EAST TEXAS A&M
— UNIVERSITY —

SPA 2311 - (9BE)
Intermediate Spanish I
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Arturo Castillo
Office Hours: TWThF – 10:32-11:22 AM
University Email Address: Arturo.Castillo@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

Class meetings

TWThF, 9:38-10:28 AM, BHS

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings Textbook(s) Required
This course uses non-cost Open Educational Resources (OER), which are available online.
- Brown, E., Escudero, A., Montoya, M. & Small, E. (2021). Lumen Learning Introductory Spanish II. SUNY (Ch 6-12)
- Brown, E., Escudero, A., Montoya, M. & Small, E. (2019). Chévere – Introductory Spanish II. SUNY.
- Hernández, P. (2020). Pluma: historias en español. Vol. 2.

Other required materials

- Online Spanish Dictionaries: *Diccionario del estudiante* (Diccionario del estudiante | RAE); *Diccionario Collins Inglés-Español* (Collins Diccionario inglés-español); *Diccionario de variantes del español* (http://xn--diccionariovariantesespaol-4rc.org/).
- Access to Microsoft Office 365. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff at ETAMU. To create a free student account to access MSFT 365, follow these instructions.
- Access to a computer with good audio and video interface; also recommended a good headset to complete speaking and listening activities.

Course Description

Spanish 2311 continues the introduction to the Spanish language begun in SPA1311 and SPA1312

focusing on the cultures of the Spanish-speaking world as well as on the four language skills in a task-based communicative framework. SPA2311 completes the introduction to basic Spanish grammatical structures while expanding language skills and cultural knowledge from previous courses. The use of the past tenses and the subjunctive mood constitute the grammar core of this course. In the language classroom, students gain an understanding of the nature of communication and the complexity of culture. The cultural component of language is of equal value to the linguistical one in learning to communicate effectively; therefore, students will also be introduced to the diverse cultures of the Spanish-speaking world. As per guidelines recommended by ACTFL, classes will be conducted using the target language as exclusively as possible (90% plus) at all levels of instruction during instructional time. The Spanish Program has adopted Open Educational Resources (OER) as main resources, aligning with principles of Open Education. We invite our students to participate in this educational movement that promotes openness, trust, creativity and generosity.

Prerequisite: SPA 1311 and SPA 1312 or approved placement of CLEP or consent of department head.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete the course:
1. can communicate in spoken and written Spanish on topics of personal and general interest, in a variety of discourse formats. Level target is Intermediate-Low (ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines).
2. can understand spoken and written Spanish discourse related to general daily life topics. Level target is Intermediate-Mid (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 Intermediate -Mid (ACFTL Proficiency Guidelines).
4. can select and use some communicative strategies, including: increased awareness of error; self-correction; edit own production; simplify complex expressions.
5. can demonstrate cultural awareness by describing and analyzing products and practices from diverse Spanish-speaking communities around the world, gaining insights on different cultural

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Collection of Data for Measuring Institutional Effectiveness

In order to measure the level of compliance with the university's Institutional Effectiveness guidelines, I will collect some of the ungraded materials you will produce for the class. These materials will be part of a portfolio created on your behalf and will be measured to ensure that our program "promotes practices that result in higher student academic achievement; an enhanced student experience; aligned and transparent decisions; and readily available information for improvement, accountability, and accreditation" (Institutional Effectiveness, http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutus/institutionalEffectiveness/default.aspx). This is solely an assessment of program effectiveness and in no way affects students' course grades or GPAs.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Student Responsibilities

Students' participation is essential and required to succeed in this course. Students are expected to:
   1) actively engage in all classroom activities, including attendance to the in-person class meetings,
   2) read and prepare assigned materials by the due dates,
   3) complete and submit assignments by the due date.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

During the semester, we will use three main means of communication:
- *Announcements*: General tool for course communication; I will post short messages or reminders related to due dates or changes in the assignments.
- *Email*: Please only use the official East Texas A&M Leo Email to communicate with me and your classmates. I will send general emails with information related to the course, date changes, assignments modifications, etc. or with information that relate to our content. I will send individual emails as needed. I will respond to emails in 24 hs. during the work week and by the next business day on weekends and holidays. To setup the East Texas A&M email contact **HelpDesk** helpdesk@tamuc.edu or call 903-468- 6000; you may also access information at https://leo.tamuc.edu.
- *General Discussion Board*: Located in the "General Resources" folder, this board is open to all participants; anyone can post a comment, question or suggestion related or unrelated to the course. All students are encouraged to participate and post responses; I will visit this board regularly.

