



**SPA 489 – 202580 (01W)**  
**Advanced Spanish Grammar**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2025**

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Flavia Belpoliti, PhD

**Office hours:** Tuesdays 11:00-1:00 pm & Thursdays, 1:00-3:00 pm, or by appointment

**Office phone:** 903 886-5271

**Email:** [flavia.belpoliti@etamu.edu](mailto:flavia.belpoliti@etamu.edu) (Important note: I will respond to emails within 24 hours during the work week and by the next business day on weekends and holidays.)

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Class meetings**

Tuesdays, 1:00 pm - 2:50 pm at DTH 311

**Textbook(s) Required**

- Thomas, D. & McAlister, I. (2020). *Manual de gramática básica y avanzada*. CC BY NC SA. UMass Amherst University.
- Lunn, Patricia V. & DeCesaris, Janet A. (2007). *Investigación de gramática*. Thomson & Heinle. ISBN 1-4130-1996-X.

**Other required materials**

- Online Spanish Dictionaries: *Diccionario de la lengua española* (<https://www.rae.es/>); *Diccionario de variantes del español* (<http://xn--diccionariovariantespaol-4rc.org/>); *Diccionario panhispánico de dudas* (<https://www.rae.es/dpd/sino>).
- Access to Microsoft Office 365. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. To create a free student account to access MSFT 365, [follow these instructions](#).

## Course Description

This course presents a general introduction to Spanish grammar system with focus on context-based usage of grammatical components. The course focuses on describing, analyzing and explaining core linguistic forms and structural patterns, considering their communicative values in diverse contexts. The course additionally focuses on sociolinguistic variation in US Spanish grammar, with attention to dialectal and sociolectal varieties. N. B. This class is conducted in Spanish.

## Student Learning Outcomes

- a. Describe and explain the main features of the Spanish grammar system employing specific concepts and terminology.
- b. Compare and contrast English and Spanish grammatical patterns.
- c. Explain grammar variation phenomena in Spanish dialects.
- d. Complete and present a research project focusing on Spanish in the US varieties.

These learning outcomes will be measured through individual and group activities, short presentations, open discussions, and a final research project.

## 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, [www.ETAMU.edu/aboutus/institutionalEffectiveness.aspx](http://www.ETAMU.edu/aboutus/institutionalEffectiveness.aspx)). This is solely an assessment of program effectiveness and in no way affects students' grades or GPAs.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Student Responsibilities

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

- 1) attend and actively engage in all classroom activities
- 2) revise and study materials before class meetings;
- 3) complete and submit assignments by the due dates.

### Minimal Technical Skills

Students in this course are expected to:

- a. access, navigate and use the diverse tools included in the course shell (MyLeoOnline - D2L). This includes how to turn-in assignments, how to upload video and audio

recordings, how to participate and respond in the discussion boards, and how to access and use the quiz tool. See the *Introduction* folder for more details.

- b. manage ETAMU Library resources for academic research. See the *Resources* folder for details;
- c. competent management of MSFT Office tools (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.). To create a free student account to access Office 365, [follow these instructions](#). **Important note:** I will not accept assignments through Google Docs links or similar.

## GRADING

### Activities & assessments

1. **Participation.** This course will be conducted following a *flipped classroom* modality. This means that students will be responsible for reading and studying assigned materials at home before class meetings. Class time will be dedicated to discussing the materials and assignments in depth, answer questions, and complete in-class assignments. The course will be conducted mostly in Spanish; therefore, students should be proficient enough to be able to complete all assignments in Spanish and participate during in-class discussions and group activities.
2. **Exams.** There will be four online content exams. The exams will include open-ended questions about core concepts revised in the class discussions and readings, and short activities focused on grammar use and variation. See the Course Schedule for details.
3. **Weekly HW.** You will be assigned diverse activities to gain a better understanding of the concepts discussed in class. Most of the activities will be based on the *Manual de Gramática* digital textbook as well as analysis of Spanish usage in real-life use. Some of the assignments will be completed in group. See the Course Schedule for details.
4. **Research project.** You will select a Spanish grammar topic and analyze its use in US Spanish, utilizing oral and written samples. After consulting a minimum of 5 scholarly sources (research articles, dialectal dictionaries, monographs, linguistic manuals, etc.), you will write an 8-10 page report in Spanish describing the grammatical feature and how speakers in US Spanish employ it in oral and written production. You will provide examples collected from diverse sources, such as oral corpus, news articles, TV/radio interviews, advertisements, etc. in order to support your explanations. Based on the analytical description you have completed, you will conduct an academic presentation to be delivered on the last day of class. See the Course Schedule for details.

### Grade distribution

Participation:	10%
Exams:	48% (4 x 12%)
HW:	20%
Final project:	22% (Report: 17%. Presentation: 5%)

**Total: 100%**

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 100%-90%      B = 89%-80%      C = 79%-70%      D = 69%-60%      F = 59% or Below

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Course Specific Procedures**

#### **1. Interaction with Instructor Statement**

Good communication is a fundamental component of success. Please consider the different types of media available for communication with your instructor and classmates, in individual and group formats. Please follow [Netiquette rules](#) to keep our conversation professional, engaging and polite.

