

LG 231 - INTERMEDIATE SPANISH I

University of South Alabama

Fall 2009

Instructor:

e-mail:

Sections/Class times:

Office:

Office Hours:

Intermediate Spanish I is the first of a two-semester sequence in Intermediate Spanish. The goal of the sequence is to promote communication in cultural contexts, and to further language proficiency in the four basic language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. By the end of the two-semester sequence, the student is expected to speak and write on the low to medium intermediate level, and listen and read at the medium to high intermediate level.

Texts/Required Materials:

- a) González-Aguilar, Rosso-O’Laughlin. Atando cabos (Custom Edition for the University of South Alabama). Pearson, 2009.
- b) MySpanishLab. Pearson. On-Line.

Course Goals for LG 231 and 232:

1. To understand spoken Spanish on topics ranging from social to moderately academic.
2. To write in Spanish on topics ranging from social to moderately academic.
3. To read Spanish language newspapers and news magazines.
4. To master a vocabulary of 5,000 words over the course of the two semesters.
5. To conduct social conversations with ease (*LG 232).
6. To demonstrate an educated knowledge of Hispanic countries, their people and cultural contributions.

Grade Evaluation

MySpanishLab/Participation	20%
Service Learning Project	15%
Oral Exam	10%
Chapter Exams (5 @ 6%)	30%
Final Exam	<u>25%</u>
	100%

Grading Scale

90 – 100	A (Excelente)
80 – 89	B (Muy Bien)
70 – 79	C (Regular)
60 – 69	D (Malo)
0 – 59	F (Inacceptable)

Course and Grading

MySpanishLab/Participation:

MySpanishLab/Attendance Policy: Students are to come **prepared** to class. After the first class meeting, written *and/or* listening exercises are to be completed as detailed online at MySpanishLab. Class-time will be used for practice, interaction, and other communicative activities. Absences are strongly discouraged. *Any* absence beyond **two** will result in a **deduction** of two points per absence from the total final average. Late arrivals, even by 5 minutes, are absolutely discouraged and three of them are equivalent to an absence. There will be **no** make-ups for tests and quizzes. Assignments are due as indicated on the syllabus, as assigned in class, or as indicated in MySpanishLab. Ten points from the final grade of said assignment will be deducted for each day late except for MySpanishLab in which no late assignments will be accepted.

Participation: 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 ensure 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! Your participation 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. *Bear in mind that cell phone ringing/using, text messaging, sleeping, tardy arriving, leaving class early, and the like do not constitute being prepared and will result in grade penalties.*

Please note the statement in the *University Bulletin*, "Each hour of lecture usually requires two hours of outside preparation." 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.

Service Learning Project : Service learning incorporates two fundamental components SERVICE, defined as a project that meets an identifiable community need; and LEARNING, classroom activities and reflection which connect the service project to the academic curriculum. The goal of the Service Learning Project is to present you with practical, real-life experiences in which your cultural awareness and relative proficiency in a foreign language may be utilized through service to the community. The hope is that through a service learning component you will realize a practical application of your developing skills while beginning a lifelong interest in community service and civic responsibility. This project represents a new disciplinary link to the growing Service Learning program at USA. The Service Learning experience will be reflected in written class assignments for journals and compositions.

Evaluation

Your grade will be determined by your conscientious dedication to the service you select and the reflective quality of your journals and written report.

Your service

This semester you will perform 4 hours (minimum) of Service Learning, which will be outside of the classroom at your own convenience at the agency of your choice. You should immediately begin investigating agencies of interest to find out what service you may provide this semester. Your agency must be approved by the professor no later than the third week of class. Your 4 hours must include minimally 2 service visits. Attendance is required, as is being on time for all Service Learning commitments. You are to complete and turn in to your professor one Service Learning credit form for each visit you make this semester. (Credit forms are available online for your printing convenience in MySpanishLab.) The following are *some* ideas for Service Learning Projects: Catholic Charities, Women's Resource Center, Hispanic American Business Association of the Gulf Coast, Legal Aid Services, area school systems, area hospitals, Mobile Bay Convention and Visitors Bureau, Mobile International Festival's Spanish-speaking groups, Municipal Court, Mobile Association for Retarded Citizens, Mobile Association for the Blind, Area Churches (Spanish Services), State Docks, Waterfront Rescue Mission, Mobile AIDS Support Service---just to name a few. Feel free to contact the University of South Alabama Center for Academic Service-Learning and Civic Engagement (located in the Student Center). <http://www.southalabama.edu/academicaffairs/caslce.html>