Minimal Technical Skills

Students in this course are expected to be able to: a) manage East Texas A&M Library resources for advance academic research; b) competently use MSFT Office tools (Word, Excel, PPoint); c) access, navigate and use the diverse tools included in the course MyLeoOnline (D2L).

GRADING

Method of Evaluation

Chapter Exams (4 x 8%)	32%
Weekly Homework	28%
Communication Tasks (4 x 2.5%)	10%
Participation (15 weeks x 1%)	15%
Final Assessment: Integrative Performance Assessment (IPA, 3 parts)	15%
Total	**100%**

Grading Scale

100-90 = A   89-80 = B   79-70 = C   69-60 = D   59 and below = F

ACTIVITIES & ASSESSMENTS

Chapter exams (32% final grade)

There will be four exams based on units' contents, focusing on vocabulary, language structures, language strategies and cultural content. Each test represents 8% of the final grade. For relevant dates please see "Tentative Course Schedule".

Weekly homework (28% final grade):

Students will complete diverse exercises every week based on the content unit. Some of the activities will be audio recordings and videos, so please make sure you have access to a computer with good video and sound capabilities. The activities are expected to be completed by the due date and they will be evaluated by level of completion and accuracy. Weekly activities represent 28% of the final grade.

Communication tasks (10% of final grade):

There will be 4 communication tasks. These will mimic the three linguistical tasks evaluated in the Final IPA: Presentational (Individual speaking or writing), Interpersonal (in a group or with a partner) and Interpretive (Reading or Listening.) The activities are expected to be completed by the due date and they will be evaluated by level of completion and accuracy. Communication Tasks represent 10% of the final grade.

Participation (15% of final grade):

For each class meeting, students will engage in a number of communication tasks. Attendance and full participation in class is required for full credit. Participation represents 15% of the final grade.

Integrated Performance Assessment (IPA) (15% of final grade)

This Spanish course has incorporated the Integrated Performance Assessment (IPA) framework as primary model for assessing students' progress. An Integrated Performance Assessment (IPA) will be given at the end of the semester in order to assess learner fluency. It will consist of two parts: Interpretive and Presentational. Following the CARLA (2019) description, IPA is "a set of interrelated linguistic tasks which allows students to demonstrate their Spanish competence on the three modes of communication: *Interpretive* (reading/listening and completing a comprehension activity); *Interpersonal* (interacting with another student or the instructor); and *Presentational* (writing or orally presenting information to an audience). The three tasks are aligned within a single theme, reflecting the manner in which learners will naturally use the language in the real world beyond the classroom.

NOTE: Students are required to complete each full IPA cycle (all portions) in order to be assessed; incomplete cycles cannot be evaluated, therefore if the student misses any of the tasks, the resulting grade will be 0 (zero).

Each IPA cycle will be evaluated with scoring rubrics that rate performance in terms of whether the task meets expectations, exceeds expectations, or does not meet expectations. More information will be presented later in the semester as well as on the "IPA" module on the course page.

Extra-credit

The Spanish Program at East Texas A&M presents a variety of events each semester and invites you to actively participate. 3 extra-points will be granted after attending the event/s and completing the assigned activities.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures

1. Participation

Participation and attendance are fundamental to succeeding in this course. <u>Attendance to the weekly meetings is mandatory</u>. Absences due to unexpected situations count as absences. The only justified absences are those resulting from mandatory participation in university events, hospitalization, or family emergencies of which the instructor has been notified.
Note: <u>After the initial 2 absences, each subsequent absence will reduce 3 points of the final grade</u>.

2. Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

3. Withdraws & Incomplete grade.

A student may drop a course by logging into his/her myLeo account and clicking on the hyperlink labeled "Drop a class" from among the choices found under the myLeo section of the web page.
I reserve the right to drop a student from the course administratively for excessive absences or violations of the [Student Code of Conduct](#).
Incomplete grades (a grade of "X") are granted only <u>under rare and extraordinary circumstances</u> which are fully documented; students requesting an incomplete grade should contact the instructor as soon as possible, provide all pertinent documentation, and sign the 'X' grade contract which details the coursework they need to complete to pass the class.