During the semester, in addition to our conversations in class, 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 TAMUC 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 TAMUC email contact **HelpDesk** [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto: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.

#### **2. Feedback and assessment**

You will be received detailed feedback on the “fichas” and the two multimodal projects (draft and final version) 72 hours after the assignment due date (see the ‘Tentative Course Schedule’ for details).

#### **3. Participation**

Participation and attendance are fundamental to succeeding in this course. Attendance to the weekly meetings is mandatory. 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:** After the initial 2 absences, each subsequent absence will reduce 3 points of the final grade.

#### **4. 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.

#### **5. 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 under rare and extraordinary circumstances 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.

#### **6. 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](mailto: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 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; if the instructor is the Assistant Department Head, students should schedule a meeting with the Department Head. Where applicable, students should also consult University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.05 (“Student Appeal of Instructor Evaluation”).

#### **7. Statement on the use of AI**

At East Texas A&M University we recognize that there are potentially legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence (such as ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, Co-Pilot, etc.), or other software that can generate human-like discourse. AI is a powerful tool for searching and consolidating information; as with any other tool, 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 own writing, and/or completing translation tasks. See more details in the “Recursos” folder.

## **University Specific 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.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>

### **ETAMU Attendance**

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

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

### **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 Artificial Intelligence engines 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 disciplinary probation, suspension, and expulsion. Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work.

### **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 an 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](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@ETAMU.edu)

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

### **Nondiscrimination Notice**

Texas A&M University-Commerce 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 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.

### **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](http://www.ETAMU.edu/counsel)

## **TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE**

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

MGBA= *Manual de gramática básica y avanzada*

The syllabus & schedule are subject to change.

IDG= *Investigación de gramática*

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Content &amp; Activities</b>	<b>Readings &amp; Assignments</b>
Week 1 8/25-8/31	Introducción; presentación del curso. Gramática o gramáticas. Las clases de palabras	Read MGBA, Clases de palabras y funciones gramaticales
9/1	<i>Labor Day Holiday – Campus closed</i>	
Week 2 9/1-9/7	Las clases de palabras y las funciones gramaticales	Read MGBA, Clases de palabras y funciones gramaticales Read IDG, 77-89
Week 3 9/8-9/14	Las clases de palabras y las funciones gramaticales	<i>Prepare for exam 1</i> Read IDG 3-17
Week 4 9/15-9/21	<b>Exam 1</b> El tiempo y el aspecto verbal	Read IDG 19-30
Week 5 9/22-9/28	El tiempo y el aspecto verbal. Pretérito e imperfecto	Read MGBA Los tiempos verbales del indicativo
Week 6 9/29-10/4	El Pretérito e imperfecto; futuro simple y condicional.	<i>Prepare for exam 2</i> Read IDG 53-61
Week 7 10/6-10/12	<b>Exam 2</b> El modo subjuntivo	Read IDG 61-68
Week 8 10/13-10/19	El modo subjuntivo	Read IDG 95-104
Week 9 10/20-10/26	La voz pasiva y la voz activa	Read MGBA Los usos del se
Week 10 10/27-11/2	La voz activa y la voz pasiva. El pronombre SE	<i>Prepare for exam 3</i> Read IDG 115-125 <i>October 30<sup>th</sup>. Last day to drop (no refund)</i>
Week 11 11/3-11/9	<b>Exam 3</b> Sustantivo, adjetivo y la frase nominal	Read IDG 126-129 <i>Start work for Final Research Project</i>

The syllabus & schedule are subject to change.

Week 12 11/10-11/16	Sustantivo, adjetivo y la frase nominal	Read MGBA 2.2 La frase nominal <i>Advance work for Final Research Project</i>
Week 13 11/17-11/23	Sustantivo, adjetivo y la frase nominal	<i>Prepare for exam 4</i> Read IDG 153-159 <i>Advance work for Final Research Project</i> <i>November 21<sup>st</sup>. Last day to withdraw (no refund)</i>
Week 14 11/24-11/30	<i>Exam 4</i> El adverbio y las preposiciones	<i>Advance work for Final Research Project</i> Read MGBA La oración simple (4-5)
11/26-11/30	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday – Campus closed</i>	
Week 15 12/1-12/7	La oración simple.	<i>Turn in Research project report on 12/5, by 11:50 pm. [D2L-MyLeoOnline]</i> <i>Last day of classes: 12/5.</i>
Week 16 (Finals week) 12/8-12/12	Research oral presentations (in person) <b>Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, time TBA.</b>	

## 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](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](mailto:helpdesk@ETAMU.edu).

The syllabus & schedule are subject to change.

**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, D2L supports 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

The syllabus & schedule are subject to change.

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](http://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/](https://get.adobe.com/reader/)

[Adobe Flash Player \(version 17 or later\) https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/)

[Adobe Shockwave Player https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/](https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/)

[Apple Quick Time http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/)