EAST TEXAS A&M
— U N I V E R S I T Y —

SPA 2311
Course Syllabus: Fall 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Henry Pabon
Class meetings: 4th period
Location: Learning cottage # 3
Office Hours: Before or after school or by appointment
School address: henry.pabon@rcisd.org
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:
Avancemos 4. Supplementary readings. A good Spanish-English bilingual dictionary, for instance: Harper Collins' Spanish Concise Dictionary, New York: Harper Collins; Diccionario Español-Inglés Cumbre, Madrid: Everes. (optional)
Textbook (Required): Avancemos: Student Edition Level 4: (2013). Holt McDougal. (Online textbook provided)

Course description:
The course has been designed for second-language learners (that is, students whose first language is not Spanish). The Spanish Program has adapted the 'CAN-DO' performance standards based on the MCER and ACTFL frameworks; considering these standards, students will start developing competence in the four communication skills, and they are expected to reach the Low-Intermediate to Intermediate-Mid levels by the end of the course (ACTFL 2012). The syllabus/schedule is subject to change. will also gain knowledge of various cultural aspects of the Spanish-speaking world by exploring cultural products and practices from Hispanic communities in the US and abroad. Students will make comparisons across languages and cultures and will recognize the ways in which Spanish extends beyond the classroom into the global community.

Student learning outcomes:

Students who successfully complete the course will:

1. Communicate in spoken and written Spanish on general topics, using words, phrases, and simple expressions with some level of creativity. The level target expected at the end of the course is Intermediate Low-to-Mid (ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines).

2. Understand general spoken and written Spanish discourse related to the topics learned in class. The level target expected at the end of the course is Intermediate Low-to-Mid (ACFTL Proficiency Guidelines).

3. Effectively select and integrate communication strategies to describe and explain information on general topics and cultural content.

4. Describe and compare products, practices, and perspectives related to work, housing, and the environment in diverse Spanish-speaking communities around the world.

Minimal technical skills:

Students in this course are expected to be able to:

a) Manage TAMUC Library resources for advanced academic research,

b) Competently use MSFT Office tools (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.).

c) Access, navigate, and use the diverse tools included in the course MyLeoOnline (D2L).

Student Responsibilities:

Students' participation is essential and required to succeed in this course. Students are expected to:

1) Actively engage in all classroom activities.

2) Read and prepare assigned materials by the due dates.

3) Complete and submit assignments by the due date.

4) Interact with each other and the instructor on a regular basis.

Activities and assignments:

1. Quizzes: There will be at least 3 quizzes based on each unit's content, focusing on vocabulary, language structures, and language strategies. Each test represents 30% of the final grade. For relevant dates, please see "Tentative Course Schedule".

2. Mid-semester interview: An individual oral interview will be conducted mid-semester to measure students' oral skills development. The interview will consist of a number of questions related to the topics discussed in class. Important note: Interviews will be conducted during the class and on a one to one basis. This activity represents 20% of the final grade.

3. Online activities: Students will complete diverse online exercises every week, including listening, reading, and writing activities. The activities are expected to be completed by the due date indicated in the "Tentative Course Schedule", and they will be evaluated by level of completion and accuracy. In addition, you will participate in MyLeoOnline discussion boards,

completing creative activities to practice writing and oral skills. Online activities represent 30% of the final grade.

4. Integrated Performance Assessment (IPA): The Spanish Language Program has incorporated the Integrated Performance Assessment (IPA) framework as the primary model for assessing students' progress. Following 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. Each IPA task will be evaluated by scoring rubrics that rate performance in terms of whether the task meets expectations, exceeds expectations, or does not meet expectations. The IPA represents 20% of the final grade.

Grading:
Quizzes: 30%
Interviews: 20%
Online activities: 30%
IPA: 20%

Course Specifics:
1. Participation
Attendance and participation are fundamental to succeed in this course. You are expected to attend all class meetings.
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. Extra-credit
The syllabus/schedule is subject to change. During the semester, you will be invited to participate in different activities and short projects (cultural activities, film screenings, virtual lectures, etc.). Up to 3 extra points will be granted after attending the event/s and completing the assigned activities.
4. 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, the use of electronic media or algorithmically (AI) plagiarized work used to translate your work to Spanish is also unacceptable. Instructors uphold and support the highest academic standards, and students are expected to do likewise. • Students who commit

academic dishonesty will receive a grade of 0 for the assignment in the course and be issued a Written Warning that is reported to the Dual Credit coordinator.

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, the use of AI to complete any graded assignment is not allowed; 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 your own writing, and/or completing translation tasks. See more details in the "Recursos" folder.

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 Dual Credit Program, Mr. David Trevino (david.trevino@rcisd.org).

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