4. Grievance procedures.

Students who have concerns regarding their courses should first address those concerns with the assigned instructor in order to reach a resolution. Students who are unsatisfied with the outcome of that conversation or have not been able to meet individually with their instructor, whether in-person, by email, by telephone, or by another communication medium, should then schedule an appointment with the Director of the Spanish Program, Dr. Flavia Belpoliti (flavia.belpoliti@etamu.edu).   If there are still unresolved issues, students need to schedule an appointment with the Department Head, Dr. Hunter Hayes, by completing a Student Grievance Form (available in the Department of Literatures and Languages Main Office, HL 141).
In the event that the instructor is the Department Head, the student should schedule a meeting with the Dean of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Humanities, Dr. Joseph Romero, after following the steps outlined above. Where applicable, students should also consult [University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.05](#) ("Student Appeal of Instructor Evaluation").

5. Statement on the use of AI

At East Texas A&M University we recognize the potentially legitimate and beneficial use of Artificial

Intelligence (such as ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, Co-Pilot, etc.), or other software that can generate human-like discourse. As with any other resource, it requires that faculty and students carefully evaluate *when* and *how* its ethical use supports our teaching and learning goals.
For achieving the core goals of our course, using AI offers little or no help. Therefore, <u>the use of AI to complete any graded assignment is not allowed</u>; undisclosed use of AI constitutes a case of Academic Dishonesty.
NOTE: Please consult with your instructor before using AI for idea generation, revising and editing own writing, and/or completing translation tasks. See more details in the "Recursos" folder.

UNIVERSITY SPECIFIC PROCEDURES

1. 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.ETAMU.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf
Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: Netiquette http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html

2. ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the Attendance webpage and
Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01http://www.ETAMU.edu/ attendance.aspx

3. Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is borrowing the work of others and not giving credit where credit is due. It is unethical and reflects very poorly on a person's character. Copying someone else's work or asking a friend or tutor to write your work constitutes a violation of the ETAMU Academic Honesty Policy. Likewise, <u>the use of Artificial Intelligence engines</u> to complete or translate your work to Spanish is also unacceptable. Instructors in the Department of Literature and Languages do not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Instructors uphold and support the highest academic standards, and students are expected to do likewise.
Penalties for students guilty of academic dishonesty include <u>disciplinary probation</u>, <u>suspension</u>, and <u>expulsion</u>. Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work.

4. 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 reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Services
East Texas A&M University
Waters Library - Room 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: studentdisabilityservices@ETAMU.edu
Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

5. Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University will comply in all setting 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.

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

7. East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, 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.ETAMU.edu/counsel**

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Important note: This course schedule is subject to revisions and changes as the instructor deems necessary. Any changes to the course schedule will be announced in class and on the course website in advance.

Weeks	Content & Activities	Readings & Assignments
Week 1 8/25-8/31	Course introduction. Review Spanish II	Complete Student Survey in MyLeoOnline Online HW due by Sunday 11:59PM
9/1	*Labor Day Holiday – Campus closed*	
Week 2 9/1-9/7	CAPÍTULO 6: ¿Le dio un regalo?	Online HW due by Sunday 11:59PM
Week 3 9/8-9/14	CAPÍTULO 6: ¿Le dio un regalo?	Online HW due by Sunday 11:59PM
Week 4 9/15-9/21	CAPÍTULO 7: ¡Luces, cámara, acción!	Feb. 5 Census Day Online HW due by Sunday 11:59PM
Week 5 9/22-9/28	CAPÍTULO 7: ¡Luces, cámara, acción! Examen #1: Capítulo 7-8 Communication Task #1	Online HW due by Sunday 11:59PM
Week 6 9/29-10/4	CAPÍTULO 8: Cuando te gusta tu trabajo, todos los días son vacaciones	Online HW due by Sunday 11:59PM
Week 7 10/6-10/12	CAPÍTULO 8: Cuando te gusta tu trabajo, todos los días son vacaciones CAPÍTULO 9: ¡Nos vamos de fiesta!	Online HW due by Sunday 11:59PM
Week 8 10/13-10/19	CAPÍTULO 9: ¡Nos vamos de fiesta! Examen #2: Capítulo 8-9 Communication Task #2	Online HW due by Sunday 11:59PM
Week 9 10/20-10/26	CAPÍTULO 10: ¿Sabes toda la historia de tus tradiciones?	Online HW due by Sunday 11:59PM

