

UNIVERSITY OF THE GAMBIA

COURSE TITLE: Introduction to Spanish

COURSE CODE: SPA101

SCHEDULE: Mondays (Brikama Campus): 11:00-13:30 Tuesdays (Kanifng Campus): 8:00- 10:30

TYPE: Elective

NO. OF CREDITS: Three

OFFICE HOURS: For an appointment contact the lecturer.

LECTURER: Leyre Alejaldre Biel

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BRIEF COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to be followed by students who have **no previous experience** of learning the target language. The main focus of the courses is on the acquisition of language required for basic purposes and situations usual in everyday social interaction. This courses aims to develop a basic variety of linguistic skills, and a basic awareness of the culture(s) using the language, through the study of a core syllabus and language-specific syllabuses.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course students should be able to:

1. Express and report orally in the present tense basic needs, basic courtesies, feelings, emotions, and opinions on topics related to daily activities and basic aspects of the Spanish-speaking cultures.
2. Understand and respond to short utterances, commands, and questions referring to basic information in the present about daily activities of the students and other people.
3. Read and understand instructions, menus, maps, directions, standardized messages, newspaper/magazine ads, and brief descriptions in the present tense about daily life topics.
4. Write and read short sentences and paragraphs in the present on autobiographical and cultural information.
5. Connect students' culture to the culture of the target language.

ORGANISATION AND TEACHING STRATEGIES

The course is taught through three types of session:

1. Interactive *language* classes;
2. *Practical* classes for listening and oral work;
3. Conversation classes for cultivating oral fluency.

In all sessions, grammar will be analyzed and practiced through interactive exercises, presentations, other activities such as improvisations, role plays, and group work. In this course, students are also asked to give presentations from notes in which the only goal is to communicate successfully (grammatical errors are ignored for this exercise). At least one visit by a native-speaker guest is also included in the cultural content.

CONTENT

The content of the course has been aligned to the learning goals established by the European Common Framework. The course is organized in six communicative topics:

1. Personal information.
2. Family and Friends.
3. A day in my life.
4. Going out.
5. At the doctor.
6. Lost in the city.

Underlying this content topics are the main grammar aspects that students will achieve:

1. Present tense and present continuous.
2. Descriptive adjectives and structures.
3. Expression of likes, dislikes and preferences.
4. Use of imperative structures
5. Prepositions, articles, conjunctions and discourse connectors.

ASSESSMENT

The assessment is compound of two components; students have to pass both components, oral and written, separately in order to be successful in the course. The assessments are designed following the guidelines of the European Common Framework.

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| CA 1+CA2: 50% | Listening Comprehension + writing expression 25% |
| | Reading comprehension + writing expression 25% |
| FINAL EXAM: 50% | Interview: oral expression 10% |
| | Reading comprehension + writing expression 40% |