Stephen F. Austin State University  
Department of Languages, Cultures and Communication  
SPA 131.016

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Office Hours: MWF 9:30-11; MW 1-2; or by appointment when necessary

Required text: CONECTADOS, 2nd Edition, by Marinelli/Fajardo plus access to MINDTAP  
From Cengage. Website: cengage.com/mindtap. Additional materials provided by instructor.

THIS CLASS REQUIRES TECHNOLOGY ACCESS. THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO COMPLETE YOUR  
ONLINE ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS, AND TO ACCESS STUDY TOOLS, MEDIA, SCORES,  
INSTRUCTOR STUDENT COMMUNICATION AND MORE.

Objectives/Outcomes

SPA 131: SPA 131 Elementary Spanish I (3 credits) Introductory study of Hispanic language  
and culture with speaking, listening, reading and writing practice meets three times a week in  
50-minute segments, or twice a week in 75-minute segments for 15 weeks, and also meets for a  
2-hour final examination. Students participate in daily listening, reading, and grammar exercises,  
in addition to practicing their conversation skills. They are expected to take regular written and/or  
verbal quizzes and tests and are assessed for their active participation using the target  
target language. A significant portion of their grade comes from daily homework activities. A student  
can expect to spend at least 6 hours each week preparing outside of classroom hours. SPA 131  
will also allow for the more general ability to:

- Communicate effectively by developing and expressing ideas through written and oral  
  communication.
- Think critically, which includes the ability to analyze, evaluate, and synthesize  
  information about the history, culture, family, and artistic production of the Spanish- 
  speaking world.
- Work as a part of a team, by demonstrating the ability to consider different points of  
  view and to work effectively with others, supporting a shared purpose of goal.
- Understanding the role that personal responsibility has played throughout history and  
  gain the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to making ethical  
  decisions.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Students will be exposed to and actively engage in discussions selected from songs,  
  comics, videos, news and internet materials, and readings from text that relate to the  
  culture of Spanish speaking countries.
- Students will use vocabulary dealing with the following themes in their writing and
speaking: greetings and leave-taking, introductions and expressions of courtesy, academic

- life and leisure activities, numbers to 100, the calendar, time, seasons, interrogative words, the family and friends, physical traits and personality, parties, celebrations and activities, the city and travel-related expressions, transportation and directions and weather.

- Students will be able to correctly utilize the following grammatical structures: articles, gender and number of nouns, present tense, the implied future tense, adjective placement and agreement, ser and estar, -ar, -er and –ir verb conjugations, irregular present tense verb conjugations, the verb gustar and saber and conocer.

- Students will be able to communicate in oral and written form about what one normally does, where one lives, what one likes to do, vacations, and one’s family and friends.

- Students will investigate very simple topics on the Internet in Spanish and record their findings.

Organization: This course will cover LECCIÓN PRELIMINAR through Capítulo 4 in CONECTADOS and includes enrolling in Mindtap. Students will be assigned readings, activities, and grammatical exercises to be completed before each class in order to practice the necessary skills in the target language during class time.

Attendance and Participation: Attendance is mandatory. Using Spanish to interact with your instructor and other students in the class is an important aspect of learning the language and cannot be measured by written exams. Therefore a portion of the final grade will depend on class participation. Your participation grade is based on attendance, your attempts to communicate in Spanish whenever possible, regular preparation of all daily assignments, participation in paired and group activities, and arriving to class with all materials. All students are expected to participate actively speaking in Spanish during the class period. Since this class meets three times a week, you must study an adequate amount of time outside of class every day. Classroom attendance accompanied by 30 to 60 minutes of additional study time per day is recommended. Speaking English in class or disrupting the class in any way will result in a poor participation grade. Unexcused absences and tardies will also adversely affect participation averages. If you exceed nine unexcused absences in one semester you cannot pass the class.

Late Work: No late work will be accepted without approval from your instructor and/or proper documentation is submitted from a university sponsor, physician, etc. For documented excused absences, you may make up quizzes and exams for classes missed. You are encouraged to discuss any missed assignments with your instructor. Make an appointment during office hours.

Class Conduct: All cellular devices should be silenced during class. They must be facedown on your desk at all times! University policy forbids bringing food or drink into the classroom so please refrain from doing so. Courteous behavior is expected at all times and includes being attentive and respectful to other students during class. Please do not leave class after completing a quiz. You may, however, leave quietly after completing a test or an exam.

