

Beginning Spanish II

Course Details

Course Designator & Number: SPAN 1002

Number of Credits: 5

Language of Instruction: Spanish

Contact Hours: 75

Instructor: Ainoa Polo Sánchez

Course Description

This course aims to develop a basic understanding of Spanish grammar and vocabulary, enhancing the four language skills—speaking, listening, reading, and writing—familiarizing students with the culture of Spain and Spanish America and encouraging interactions in real communicative situations.

The focus will be on communication, and topics will include the ability to ask and answer questions relating to personal characteristics, needs, and items; to recognize expressions of formal and informal social interaction; to request information in various settings (e.g. shopping, restaurants, weather, etc.); to describe objects, places, and events in the present and past tenses; and to indicate preferences and personal taste, among others. The course is designed to facilitate the language acquisition process within an intensive immersion context.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Understand and produce written and oral Spanish at a beginner level enhancing all four skills—reading, writing, listening, speaking—bringing their communicative competence to the CEFR A2 Level.

- Expand their knowledge about basic grammar and vocabulary about their immediate personal context.
- Use basic language strategies to facilitate daily interactions with native speakers, accurately employing both present and past tenses.
- Establish connections between the Spanish socio-cultural reality and classroom contents.

Methodology

Action-oriented approach, where the student is the focus of the language class and must carry out tasks using the target language. The students will have lots of opportunities to practice and learn before their progress is assessed.

The language of instruction is Spanish (English will be used if needed in some specific moments), and the course implements a communicative approach via task-based activities that exemplify real communicative situations. Grammar principles are also introduced, but class time revolves around these task-based activities which mainly focus on the development of the students' listening and speaking skills.

Required Reading / Materials

Below is the textbook that we will use during the course. The learning material focuses on the variant of the Spanish spoken in Spain. The book also includes audio materials, an exercise section, and a grammar summary.

Aula internacional Plus 2 - Libro del alumno. Editorial Difusión.

Autores Garmendia Iglesias, J. Agustín- Soriano Escolar, Carmen- García Rodríguez, M. Eva- Corpas Viñals, Jaime- Neus Sans, S.L.

ISBN: 9788418032202

There is also a hybrid version available of the textbook and the price is almost the same as the standard edition but includes the added benefit of access to the publisher's online platform for one year, where students can participate in various online activities.

Additional course materials and online activities compiled by the professor will be available every week via Moodle to improve the language skills.

Recommended bibliography & websites for learning spanish

We will work with some exercises from this book that the teacher will share via Moodle. Find below some useful platforms to improve your Spanish:

Online bilingual dictionary	www.wordreference.com
Online Spanish dictionary	www.rae.es
Online activities with videos & visual grammar	https://www.profedeele.es/a1/ https://www.profedeele.es/a2/
Videos to learn Spanish: Video ELE A2	https://www.videoele.com/menu-A2.html
Videos to learn Spanish: NEEM A2	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-raTnfFhlnw

Grading

Grading Rubric

Letter Grade	Score or Percentage	Description
A	93–100	Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
A-	90–92	Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
B+	87–89	
B	83–86	
B-	80–82	Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
C+	77–79	
C	73–76	
C-	70–72	Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to fully meet the course requirements.
D+	67–69	
D	60–66	
F	0–59	Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I.

Summary of How Grades Are Weighted

Find below a summary of how grades are weighted. Active participation and the completion of all assigned tasks are crucial for the rapid development of oral expression. In class, we will create a friendly and relaxed atmosphere, with interesting and practical tasks for life in immersion in Madrid, so that students feel comfortable with speaking.

Assignments	Percentage of Grade
Participation in class	15%
Oral task 1: Esta es mi gente	10%
Oral task 2: De pequeño/a era	10%
Oral and written task 3: La comida en España	10%
Oral task 4: Mi semestre en Europa	10%
Written task 1: Este ha sido mi fin de semana	10%
Midterm exam	15%
Final exam	20%
Overall grade	100%

Assessment Details

Written Exams (35%). During the semester, students will take two scheduled written exams: midterm (15%) and final (20%). The professor will provide a Study Guide with information

about each exam on the Campus platform. Additionally, she will propose review activities in class and online quizzes at the end of each unit.

Oral Tasks (40%). Students in this course must prepare an oral presentation with relevant graphic/visual support to apply the content covered in class. They may use photos and a brief script, from which they should not read. The student will receive a study guide to prepare each task with the key points.

