of the same paper or project for separate courses without prior authorization by faculty members; fabrication or alteration of data; or knowingly facilitating the academic dishonesty of another. [Lewis & Clark Academic Integrity Policy](#).

Resources:

[SAAB Tutoring](#): SAAB Tutoring is a free peer-to-peer tutoring program for all students at L&C. Tutoring is a useful and informal way to study for a test, ask questions about homework, review notes, or practice your skills. Students are eligible to receive two hours of tutoring per course each week.

[Office of Student Accessibility](#): The Office of Student Accessibility engages and assists students as they navigate their academic and personal experiences at Lewis & Clark. For accommodations contact this office located in Albany 206 (x7156).

[College Advising Center](#): Advising appointments (non-faculty advisors) and resources.

[Registrar's Office](#): Transcripts, Academic Catalog, Academic Calendar, Course schedule, Forms, Resources, etc.

Title IX is a section from the Education Amendments Act of 1972, which states the following:

"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

The College prohibits all forms of sexual or gender-based harassment, discrimination or violence. Prohibited conduct includes sexual harassment, sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking. A person affected by prohibited conduct can seek confidential assistance, can privately request supportive measures, and can request formal investigation and disciplinary proceedings by the College. For more information go to [Title IX Compliance page](#).

Course Withdrawals: You may drop this course on WebAdvisor by Friday of the second week of class and no W grade will appear on your transcript. After the second week and before 4pm on Friday of the 10th week, you can withdraw from the course by submitting a Course Withdrawal form to the Registrar's Office. In this case, a W grade will appear on your transcript. For the last day to withdraw check the homework chart on the Tareas page. It is not possible for me to authorize your withdrawal from the course after that date. At that point, you will need to complete the course and take whatever grade you have earned. If you have questions or concerns about your performance in the course, please talk with me asap.

Indigenous Land Acknowledgement:

Lewis & Clark College purposefully reflects on the history of the land it occupies. Prior to the newcomers arriving in this area, the indigenous land of what would later be called Multnomah County was home to many tribal people. We honor the indigenous people on whose traditional and ancestral homelands we stand: the Multnomah, Kathlamet, Clackamas, Tumwater, and Watalala bands of the Chinook; the Tualatin Kalapuya; and many other indigenous nations of the Columbia River.

It is important to acknowledge the ancestors of this place and recognize that we are here because of the sacrifices forced upon them. In remembering these communities, we honor their legacy, their lives, and their descendants.