Lab: The language lab is available to you to complete assignments for your class and to use as a resource center. There are tutors available to you in the lab that can help guide you with on line or instructor generated exercises and activities. They cannot give you the answers directly, but they can point you in the right direction. They also conduct general reviews and can go over
tests with you. Tutors are not allowed to help you with compositions or presentations. Remember it is your responsibility to know when you can and cannot seek the assistance form tutors or native speakers. A schedule of available tutoring times will be provided.

**Grading Criteria:**
- **Exams:** 40%
- **Tests / Quizzes / Participation:** 25%
- **Mindtap:** 35%

\[
A = 89.5 - 100 \quad B = 79.5 - 89.4 \quad C = 69.5 - 79.4 \quad D = 59.5 - 69.4
\]

*Students must pass Spanish 131 with a 70 or higher to enroll in Spanish 132.*

**Extra-Credit:** You have a unique opportunity to earn up to 3% extra credit on your **Final Exam** grade. As noted in your syllabus, you will have access to a cumulative assessment in D2L during dead week. The assessment has to be completed by the date and time assigned. It is designed to get you ready for the final exam, and a low score will not count against you nor will it lower your test score or your final average in any way. Consider it preparation for your final exam and an opportunity to add 3% to your final exam average. More details will be provided at a later date.

**Withheld Grades:** Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**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 school. All homework should be done on 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. Academic integrity is the responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty:** Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citation, on an assigned exercise; (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the works or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are; (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the works or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.
**Students with Disabilities:** If you have a learning or physical disability, visual or hearing impairment that might affect your progress in Spanish, please see me. To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services, (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

**Tentative Course Schedule for SPA 131**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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<th>Topic</th>
<th>Textbook</th>
<th>Homework</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>Aug 28</td>
<td>Para saludar, Las asignaturas, Para hablar de las clases y Para entender en clase.</td>
<td>TB: 4-8</td>
<td>Complete Mindtap activities and review using online text and resources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Aug 30</td>
<td>El mundo hispanohablante, Paso 1, Vocabulario.</td>
<td>TB: 9-15</td>
<td>Study vocabulary, review formal and informal greetings and introductions, and Para entender en clase and complete related Mindtap exercises.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At this point the class will be “flipped”. In a flipped class you will begin each lesson online before meeting with me in class. This allows us to use the language actively during class time. I will address any questions you have about what you have previewed at the beginning of class if needed. The benefits of this approach are numerous. As you are already familiar with the material, class time will be used to help reinforce what you have studied on your own. The extra time allows us to actually use the language to communicate helps and develop fluency. Vocabulary is reinforced in class which helps with retention, and listening and speaking becomes the focus of class time rather than grammatical explanations and repetition of words. When time allows, I will go over the upcoming material briefly in class before you see it in the textbook/online.

**Before you come to class on Monday, study TB:16 and complete the Mindtap assignments related to numbers 0-100. Review and practice pronunciation. Write down any questions you might want me to address.**

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<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Sep 2</td>
<td>¡Exprésate! and/or instructor generated communication activities. Brief introduction to grammar.</td>
<td>TB: 18, Paso 1, Gramática B, Subject pronouns and estar.</td>
<td>Complete Mindtap assignments related to Gramática B.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>Sep 4</td>
<td>¡Exprésate!, EN ACCIÓN and/or instructor generated communication activities.</td>
<td>TB: 21-23, Paso 2, Vocabulario, En el salon de clase.</td>
<td>TB:24-25 and related Mindtap assignments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Sep 6</td>
<td>¡Exprésate! and/or instructor generated communication activities.</td>
<td>TB: 26-27, Paso 2, Gramática A, Los sustantivos y los artículos.</td>
<td>TB:28-29 and related Mindtap assignments.</td>
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<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Sep 9</td>
<td>¡Exprésate! and/or instructor generated communication activities.</td>
<td>TB:30, Paso 2, Gramática B, El verbo ser.</td>
<td>TB:31 and Mindtap assignments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>Sep 11</td>
<td>¡Exprésate! EN ACCIÓN and/or instructor generated communication activities.</td>
<td>TB: 32-35, Paso 3, Vocabulario, Por el campus</td>
<td>TB: 36-37 and related Mindtap assignments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Sep 13</td>
<td>¡Exprésate! and/or instructor generated communication activities.</td>
<td>TB: 39, Paso 2, Gramática B, El verbo ser.</td>
<td>TB:31 and Mindtap assignments.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

M Sep16- TB: 42&45, ¡Exprésate!, EN ACCIÓN y NUESTRA COMUNIDAD and/or instructor generated communication activities. Review for Test 1, Wednesday.  
*Homework: Review and prepare for Test 1. Complete all Mindtap assignments and take the Self-test. It is not a part of your grade. It will determine what you do not have mastered and design a personalized study guide for you.*

W Sep18- **TEST: Lección preliminar y Capítulo 1.** Homework: TB: 52-55, NUESTRO MUNDO and Paso 1, Vocabulario, Háblame de tus clases and Mindtap activities.

