



US 497.01E  
CONVERSATIONAL SPANISH & US  
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2025

### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Christa Yáñez, M.A.

Class meetings: EDS 127, Tuesdays, 12:30 – 1:45PM

Office Location: DTH 119

Office Hours: via Zoom by appointment

University Email Address: Christa.Yanez@tamuc.edu

Communication Response Time: (Important note: *I will respond to emails within 24 hours during the workweek and by the next business day on weekends and holidays.*)

### COURSE INFORMATION

#### Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

All content is available online using various OER resources. All materials will be provided by the instructor and will be available via the course webpage.

- Recommended: A good Spanish-English bilingual dictionary (for instance: *Harper Collins' Spanish Concise Dictionary*. New York: Harper Collins; *Diccionario Español-Inglés Cumbre*. Madrid: Everest.

**Other materials:** Access to a computer with good audio and video interface; also recommended a good headset to complete speaking and listening activities.

**Course Description:** This course is designed for faculty and staff. Tailored to course-taker needs, this class serves as an introductory course in conversational Spanish and Hispanic cultures. Course-takers will learn basic vocabulary and grammar skills with an emphasis on practical use of the Spanish language in an everyday setting.

## **Student Learning Outcomes**

Students who successfully complete the course:

1. can communicate in spoken Spanish on topics of personal and general interest. Level target is Novice-low (ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines.)
2. can understand spoken Spanish discourse related to general daily life topics. Level target is Novice-low (ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines.)
3. can present information on topics of personal and general interest, and cultural content, using practiced phrases and simple expressions. Level target is Novice-low (ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines.)
4. can demonstrate cultural awareness by describing and analyzing products and practices from diverse Spanish-speaking communities around the world, gaining insights on different cultural awareness.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Instructional Methods/Activities/Assessments**

Participation (8 classes x 12.5%): Attendance and full participation in class is required for full credit. For each class meeting, participants will engage in a number of communication tasks related to the weekly topics. Between classes, participants are expected to complete all assigned work and prepare for class.

## **GRADING**

**Course Grades:** The overall grade in the class will be assigned as either S (Satisfactory) = 60% - 100%, or U (Unsatisfactory) = 0% - 59%.

## **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

**LMS:** All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are the technical requirements.

### **LMS Requirements:**

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

### **LMS Browser Support:**

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

**Access and Navigation:**

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES****Course-Specific Policies and Procedures**

Attendance: Attendance, preparation, and full participation are expected and required in this class.

Grades of Incomplete: A grade of Incomplete (X) will not be given in this class.

Late Work: Under normal circumstances, late work is not accepted in this class.

**University-Specific Policies and Procedures****Student Conduct:**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

**ETAMU Attendance:**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

**Academic Integrity:**

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

**AI Use Policy:**

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course. Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism). Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed. In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

**Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement:**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services:**

East Texas A&M University

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

**Nondiscrimination Notice:**

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

**Campus Concealed Carry Statement:**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement

officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and East Texas A&M University Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer. Web URL: <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M University campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

**East Texas A&M University Supports Students’ Mental Health:**

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center’s crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

**Tentative Course Schedule**

Important note: This course schedule is subject to revisions based on pacing and class needs. Any changes to the course schedule will be announced in class and on the course website in advance.

Date	Activities	Readings & Assignments
<b>SEMANA 1</b>		
1/14	<p><b>Module 1: ¡Bienvenidos a la clase de español!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Course introduction and discussion of objectives</li> <li>- Language-learning strategies and cognates</li> <li>- Basic phonetics/pronunciation/punctuation</li> <li>- Greetings/useful expressions/basic introductions</li> <li>- Culture: Diversity of the Spanish-speaking word.</li> </ul>	<p>Complete the course survey, familiarize yourself with the course D2L page and practice greeting people in Spanish. Go online and browse the various resources available to you.</p> <p>In the real world: pay attention to how Spanish-speakers greet each other (mannerisms and vocab.) Read/Listen to media in Spanish and see what cognates you recognize.</p>
<b>SEMANA 2</b>		
1/21	<p><b>Module 2: ¿Quién soy yo y quién eres tú?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduce yourself and others</li> <li>- Describe yourself and others (adjective agreement)</li> <li>- “To be or not to be”: ser vs estar</li> <li>- Subject pronouns: formal and informal “you”</li> <li>- Ask questions: interrogatives</li> </ul>	<p>Utilizing D2L, upload a video/voice recording of yourself doing the following (I will begin):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Greet the person to whom you are responding.</li> <li>2) Answer the question posed.</li> </ol>

	- Culture: Nationalities and Identity	3) Ask another question for the next person. In the real world: introduce yourself to someone in Spanish. Be fearless!
<b>SEMANA 3</b>		
1/28	<b>Module 3: Los pasatiempos y los intereses</b>  - Talk about likes and dislikes - Nouns, articles, gender and number - Hobbies/professions - The basics of present tense verbs -Culture: La Música y El Baile (genres, history and influences)	On our course page, there is a YouTube video of various young people in Mexico being interviewed. Complete the activity that follows. Remember, it is unreasonable to expect yourself to understand everything. Listen for content and utilize strategies learned in class.  In the real world: explore various musical genres of the Spanish-speaking world. Share a song/artist with the class next week!
<b>SEMANA 4</b>		
2/4	<b>Module 4: Los compañeros y la familia</b>  - “Tener” and possession - Members of the family and relationships - Numbers, quantity and comparisons -Culture: Holidays (history, celebration and influences)	On our course page is a YouTube video of a news report on “Three Kings Day” in Puerto Rico. Complete the activity that follows. Extra: did you notice any accent differences? If so, did you find it more or less challenging? Be prepared to discuss.  For next class, bring a photo (or a photo on your phone) of a 2 family members, friends, pets or celebrities. Be prepared to describe their personalities/physical traits and compare them.  In the real word: Listen to/read media of an interview where the interviewee talks about himself/herself. See if you recognize adjectives, family members, etc.
<b>SEMANA 5</b>		
2/11	<b>Module 5: La hora y el tiempo</b>  - Telling time, making plans and reading a schedule -Weather, dates, days of the week, months of the year and seasons -Basic clothing; the verb “llevar” -Culture: La siesta, geography and fashion	Via D2L is a listening/speaking practice exercise. Listen to the questions and record your response to the best of your ability. Remember: no need to seek perfection!

		In the real world: watch a weather report in Spanish. Did you catch any new vocabulary or recognize any cognates?
<b>SEMANA 6</b>		
2/18	<b>Module 6: Los lugares y la vida universitaria</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Places in the city/on campus</li> <li>- Verbs related to travel and education</li> <li>- The verb “ir” and the immediate future</li> <li>- Asking for and giving directions</li> <li>- Travel phrases</li> <li>- Culture: Tourism</li> </ul>	<p>On our course page is a reading activity. Utilize strategies learned in class and answer the questions that follow.</p> <p>In the real world: As you walk across campus or are driving home, think about how you would give those directions in Spanish to someone else.</p>
<b>SEMANA 7</b>		
2/25	<b>Module 7: La gastronomía</b> Special Topics (per class requests) AND/OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Food and ordering at a restaurant</li> <li>- Reading /following a recipe.</li> <li>- Culture: Agriculture</li> </ul>	TBD
<b>SEMANA 8</b>		
3/4	<b>Module 8: La vida cotidiana</b> Special Topics (per class requests) AND/OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Verbs related to daily routines.</li> <li>- Reflexive Construction</li> <li>- Talk about your typical day</li> <li>- Culture: The Indigenous Influence</li> </ul>	TBD