

**SPAN 1300\_5135 (4900) Beginning Conversational Spanish I  
Fall 2012  
Course Syllabus**

**Instructor Information**

**Name:** Juan Soto  
**E-Mail:** jsoto@odessa.edu  
**Office Location:** WH 202  
Odessa College  
201 W. University  
Odessa, TX 79764  
Office: 432.335.6547

**Office Hours:**

**I. Course Information**

**Title:** Beginning Conversational Spanish I  
**Class meets:** Rm 205, Wilkerson Hall  
**Days:** MW  
**Time:** 3-4:20 pm  
**Course Dates:** Please consult the online OC calendar each semester at:  
<http://www.odessa.edu/calendar/>

**Welcome!**

Hello class, my name is Juan Soto, and I will be your instructor for the next 15 weeks. I am looking forward to a fun and interactive fall semester of Spanish.

**II. Required Texts:**

Students will use

1. ***Invitaciones, An Interactive Worktext for Beginning Spanish, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed Primera parte***, by Alonso/Alonso/Zaslow, Vista Higher Learning; and will have what they need to access information and multi-media resources when students purchase the text.
2. **Basic Oxford Picture Dictionary**, Second edition.

**III. Course Description:**

This course focuses on conversation emphasizing pronunciation, fluency, and vocabulary. It also provides the knowledge, vocabulary, and linguistic structures necessary for students to use Spanish immediately for communication, as well as an introduction to the Spanish language and culture. The course will include the necessary oral practice of dialogue, vocabulary and basic grammar to communicate in Spanish at a basic level.

**IV. Course Credits:**

Upon completion of this course, you will earn 3 semester hours of college credit.

**V. Pre-requisite(s):** The willingness to learn Spanish!

**VI. Instructional Methods**

Even though the instructor will be using English at some times, the instructor will be using more Spanish as the semester progresses in order to provide the students the opportunity to listen to and practice Spanish. English will be used by the Instructor only to clarify and explain difficult words or concepts. The student shall strive to use Spanish in class as much as possible.

For the success of the learning of the language, students are also expected to use their Spanish in daily life. IF YOU DON'T HEAR AND SPEAK SPANISH, YOU WILL NOT LEARN IT!

The following three expressions will initially help you survive:

“Tengo una pregunta”

(“I have a question”)

“No entiendo”

(“I don't understand”)

“¿Cómo se dice \_\_\_\_\_ en Español?  
Spanish?”)

(“How do you say \_\_\_\_\_ in

¿“Qué quiere decir \_\_\_\_\_?”

(“What does \_\_\_\_\_ mean?”)

## **VII. Student Learning Outcomes/Course Objectives:**

By the end of the semester, students who have successfully completed all activities and requirements will be able to perform the following tasks in Spanish:

1. Listening and speaking skills:
  - a) Greet and say goodbye; identify and describe yourself and others.
  - b) Talk about your classes, discuss everyday activities and ask questions.
  - c) Describe your family and friends; discuss weekend activities and sports.
  - d) Make plans and invitations; discuss and plan a vacation.
  - e) Talk about how you feel; talk about seasons and the weather.
2. Reading and Writing skills:
  - a) Write short paragraphs using proper grammar to describe these topics.
  - b) Read short magazine articles that relate to familiar topics.
  - c) Answer short open-ended personal questions on these topics.
3. Cultural Competency:
  - a) Identify several countries in the Spanish speaking world.
  - b) Describe basic facts about their geography and cultural landmarks.
  - c) Recognize some of their cultural activities and famous citizens.

## **VIII. Course Overview**

This course takes a communicative approach to developing the student's ability to use and understand Spanish in practical, everyday contexts. It also aims at building the student's cultural knowledge and competency.

## **IX. Classroom Policies:**

### **Attendance**

Attendance is required for success in this course. To help you succeed, you are required to attend at least eighty percent of class meetings, which means you may miss a total of 6 classes during the semester; but your instructor will lower your grade in the course as per the following absence-based table:

1 absence      3.57 points  
 2 absences    7.14 points (3.57 points per absence X 2 absences)  
 And so forth...

Please note that this may affect your financial aid and athletic eligibility. Also note that two tardies equal one absence. If you miss an important in-class assignment or do not turn in an assignment due to an absence (except for medical emergencies, jury duty, official OC business or athletics), you will get a maximum of 50% credit. If you do miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out what was assigned and to have those assignments ready at the next class meeting. Since two tardies will be considered equivalent to an absence, please note that being routinely late to class will also affect your grade in this course. Please note, also, that if you are more than 15 minutes late to class, you will be considered absent for that day.

### **Late work**

I may accept late assignments based on the exceptions mentioned above, but you will receive partial credit (maximum of 50% credit). Remember, to be successful in this course, all work should be submitted in a timely manner.

### **Classroom Behavior**

I expect you to be respectful towards other students and myself during class and in any online interactions such as discussion forums or on e-mail. When a person, whether it is me or another student, is speaking, please do not interrupt or hold conversations about topics that are not relevant to this class. I do encourage you to make comments, to ask questions, and to raise class concerns. You will be given the opportunities to do so. Also, if I give you an individual or group assignment in class, I expect you to work on it for the allotted time. We will have periodic group and class discussions, and I ask that you be respectful to your classmates at all times.