F Sep20- TB: 52-57, Introducción al capítulo 2 y ¡Exprésate! and/or instructor generated communication activities. *Homework: Study TB:58, Paso 1, Gramática A, Los adjetivos and complete Mindtap assignments.*

M Sep23- TB: 58-60, ¡Exprésate! and/or instructor generated communication activities.  
*Homework: Study TB: 61, Paso 1, Gramática B, La oración y la negación and complete Mindtap assignments.*


F Sep27- TB: 668-69, ¡Exprésate! and/or instructor generated communication activities.  
*Homework: Study TB: 70, Paso 2, Gramática A, El presente de los verbos regulares –ar and complete Mindtap assignments.*

M Sep30- TB: 71-72, ¡Exprésate! and/or instructor generated communication activities.  
*Homework: Study TB: 73, Paso 2, Gramática B, Las preguntas de sí/no and complete Mindtap assignments.*


F Oct4- TB: 80-81, ¡Exprésate! and/or instructor generated communication activities.  
*Homework: Study TB: 82-83, Paso 3, Gramática A, El presente de los verbos regulares –er/-ir and complete Mindtap assignments.*

M Oct7- TB: 83-84, ¡Exprésate! and/or instructor generated communication activities.  
*Homework: Study TB: 85-86, Paso 3, Gramática B, Las preguntas de información y de confirmación and complete Mindtap assignments.*

W Oct9- TB: 86-89, ¡Exprésate!, EN ACCIÓN and/or instructor generated communication activities. *Homework: Start reviewing for Exam 1, Capítulos 1 y 2 on Monday.*

F Oct11- TB: 90-91, Review for Exam 1. *Homework: Review and prepare for Exam 1 on Monday. Complete all Mindtap assignments and take the Self-test. It is not a part of your grade. It will determine what you do not have mastered and design a personalized study guide for you.*

M Oct14- **EXAM 1, Capítulos 1 y 2.** Homework: study TB: 94-97, Paso 1, Vocabulario, La familia, los amigos y las mascotas and complete Mindtap assignments.


F Oct18- TB: 101-102, ¡Exprésate! and/or instructor generated communication
activities. 

**M Oct21-** TB: 104-107. ¡Exprésate!, EN ACCIÓN and/or instructor generated communication activities. 

**W Oct23-** TB: 110-111, ¡Exprésate! and/or instructor generated communication activities. 

**F Oct25-** TB: 114 and 116-119, ¡Exprésate! and/or instructor generated communication activities. 

**M Oct28-** TB: 122-123, ¡Exprésate! and/or instructor generated communication activities. 

**W Oct30-** TB: 125-126, ¡Exprésate! and/or instructor generated communication activities. 

**F Nov1-** TB: 128-131, ¡Exprésate!, EN ACCIÓN and/or instructor generated communication activities. 

**M Nov4-** Review for Test 2. TB: 132-133. 

**W Nov6-** TEST 2, Capítulo 3. 

**F Nov8-** TB: 136-137, 140-141, Introducción al capítulo 4 y ¡Exprésate! and/or instructor generated communication activities. 

**M Nov11-** TB: 143-144, ¡Exprésate! and/or instructor generated communication activities. 

**W Nov13-** TB: 146-149, ¡Exprésate!, EN ACCIÓN, and/or instructor generated communication activities. 

**F Nov15-** TB: 152-153 ¡Exprésate! and/or instructor generated communication activities. 

**M Nov18-** TB: 155-156, ¡Exprésate! and/or instructor generated communication activities. 

**W Nov20-** TB: 158-161, ¡Exprésate!, EN ACCIÓN and/or instructor generated communication activities. 

**F Nov22-** TB: 164-165, ¡Exprésate! and/or instructor generated communication activities.
Homework: Study TB:166, 169, Paso 3, Gramática A&B, Las frases verbales y Las expresiones indefinidas y negativas and complete Mindtap assignments.

Nov 23 through Nov 30, Thanksgiving Holiday. No classes. As much as I would love to say just relax, this would be a good time to go back and review lessons from beginning of the semester. There are only one week of classes left before final exams.

M Dec2- TB: 167-168 & 170-173, ¡Exprésate!, EN ACCIÓN and/or instructor generated communication activities.
W Dec4- TB: 174-175. Review for final exam.
F Dec6- Review for final exam.

Final Exam: Wednesday, December 9-13, Final Exams.