

The University of Vermont  
Department of Romance Languages and Linguistics  
**Elementary Spanish 001**  
**sample syllabus**

**I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

SPAN 001 is the first course in a two-semester sequence of beginning Spanish. It is designed for the student with little or no prior knowledge of the language. The course emphasizes all four skills: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to use their newly acquired skills in order to communicate in Spanish in a realistic and culturally appropriate manner. All classes will be taught in Spanish. The University of Vermont respects the Department of Education's definition of a credit hour. For every hour spent in class, you are expected to spend approximately 2 hours outside of class. Thus, in SPAN 001, a 4-credit course, you should plan to spend about 8 hours a week outside of the classroom preparing assignments and studying.

**II. COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

- describe yourself and others
- initiate and maintain a basic conversation
- compare and contrast people and ideas
- speak and write about current activities
- begin to speak and write about past activities
- express likes and dislikes
- fill out simple forms and documents, and provide basic biographical information
- engage in the reading of short, simple texts
- have a broader cultural knowledge of the Spanish-speaking communities and countries of the world today

**III. COURSE MATERIALS:**

José Blanco. *Portales: Introductory Spanish*. Vista, 2016 (loose-leaf package and e-code). ISBN: 978-1-68004-196-5

**IV. GRADE BREAKDOWN:**

1. Partial exams	30%
2. Final Exam (comprehensive)	20%
3. Class participation	15%
4. Homework	10%
5. Quizzes (number open)	10%
6. Oral exam (open)	10%
7. Compositions, journals, special projects, etc.	5%
	<u>100%</u>

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*This is just an example of a grade breakdown. Instructors may tailor the grade breakdown to their own courses and are not limited to these classifications or percentages.*

1. Partial exams (30%)

The scheduled partial exams in this class will be given on the following dates:

There will be no make-up exams in this class without an official excuse.

*Official excuses may consist of: religious holidays (during the first 2 weeks of classes, you should submit a letter to your instructor with the dates and reasons for your absences); UVM-sponsored events (during the first 2 weeks of classes, you should submit a letter to your instructor, on UVM letterhead and signed by your supervisor or coach, with the dates and reasons for your absences); Dean's excuse (contact your Dean's Office if you have a serious reason to miss classes or tests and they will email your instructor).*

2. Final Exam (20%)

The final exam for this class is comprehensive and is scheduled for:

No make-ups will be given without an official excuse.

3. Class participation, absences, and late arrivals (15%)

Participation

In the SPAN 001 classroom, active and constructive class participation is a requirement. Speaking a foreign language with proficiency is an acquired skill that entails consistent practice and self-discipline. In this class, active participation includes volunteering answers, answering questions accurately, staying on task in pair and group work, and respecting the classroom environment rules.

Absences

More than four (4) unexcused absences (i.e., absences for which you do not have an official excuse) will lower your final grade. Unexcused absences may include light illness, faulty alarm clocks, and delayed flights...

Late arrivals

Three (3) late arrivals equal one absence in this course.

4. Homework (10%)

You must respect your instructor's homework guidelines. Please use high-quality dictionaries, avoid automatic translators, and carefully review your work. Late homework will not be accepted.

5. Quizzes (10%)

The missed quiz policy for this section of SPAN 001 is the following:

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6. Oral exam (10%)

Oral exams are designed to evaluate speaking and listening skills; please refer to the course schedule for the oral exam dates. No make-ups will be given without an official excuse.

7. Compositions, projects, journals, etc. =other homework (5%)

Grading scale used in all Romance Languages and Linguistics courses at UVM:

97% - 100%	=	A+
94% - 96%	=	A
90% - 93%	=	A-
87% - 89%	=	B+
84% - 86%	=	B
80% - 83%	=	B-
77% - 79%	=	C+
74% - 76%	=	C
70% - 73%	=	C-
67% - 69%	=	D+
64% - 66%	=	D
60% - 63%	=	D-
0% - 59%	=	F

**V. VARIA**

1. Academic integrity: It is plagiarism to present another's ideas or words as your own. In a foreign language classroom, this includes computer-based translations. If you have questions when preparing a composition or other graded assignment, please ask your instructor. Do not have someone else correct your writing for you before turning it in for a grade. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense, and can result in a failing grade or worse.  
(<http://www.uvm.edu/sconduct/?Page=ah.html&SM=menu-programs.html>)
2. Student learning accommodations: In keeping with University policy, any student with a documented disability interested in utilizing accommodations should contact ACCESS, the office of Student Accessibility Services on campus ([www.uvm.edu/access](http://www.uvm.edu/access)).
3. Religious Holidays: Students have the right to practice the religion of their choice. If you need to miss class to observe a religious holiday, please submit the dates of your absence to your instructor in writing by the end of the second full week of classes. You will be permitted to make up work within a mutually agreed-upon time.

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4. Resources for language students:
- The Language Resource Center at the University of Vermont:  
<http://www.uvm.edu/~uvmlrc>
  - Free tutoring at the Tutoring Center: [www.uvm.edu/learnco](http://www.uvm.edu/learnco)
  - Bailey Howe Library Media Collections
  - UVM has a subscription to SCOLA, the international television service:  
[www.scola.org](http://www.scola.org)
  - Meeting times for the Spanish language conversation group will be announced at the beginning of the semester.

*Tentative course schedule to follow*

SAMPLE