If behavior occurs that violates this policy, I will ask the student(s) to correct the behavior. If I have to do this more than a couple of times during the semester, or if the student refuses to correct the behavior at the time I ask, I will give the student an official warning, ask him/her to leave the class, and he/she will be counted absent and receive a zero for any activities done that day, even if those activities have already been concluded. This warning will be made in class and a copy will be sent the student and to the appropriate administrators:

- If a student interrupts me or another student who is contributing to class discussion;
- If students are holding conversations about material that is not relevant to class;
- If a student is rude, belligerent, or otherwise disruptive;
- If a student has non-course materials out after I have announced the beginning of class;
- If a student submits any disruptive, inappropriate, or offensive posts in the online class forums.

If you violate any aspect of the classroom behavior policy again after the warning, or if there is any case of very disruptive or disrespectful behavior, the same penalties will be given (counted absent, grades for the day forfeited), and I will consult the Dean of Arts and Science about further disciplinary action. If you have questions or concerns regarding an issue that concerns the

whole class, such as a question about assignment instruction, please ask. If you have questions or concerns regarding an issue that pertains only to you, such a question about a grade on one of your papers, please discuss that with me during office hours or some other arranged time.

### **Scholastic Dishonesty:**

The integrity of the Odessa College degree depends on the integrity of the work done for that degree by each student. Odessa College expects a student to maintain a high standard of individual honor in all scholastic work. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but it is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student, or the attempt to commit such acts. In cases of such dishonesty, you may either fail an individual paper or other assignment, or you may be subject to a course grade of an “F” as well as to possible action by the dean of the department.

### *Consequences:*

1. First offense. The student will receive a “0” (zero) on the assignment or test.
2. Second offense. The student will receive an “F” for the course.

### **‘Incomplete’ Policy**

An ‘Incomplete’ grade may be given only if:

1. The student has passed all work completed, and
2. If he/she has completed a minimum of 75% of the required coursework. A grade of “I” will only be assigned when the conditions for completions have been discussed and agreed upon by the instructor and the student.

### **Phone use**

I do not permit mobile phone use in my classroom. Please keep your phone turned off unless you are expecting an emergency call. If you are expecting an emergency call, please inform me at the beginning of class to get my permission to keep your phone turned on. Your phone should remain out of sight at all times. If you make a phone call, answer a phone call, send or read a text a message during class, you will be asked to leave and will be counted absent for the day. All assignments turned in that day will be returned to you and counted late.

### **X. Course Schedule**

Aug 27-Sept 26	Episodio 1: El primer día de clases
Sept 27-Oct 22	Episodio 2: En la librería
Oct 23-Nov 19	Episodio 3: Los profesores y las clases
Nov 20-Dec 5	Episodio 4: ¡Qué internacionales!
Dec 10	<b>FINAL EXAM</b> (written and verbal): <b>Chapters 1-4</b>

### **XI. Grading:**

#### **a) Grading Scale:**

90.0-100 = A    80.0 - 89.9 = B    70.0 -79.9 = C    60.0 – 69.9 = D    0 – 59.9 = F

#### **b) Student Evaluation:**

Please note that all students are expected to complete all assignments and tests. If you are unable to come in for an exam on time due to an illness or family emergency, please contact me as soon as possible to make arrangements.

Students will be evaluated as follows:

Oral class preparation and participation	40 (1 session=3.57 points/100)
Homework	40 (7.14 points per assignment/100)
Final exam (written and verbal)	20
Total.....	<span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">100</span>

### **Extra Credit:**

1) Spanish Tutoring (at the SSC center): 15 points toward your final grade (up to 3 points for every hour session with the Spanish tutor and up to 15 points for a total of 5 meetings with the tutor. The tutor's name is Brenda Muñiz and you may contact the SSC center for her work schedule.

2) Perfect attendance: 10 points toward your final grade.

3) On-line assignments: 20 points toward your final grade.

### **Student Success Coaches**

The Odessa College Student Success Coaches will help you stay focused and on track to complete your educational goals. If an instructor sees that you might need additional help for success coaching, he or she may submit a Retention Alert or a Starfish Alert. A Student Success Coach will contact you to work toward a solution.

The instructor is not responsible for dropping or withdrawing students from the course. It is student's responsibility to drop/withdraw the course with the Registrar's.

### **XII. Statement of Special Accommodations (Special Needs)**

Odessa College complies with Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have any special needs or issues pertaining to your access to and participation in this or any other class at Odessa College, please feel free to contact me to discuss your concerns. You may, also, call the Office of Disability Services at 335-6861 to request assistance and accommodations.

### **XIII. Technical Support**

For Blackboard username and password help and for help accessing your online course availability and student email account contact the Student Success Center at 432-335-6878 or online at [https://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/helpdesk\\_form.htm](https://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/helpdesk_form.htm).

#### **XIV. Student E-mail**

Please access your Odessa College Student E-mail, by following the link to either set up or update your account: <http://www.odessa.edu/gmail/>. **All assignments or correspondence will be submitted using your Odessa College email.**

#### **XV. Student Portal**

Please access your Odessa College Student E-mail, by following the link to either set up or update your account: <http://www.odessa.edu/gmail/>. **All assignments or correspondence will be submitted using your Odessa College email.**

#### **XVI. Important School Policies**

For information regarding student support services, academic dishonesty, disciplinary actions, special accommodations, or students and instructors' right to academic freedom can be found in the Odessa College Student Handbook.

#### **Plagiarism**

Each student is responsible for doing his/her own work. Having another individual complete any portion of your work violates the principles of academic integrity and will not be tolerated. Any evidence of cheating may result in an “F” for the course and a referral to the Dean.







