Stephen F. Austin State University  
Department of Languages Cultures & Communication  
Spanish 131.015 Fall 2019  

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Office Hours: Office Hours: MW 12:00-12:55 TR 11:30-12:30

Book: *Conectados 2nd Edition*

Please, DO NOT bring your Spanish textbooks to class

Description: Three semester hours. Counts toward a Spanish major or minor.

Spanish 131 serves as the foundation of the first-year Spanish program at SFASU. It is designed to help students develop skills in speaking, reading, writing and listening comprehension in Spanish, and provide them with a better understanding and appreciation of Hispanic culture. Even though this is an introductory course, class work will be in the target language in order to facilitate and encourage the students’ interest in becoming fluent in Spanish. This course will present grammatical structures, vocabulary and cultural knowledge necessary for effective communication in the target language.

Organization: This course will cover “Lección Preliminar” through “Lección 4” in *Conectados 2nd Edition*

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. Students who miss more than three classes must see the professor. After the third unjustified absence, the class participation grade will be 0 (zero).

Class Participation and Homework. Having a good participation grade in this class is not easy. Students will receive a class participation grade according four criteria

- *Conectados* Homework (5%) As part of the classwork, students will complete the online exercises for the class specified in the *Conectados* website.

- Class Homework. (5%) The Professor will assign homework at the end of the class. Only homework turned on on time will be graded. There is no make-up of missed homework, quizzes or other activities in the class.

- Use of Spanish in class. (5%) This class is taught in Spanish. Using Spanish to interact with your professor and the other students in the class is the most important aspect of learning the language. Keep in mind that just coming to class and not speaking Spanish means a 0 (zero) in class participation. Students must try to ask questions and express themselves using Spanish. Some mistakes are expected at this level and will not cause any
loss of points as long as meaning is conveyed in Spanish. Using English in class will result in a 0 (zero).

- General Participation (5%). Students must be respectful and attentive to others. Cell phones and texting are not permitted in the classroom. Electronic devices must be turned off and put away before class begins. Ringing phones and text messaging are considered rude and disrespectful. Distracting behavior, attendance problems, tardiness, using cell phones in class will result in a 0 (zero). Students are required to attend all classes. Talk to your professor about any attendance problem.

This type of participation also insists that students are respectful to others. Distracting behavior will result in a low participation grade. Cell phones and texting are not permitted in the classroom. Electronic devices must be turned off and put away before class begins. Ringing phones and text messaging are considered rude and disrespectful. Using cell phones in class will result in a 0 (zero) in participation grade.

Final Grades are determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral Exams</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Video Project</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation and Homework</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
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**Scale**

- 90-100 pts A
- 80-89 pts B
- 70-79 pts C
- 60-69 pts D
- Below 60 pts F

**Quizzes:** We will have frequent short quizzes, at least one a week, usually on Fridays. In order to pass the class, students must have a 70 or higher in their final quiz grade. Missing class or arriving late won’t be excuse to make up any quiz.

**Oral Exams:** There will be two oral exams, consisting in a five to fifteen minute conversation in Spanish with the professor during office hours. The topic of the conversation will be based on the chapters of *Conectados* covered in class. The oral exams objective is to be able to communicate his or her ideas in simple ways using basic Spanish in the present tense. Resourcefulness and ingenuity are more important than a flawless Spanish for a good grade in the oral exam. The first oral exam will take place during the week starting on September 16. The second oral exam will take place in the first week of December. Students will select a time for the oral exam one week before it takes place.
**Group Video Project:** After the first oral exam, the class will be divided in groups of three students. Every group will film a fifteen minute video. The video will be in Spanish. Students have until October 2 to select a topic. No topic will be valid until approved by the professor. Topics may vary. Some possibilities are: a small play written by the students, a cultural topic related to a Spanish speaking country or a presentation about a hobby or a current social, political or cultural issue. Videos cannot include music or food.

**Written Exams:** There will be two written exams during the semester, a midterm and a final exam. Every written exam will include grammar and vocabulary exercises and also a composition. Exam dates are indicated in the course syllabus. There are no make-up exams unless the student has an excused absence according to University policy. If, for reasons beyond your control, you know that you will not be able to take an exam, talk to your professor to arrange an alternate day or time *before* the day of the test. A student who misses an exam without previously arranging for an alternate day or time must present appropriate documentation of a personal tragedy or medical emergency in order to avoid a 0 (zero) on the exam. This policy is especially important in regards to oral exams. Missing an oral exam without a justified reason will result not only in a 0 (zero) in the exam, but in the loss of class participation points.

