

Course Syllabus: Elementary Spanish I

*Example of SPNS 101 from MSU—course in Costa Rica will differ slightly

Required Texts and Materials

¡Viva! textbook by Donley and Blanco

¡Viva! Workbook/video Manual and Lab Manual available for use online- **Envelope with book key for logging on to Web-SAM (Free with text)**

¡Viva! textbook activities CD, Interactive CD-ROMs, Vocab CD, Escenas Video CD-ROM

Spanish Dictionary- use the one that comes with the text or purchase another

Objectives:

In this course you will learn to communicate in Spanish and have basic conversations. Emphasis in this course will be placed on communication in the target language. We will work on pronunciation and spontaneous speech. In addition to speaking you will learn to read and write in Spanish. You will also learn about the cultures of Spanish-speaking peoples around the world.

Assignments:

Homework:

Most homework assignments will be completed online using the *¡Viva!* Workbook/Lab Manual. I will check your work online to ensure that homework assignments have been completed. We will complete video assignments during class. The language lab (Room 333 Reid) will be available for completion of online homework assignments. All other homework assignments will be announced with plenty of notice.

In-Class assignments:

Occasionally I will collect in-class writing from group or individual activities. I grade leniently on these. You will be graded on participation; therefore, I encourage you to ask questions and fully participate in class and group activities. Participation grades are based on effort, not on accuracy.

Compositions:

You will write two short (one page) essays for this class. Details and due dates will be given later. You will need to keep all notes, outlines, rough drafts, etc.. You will turn in everything for a grade.

TA help sessions:

You will be required to attend at least 2 TA help sessions over the course of the semester. Schedules for help sessions will be announced later.

Tests:

Tests will be given on each chapter except the last one of the semester. That chapter will be covered on the final. Because of the nature of language learning all tests are cumulative and may include any of the material you have previously learned. **There will be no make-up exams unless you notify me of your absence before the scheduled exam and have an absolutely fabulous and amazing excuse.** You must contact one of my TA's to schedule your make-up. When and where the TA's give the make-ups is up to them.

Final Exam:

The final exam will be cumulative, just like the chapter tests. You will need to keep your chapter tests to study for the final. Part of the final exam will be a brief individual oral exam in which I will look for pronunciation and oral proficiency. (Don't worry, it's easy)

Attendance:

I will take attendance every day. You are allowed 3 **unexcused** absences. Absences may be excused due to illness, family emergency etc. These excused absences do not count toward your 3 absences. More than 3

unexcused absences will lower your participation grades and may severely affect your final grade. Besides continued absence will hurt my feelings.

Evaluation of Student Proficiency:

- Attendance and Participation: 10%
- Homework 15%
- Compositions 10%
- Tests 40%
- Final exam 15%
- Oral Exam 5%
- TA help sessions 5%