Journaling

You will be required to write two journal entries summarizing your activities and reflecting on the impact that the service learning component has had on your study of a second language and your cultural awareness, your contribution to the program and your changing perspectives on community involvement. Use the journal to write down new words and interesting language usage that you encounter. Note some of the cultural impressions that are new to you such as nationalities of patients, defendants, or any client you are serving. Note what are the reasons they come to the agencies, what they discuss among themselves or with you, what brought them to Mobile, what experiences positive or negative they have had in this country. Use the journal to document your activities at the sites and to make suggestions. (each entry: *maximum* of two typed pages in Spanish, 12 pt., Times New Roman font, double-spaced)

Your written report

Individual report of lessons learned, reflection, and impressions. In these reports you should answer the following questions: What did I learn through this project? How has my understanding of Hispanic culture been affected or improved? Will the lessons learned in this project be useful to me in the future (for example, academically, professionally)? How? (minimum of two typed pages in Spanish, 12 pt., Times New Roman font, double-spaced)

Oral Exam: The oral exam will be a short 10-12 minute exam with a partner. The date for this exam is indicated on the syllabus. **No make-ups** will be given. This exam consists of two parts: a conversation with the instructor and a role-play with your partner. The conversation will include different tasks such as answering and asking questions and debating opinions on the cultural themes discussed in class and incorporating grammatical structure and vocabulary practiced therein.

Exams: There will be 5 chapter exams and one final exam. The dates for these exams are indicated on the syllabus and there are **no make-ups**. The chapter exams each include all the material from each chapter *even if it was not covered in class* - unless otherwise indicated by the professor. The final examination is partially comprehensive.

Other Course Policies, etc.

Evaluation of Writing/Compositions: Your writing/compositions (for example: MySpanishLab, in class & out of class writing, service learning project) will be graded on content, grammar, language level appropriateness, and overall structure [use of vocabulary, proper introduction and conclusion, paragraph development, etc.] Throughout the course, your professor may ask for a second draft of your writing incorporating the suggestions made by the instructor on the first one. Although no one is to help you with the first draft of any of your writing, you may receive assistance from the professor, the tutors, or other native speakers in order to correct the second draft. **Your grade can go up by a maximum of one letter grade on your second draft yet will automatically decrease by one letter grade for no submitted second draft.*

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.

Examples of violations of academic honesty: Academic dishonesty in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures includes, but is not limited to, the following: copying someone else’s work on a test, using notes (“cheat sheets”) during a closed-book exam, having unauthorized help on compositions, copying homework, submitting the work of anyone else (a friend, a published author, a translation program, a tutor) as one’s own, etc.

Language Resource Center (LRC): This multi-media language facility is located in room 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, to explore websites related to the Hispanic world, participate in Spanish chatrooms, and meet other language students. To access the LRC you will need to leave your ID with the lab attendant and retrieve it when you depart. For more details about the LRC, go to its website:

<http://www.southalabama.edu/languages/lrc/index.html>

Tutoring is offered by the department. The tutors have regularly scheduled office hours in the department 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.

Evaluation of Writing/Compositions: Your writing/compositions (for example: MySpanishLab, in class & out of class writing, service learning project) will be graded on content, grammar, language level appropriateness, and overall structure [use of vocabulary, proper introduction and conclusion, paragraph development, etc.] Throughout the course, your professor may ask for a second draft of your writing incorporating the suggestions made by the instructor on the first one. Although no one is to help you with the first draft of any of your writing, you may receive assistance from the professor, the tutors, or other native speakers in order to correct the second draft. **Your grade can go up by a maximum of one letter grade on your second draft yet will automatically decrease by one letter grade for no submitted second draft.*

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 ABROAD The department of Foreign Languages and Literatures in conjunction with USA's Office of International Education runs study abroad programs in various Hispanic countries. It is highly recommended that students attend the summer session abroad after the completion of the intermediate year (LG 231 and LG 232). For those who plan to minor in Spanish, the study abroad segment completes the requirement. For those who plan to major in Spanish, they are left with only four courses to take to complete the courses in Spanish. The other core requirements for a Foreign Language major include: LG 110 World Languages, IS 100 Global Issues, EH 235 and EH 236 Survey of World Literature I & II, and the Senior Seminar- LG 480. If you start planning early, it is actually quite easy to double-major in Spanish and something else. The cost of a summer program is approximately \$5,000. Majors receive a modest award from the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures to help them finance this cost and numerous online scholarships are available. The cost of the program includes tuition for 9 hours of credit, housing, travel to and from Mobile, food, excursions, and more.

Waiver: Changes in this syllabus due to unforeseen circumstances may occur. Students will be notified of any modifications in advance, whenever possible.

If you have a disability that qualifies you for academic accommodations, please notify your instructor and provide certification from Disability Services (Office of Special Student Services). The Office of Special Student Services is located in the Student Center, Room 270, Phone: 460-7212.