**Final Exam Policy:** The final exam will be comprehensive. It will cover the first five chapters of the book *Conectados* (*Lección Preliminar* through *Capítulo 4*). There is some important information about the final exam that you need to know:

1.-If your average grade by the last day of classes (Dec 6) is 93 or higher, you don’t need to take the final exam.

2.-If you take the final exam and don’t get a C (70 points) you will get a D (or an F, depending on your average) in the class.

3.-If your average in the class is 80 or higher by the last day of classes (Dec 6), your final grade in the class won’t be lower than your final exam grade. That means that, if you have a B in the class but you get an A in your final exam, your final grade will be an A.

**Tentative Course Schedule Fall 2019**

1 M Aug 26 Course Presentation  
2 W Aug 28 Conectados, Lección Preliminar  
3 F Aug 30

4 M Sep 2
5 W Sep 4
6 F Sep 6 Quiz 1

7 M Sep 9  
8 W Sep 11  
9 F Sep 13 Quiz 2 Conectados Capítulo 1
10 M Sep 16 First Oral Exam (during Office Hours)
12 W Sep 18
14 F Sep 20 Quiz 3

13 M Sep 23
14 W Sep 25
15 F Sep 27 Quiz 4

16 M Sep 30
17 W Oct 2 Conectados Capítulo 2
18 F Oct 4 Quiz 5

19 M Oct 7
20 W Oct 9
21 F Oct 11 Quiz 6

22 M Oct 14
23 W Oct 16 Review for Exam 1
24 F Oct 18 **EXAM I**

25 M Oct 21
26 W Oct 23 Conectados Capítulo 3
27 F Oct 25 Quiz 7

28 M Oct 28
29 W Oct 30
30 F Nov 1 Quiz 8

31 M Nov 4
32 W Nov 6
33 F Nov 8 Quiz 9 Conectados Capítulo 4

34 M Nov 11
35 W Nov 13
36 F Nov 15 Quiz 10

37 M Nov 18
38 W Nov 20
39 F Nov 22 Quiz 11

40 M Nov 25 Thanksgiving Holiday
41 W Nov 27 Thanksgiving Holiday
42 F Nov 29 Thanksgiving Holiday

43 M Dec 2 Second Oral Exam (during Office Hours)
Program Learning Outcomes: This is a general education core curriculum course and no specific program learning outcomes for this major are addressed in this course.

General Education Core Curriculum Objectives/Outcomes:

1. To understand and demonstrate writing and speaking processes through invention, organization, drafting, revision, editing, and presentation.
2. To understand the importance of specifying audience and purpose and to select appropriate communication choices.
3. To understand and appropriately apply modes of expression, i.e. descriptive, expository, narrative, scientific, and self-expressive, in written, visual, and oral communication.
4. To participate effectively in groups with emphasis on listening, critical and reflective thinking, and responding.
5. To understand and apply basic principles of critical thinking, problem solving, and technical proficiency in the development of exposition and argument.
6. To understand and demonstrate writing and speaking processes through invention, organization, drafting, revision, editing, and presentation.

Student learning outcomes:

• Students will be exposed to and actively engage in discussions regarding songs, comics, videos, news, Internet materials, and readings from text that relate to the culture of places where Spanish is spoken.
• Students will use vocabulary dealing with the following themes in their writing and speaking: numbers, the calendar, time, interrogative words, weather, seasons, personality, the city, location, colors, clothing, family, physical traits, food.
• Students will be able to correctly utilize the following grammatical structures: articles, gender, number, present tense, future (verb + infinitive), adjective placement and agreement, ser and estar, direct object pronouns, indirect object pronouns, the verb gustar.
• Students will be able to communicate, in oral and written form, about what one normally does, where one lives, what one likes to do, and one's family.
• Students will investigate very simple topics on the Internet in Spanish and record their findings.

Academic Honesty: Academic dishonesty, cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. All students in this class are expected to comply with university policies regarding academic honesty. Any student caught cheating will receive a grade of zero on the assignment and will be reported to the dean of his or her major school. All homework should be your own. Students are not allowed to use translation programs, native speakers, LRC workers or other students to assist them with assignments. Doing so constitutes academic dishonesty and will be dealt with according to university policy.
In accordance with University policy, students with disabilities who need accommodations are expected to initiate a meeting with the professor immediately upon registering with Disability Services to discuss how accommodations included on the Special Accommodations Request form will be provided. Students with disabilities who may have special needs and have not requested support services should seek assistance through Disability Services.