

LG 131 - INTRODUCTORY SPANISH I

University of South Alabama
Fall 2009

Instructor:

e-mail:

Sections/Class times:

Office:

Office Hours:

LG 131 is the first term of the two-semester sequence in Introductory Spanish. The goal of the sequence is to achieve a basic proficiency in understanding, speaking, reading, and writing Spanish and to acquire basic knowledge of the cultures of the Hispanic world.

TEXTS/REQUIRED MATERIALS

- a) Heining-Boynton, Cowell. ¡Anda! (Custom Edition for the University of South Alabama). Pearson, 2009.
- b) MySpanishLab. Pearson. *On-Line*.

COURSE GOALS FOR LG 131 AND 132

1. To pronounce Spanish correctly; that is, to approximate an accent that a native speaker would readily understand.
2. To understand spoken Spanish on familiar topics.
3. To use an active vocabulary of basic words.
4. To understand and employ grammatical concepts correctly in order to communicate effectively.
5. To converse about familiar topics briefly in Spanish.
6. To read and write Spanish within the vocabulary range appropriate to a novice level.
7. To demonstrate a basic knowledge of those aspects of Hispanic culture addressed in the course.

EVALUATION:

Exams (5 @ 8%)	40%
Final Exam	30%
MySpanishLab	20%
<u>Participation</u>	<u>10%</u>
Total	100%

GRADING SCALE:

90 - 100	A (Excelente)
80 - 89	B (Muy Bien)
70 - 79	C (Pasable)
60 - 69	D (Malo)
0 - 59	F (Inaceptable)

Course and Grading

ATTENDANCE

There are three hours of instruction per week and approximately one to two hours lab work (online) per week. Since this is an interactive course that develops skills, **attendance is very important**. A maximum of three absences is permitted but not encouraged. Absences beyond the maximum will result in a deduction of one point (MWF) per absence from the final grade for a maximum of 10 points. **There will be no make-up examinations.** (For a description of the university's attendance policy consult the *University Bulletin*.)

EXAMS

1. Tests will be given throughout the semester as they appear on the syllabus.

2. The final exam will be given according to the time/date on the USA Final Examination Schedule. **The final exam will be comprehensive.**
3. There will be no going outside of the classroom –for any reason- during an exam.
4. Once the oral section of the exam is given it will not be repeated for any reason. (i.e. late arrival to exam, etc.)
5. Nonessential items will not be permitted on your desk for any reason during an exam.
6. No personal alarms are to be active during exams. (i.e. cell phones, pagers, and the like)

PARTICIPATION

Regular, punctual and active/informed participation in class is crucial to your progress in this class and will be reflected in your class participation grade. Your participation grade will be assessed on the basis of 1) your use of Spanish, 2) your classroom and online activities/quizzes, 3) your willingness to participate, and 4) your level of preparedness.

Homework is important and will be detailed online at MySpanishLab. New materials will be taught and learned every day. Increase your knowledge and skills bit by bit. Foreign language learning is cumulative. Use (practice) what you learn. Do not simply study the material, but seek out opportunities to speak the language. Daily review of learned material is essential for internalizing the language. Please note the statement in the *University Bulletin*, “Each hour of lecture usually requires two hours of outside preparation.”

After the first class meeting, written and/or listening exercises are to be completed as detailed online at MySpanishLab. You can expect to be asked questions on any assigned material at any time. Be sure to talk to your instructor as soon as you feel that you are encountering difficulties with the material.

MYSPANISHLAB

No late work will be accepted. After the first class meeting, written and/or listening exercises are to be completed as detailed online at MySpanishLab. No late work will be accepted.

Other Course Policies, etc.

RETROACTIVE CREDIT/PLACEMENT CRITERIA:

The Department offers retroactive credit for students who place in a higher level course up to and through LG 231, Intermediate Spanish I. Students who have taken the equivalent of three years of high school Spanish usually place into LG 132. At the end of the semester, if the student makes a C or better, s/he may petition for credit for LG 131. Students who have taken the equivalent of four or five years of high school Spanish (Honors/ AP/ IB) usually place into LG 231, Intermediate Spanish I (LG 231). At the end of the semester, if the student in LG 231 makes a C or better s/he may petition for credit for LG 131 and LG 132 – a total of 6 credit hours.

MAJORING or MINORING in Foreign Languages with a concentration in Spanish:

Students can obtain more information about this department, the Spanish program at USA, and study abroad opportunities on the Department's homepage: <http://www.usouthal.edu/languages>.

Another source of valuable information is: <http://www.usouthal.oie>.

STUDY METHODS:

Students should work to acquire and improve all **four language skills**: comprehension, speaking,

reading, and writing. A new language is learned most effectively by using it. Therefore it is necessary to attend class regularly to take advantage of the opportunities for practicing it. Classes will be conducted predominantly in Spanish, and even though you will not understand every word, especially at first, regular participation will insure progress in listening skills. In the formal and informal speaking activities you should not be afraid to make mistakes -- your goal is to communicate with native speakers of Spanish, and it is understandable that you will make errors at first. As your study continues, however, your mistakes should become less and less frequent. Read the grammar explanations at home so that as much class time as possible can be spent on oral practice. Do not be afraid to ask questions about matters that you do not understand, however. Your participation grade is based on an assessment of your active and daily preparation for class and your willingness to participate in class activities. Since people learn at different paces it is important that everyone feel comfortable speaking Spanish in class. Please be respectful of your fellow students!

TUTORING is offered by the department. The tutors have regularly scheduled office hours in the Language Resource Center (HUMB 337) to provide extra help and practice. Please look for posted signs that announce their schedules. Take advantage of this free service early on, especially if you are having difficulty with some aspect of the language.

LANGUAGE RESOURCE CENTER (LRC):

This multi-media language facility is located in HUMB 337. Only students who are currently enrolled in a Foreign Language will have access to the center. The LRC is an excellent place to do all computer-related homework, explore websites related to the Hispanic world, watch Spanish language satellite television, watch international movies, meet other language students, and seek help/practice from the tutors. To access the LRC, you must show your valid photo ID to the lab attendant.

INTERNET: Students can obtain more information about this department, the Spanish program at

USA, study abroad opportunities on the Department's homepage: <http://www.usouthal.edu/languages>.

The Spanish page of the Department's website has links to other pages of interest: <http://www.usouthal.edu/languages/spanish.htm>. You might want to bookmark these pages to access these sites more quickly.

IF YOU HAVE A DOCUMENTED DISABILITY that qualifies you for academic accommodations, please notify the instructor and provide certification from Disability Services, in the Office of Special Student Services (Student Center 270, phone 460-7212).

PLAGIARISM --- in accordance with the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, we will define plagiarism as "a form of cheating that involves two kinds of wrongs: 1) **intellectual theft** -- using another person's ideas, information, or expressions without acknowledgement of the person's work and 2) **fraud** -- proclaiming someone else's ideas, information, or expressions as your own." Violations of academic integrity will be reported to the Dept. Chair for departmental action. This will include copying homework assignments.

WAIVER: Changes in the syllabus due to unforeseen circumstances may occur. Students will be notified of any modifications in advance.