Week 10 10/27-11/2	CAPÍTULO 10: ¿Sabes toda la historia de tus tradiciones? CAPÍTULO 11: Si cuidamos la tierra, la tierra nos cuidará	Online HW due by Sunday 11:59PM *October 30th. Last day to drop (no refund)*
Week 11 11/3-11/9	CAPÍTULO 11: Si cuidamos la tierra, la tierra nos cuidará	Online HW due by Sunday 11:59PM
Week 12 11/10-11/16	CAPÍTULO 11: Si cuidamos la tierra, la tierra nos cuidará Examen #3: Capítulos 10-11 Communication Task #3	Online HW due by Sunday 11:59PM
Week 13 11/17-11/23	CAPÍTULO 12: Sin tierra ni olivares ¿qué sería de las ciudades?	Online HW due by Sunday 11:59PM *November 21st. Last day to withdraw (no refund)*
Week 14 11/24-11/30	CAPÍTULO 12: Sin tierra ni olivares ¿qué sería de las ciudades? Examen #4: Capítulo 12	Online HW due by Sunday 11:59PM
11/26-11/30	*Thanksgiving Holiday – Campus closed*	
Week 15 12/1-12/7	Communication Task #4 and Review	*Friday 12/5 – Last day of classes*
Week 16 (Finals week) 12/8-12/12	Integrated Performance Assessment, date TBA	

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the MyLeoOnline Learning Management System (LMS). Below are 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

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@ETAMU.edu.

Note**:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, an ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here: https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport

Browser support

D2L is committed to performing key application testing when new browser versions are released. New and updated functionality is also tested against the latest version of supported browsers. However, due to the frequency of some browser releases, D2L cannot guarantee that each browser version will perform as expected. If you encounter any issues with any of the browser versions listed in the tables below, contact D2L Support, who will determine the best course of action for resolution. Reported issues are prioritized by supported browsers and then maintenance browsers.
Supported browsers are the latest or most recent browser versions that are tested against new versions of D2L products. Customers can report problems and receive support for issues. For an optimal experience, D2L recommends using supported browsers with D2L products.
Maintenance browsers are older browser versions that are not tested extensively against new versions of D2L products. Customers can still report problems and receive support for critical issues; however, D2L does not guarantee all issues will be addressed. A maintenance browser becomes officially unsupported after one year.
Note the following:
- Ensure that your browser has JavaScript and Cookies enabled.
- For desktop systems, you must have Adobe Flash Player 10.1 or greater.
- The Brightspace Support features are now optimized for production environments when using the Google Chrome browser, Apple Safari browser, Microsoft Edge browser, Microsoft Internet Explorer browser, and Mozilla Firefox browsers.

Desktop Support

Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)	Maintenance Browser Version(s)
Microsoft® Edge	Latest	N/A
Microsoft® Internet Explorer®	N/A	11
Mozilla® Firefox®	Latest, ESR	N/A
Google® Chrome™	Latest	N/A
Apple® Safari®	Latest	N/A

Tablet and Mobile Support

Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
Android™	Android 4.4+	Chrome	Latest
Apple	iOS®	Safari, Chrome	The current major version of iOS (the latest minor or point release of that major version) and the previous major version of iOS (the latest minor or point release of that major version). For example, as of June 7, 2017, D2Lsupports iOS 10.3.2 and iOS 9.3.5, but not iOS 10.2.1, 9.0.2, or any other version. Chrome: Latest version for the iOS browser.
Windows	Windows 10	Edge, Chrome, Firefox	Latest of all browsers, and Firefox ESR.

You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution

To participate in this course, **you must have**:
- Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
- Speakers or headphones.
- Webcam and microphone

Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: JAVA www.java.com/en/ manual.jsp
Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.
Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.
> Pop-ups are allowed.
> JavaScript is enabled.
> Cookies are enabled.

You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
Adobe Reader https://get.adobe.com/reader/
Adobe Flash Player *(version 17 or later)* https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/
Adobe Shockwave Player   https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/
Apple Quick Time   http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/

The syllabus & schedule are subject to change.   12