Written Assignment (10%). Students in this course must prepare a written task describing a weekend using the past to put into practice the content covered in class. The student will receive a study guide to prepare the task with the key points.

Active Participation and Assigned Tasks (15%). Completing daily assignments is essential to being prepared for the next class. The grade is based on several components: individual participation, preparation for class as demonstrated by the completion of assignments, and the use of Spanish in the classroom.

Course Content

The content for level A2 is spread across 10 units in the book, although we will not cover all of them. We will follow a different order that allows us to cover the content in a more strategic way. The book always serves as a reference for classwork. Not all activities from each unit will be completed. The schedule is approximate. We will do a recap lesson before the midterm exam and final exam.

Unit 1

Book Unit 1

El español y tú: dar consejos para aprender un idioma

- Presentaciones, hablar de rutinas y hobbies
- Revisión del presente regular e irregular
- Verbo gustar

Unit 2

Book Unit 3

Yo soy así: describir el perfil ideal de una persona y hablar de relaciones

- Revisión de verbos irregulares
- Descripción física y de personalidad
- Adjetivos descriptivos

Unit 3

Cultural trip

Unit 4

Book Unit 4

Tarea Oral 1: Esta es mi gente

Hogar dulce hogar: diseñar amueblar una vivienda

- Uso de los comparativos y los pronombres posesivos
- Usos de ser y estar

- Adverbios y locuciones de lugar
- Tipos de vivienda, muebles, estilos y adjetivos para describir lugares

Unit 5

Book Unit 2

Una vida de película: las biografías

- Hablar de acciones pasadas
- Pretérito indefinido: verbos regulares e irregulares
- Marcadores del pasado

Tarea Oral 2: Un personaje histórico del mundo hispano

Unit 6

Book Unit 6

Guía del ocio: cosas que hacer en Madrid y en España

- Hablar de experiencias pasadas y valorarlas
- Pretérito perfecto
- Ya no/todavía
- Planes: ir a, querer y pensar + infinitivo
- Actividades y lugares de ocio

Tarea Escrita 1: Este fin de semana ha hecho muchas cosas

Unit 7

Book Unit 9

Antes y ahora: comparamos presente y pasado

- Hábitos en el pasado y descripciones
- Pretérito imperfecto
- Marcadores temporales del presente y del pasado
- Etapas de la vida

Tarea Oral 3: De pequeño/a era...

Unit 8

Book Unit 9

- Mid-term Exam Review Class
- Mid-Term Exam

Unit 9

Book Unit 7

¿Comes de todo?: hablar de hábitos y gustos alimentarios

- Preparamos un plato y hablamos de alimentación: las recetas
- Pronombres personales de CD y CI
- Hacer peticiones y pedir favores
- Alimentos y platos tradicionales

Tareas Escrita Y Oral 3 (Vídeo): La comida en España

Unit 10

Book Unit 7

¿Comes de todo?: hablar de hábitos y gustos alimentarios

- Preparamos un plato y hablamos de alimentación: las recetas
- Pronombres personales de CD y CI
- Hacer peticiones y pedir favores
- Alimentos y platos tradicionales

Tareas Escrita Y Oral 3 (Vídeo): La comida en España

Units 11 & 12

Book Unit 10

Momentos especiales: contar anécdotas personales

- Hablamos de viajes e historias usando todos los pasados.

- Contraste: pretérito indefinido- perfecto
- Relatar en el pasado y hablar de emociones
- Marcadores temporales
- Estar + gerundio: usos presente y pasado

Unit 13

Spring Break

Unit 14

Book Unit 10

Tarea Oral 4: Mi semestre en Madrid

- Recap lesson to practice relevant content through games

Unit 15

Final Exam Review Class

April 30, 2025

Unit 16

Final Exam

Policies

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to be on time and attend all classes while abroad. Many instructors assess both attendance and participation when assigning a final course grade. Attendance alone does not guarantee a positive participation grade; the student should be prepared for class and engage in class discussion. See the on-site syllabus for specific class requirements.

University of Minnesota Policies & Procedures

Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own can result in disciplinary action. The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as follows:

Scholastic Dishonesty

Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.

Within this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an "F" or "N" for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, ask.

Student Conduct

The University of Minnesota has specific policies concerning student conduct. This information can be found [on the Learning Abroad Center website](#).