

Course syllabus

Beginning Spanish 1 AY21-22 Semester 1

- **Professor:** Eduardo Lage-Otero
- **Email:** eduardo.lageotero@yale-nus.edu.sg (<mailto:eduardo.lageotero@yale-nus.edu.sg>)
- **Course hours:** Tuesday & Friday, 1:00-2:30am; Thursdays, 1:00-2:00pm
- **Classroom:** Classroom 2, Saga College [_ \(https://www.yale-nus.edu.sg/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/campus-map-20150814.png\)](https://www.yale-nus.edu.sg/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/campus-map-20150814.png)
- **Office:** Faculty Office 4, Saga 01-03B
- **Office hours:** via Zoom - Tuesday, 11:00-12:00pm and Thursday, 2:00-3:00pm; or by appointment

Texts:

- ***Tu Mundo: Español Sin Fronteras* 2nd edition** by Andrade, Egasse, Muñoz & Cabrera Puche. *NOTE: we will be using the eBook edition in this course via the CONNECT platform*
 - To purchase your access code, follow these [instructions](#) [_ \(https://drive.google.com/file/d/1h7o2qeLR1w8ZK3WBTgBZus_Re00qTxXD/view\)](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1h7o2qeLR1w8ZK3WBTgBZus_Re00qTxXD/view) to purchase it via Credit Card.
 - Then visit [Connect](#) [_ \(https://connect.mheducation.com/class/yale-nus-ay21-22-s1-spb1-elo\)](https://connect.mheducation.com/class/yale-nus-ay21-22-s1-spb1-elo) to register your information and join the course.

Course Description:

Spanish 1 is the **first** part of the beginning sequence for this language. By enrolling in this course I assume that you have **no or very limited prior experience with Spanish**. If that is not the case, you may need to take a placement test. By emphasizing conversation, grammar and vocabulary building this course will help you develop the four basic language skills: listening, reading, writing, and speaking, plus some level of cultural competence. The course is designed so that you can reach the A2 level [\[1\]](#) or higher by the end of the semester. This means that you should be able to understand common sentences and expressions of practical use, communicate about ordinary tasks in simple and direct language, and describe yourself and your immediate background to some degree.

Language Peer Tutoring: As part of the course, you will be meeting with a Spanish peer tutor

once a week for 30 minutes. This is part of the course and attendance is mandatory.

Objectives:

This course has several inter-related objectives. By the end of the term, you should be able to:

1. **understand** instructions, questions and the discussion of everyday topics in Spanish;
2. **comprehend** short, authentic reading selections in Spanish (with the occasional help of a dictionary);
3. **produce** simple sentences and questions in written and oral form using a wide range of vocabulary and accurate grammatical structures when responding to different scenarios (asking for directions, narrating in the past, expressing desires, etc.); and
4. **demonstrate** a deeper understanding of the culture, history, and politics of Spanish-speaking countries.

NOTE ON COMPUTER USE: In class, you can use a tablet but not laptops to access readings and course-related materials. You should use your electronic devices in a responsible manner, refraining from checking Facebook, e-mail, texting, or surfing the Web unless it is directly related to class work. No phones on your desk either. Inappropriate behavior will impact your grade.

Methodology and Teaching Philosophy:

In class we will speak Spanish as much as possible, using English to explain grammatical points, clarify instructions, describe software tools, or discuss course-related topics when necessary. You are expected and encouraged to speak in Spanish at all times. Remember, you will only learn by trying and making mistakes. The more you speak, the faster you'll improve.

Following the *Communicative Approach*, the emphasis will be on language practice and we will not devote too much time to grammar instruction. **To this end, you are expected to actively participate in class activities and discussions in order to deduce grammar usage. In addition, you must read the “Infórmate” section of the eBook (which contains grammatical explanations).** Although we may do some grammar exercises in class, it is important that you practice as much as possible on your own. To that end, there will be assigned exercises each week from the CONNECT “Cuaderno de Actividades” or Workbook. These will include ungraded practice exercises as well as graded work.

A note on class participation

My aim is to create and maintain **a positive class atmosphere** at all times. Since much of your learning depends on participation and class interactions, an open and relaxed class atmosphere is of great importance. You should feel comfortable speaking and performing in Spanish at all times.

In addition, class attendance and participation will significantly contribute to your final grade.

Course Structure: Targeting the Five Cs

The structure of the course will revolve around the following standards: a) **communicating** in Spanish in real-life situations; b) **culture** as a central element of instruction; c) **connecting** language to history, art, politics, economics and other related fields; d) **comparing** what you read to your own context and experience; and e) reaching out to the Hispanic **community** in Singapore and beyond.

Requirements:

a) Class Attendance and Participation (15%):

Attendance: You are expected to come to class every week and arrive on time. Given the limited amount of time we have during the semester to master a fair amount of material, it is important that you avoid missing any sessions. Absences will only be excused in the event of an emergency when appropriate documentation is provided (e.g. an AD Note or a medical certificate).

Unexcused absences will lower your final grade.

Keep in mind the following Academic Policies:

1. *Students are expected to attend all classes. Students must request the permission of the faculty member to be absent from classes.*
2. *Students are generally entitled to miss one class meeting of a course for the purposes of required fieldwork for another course. Students must*

| Grade Distribution | | Grading Scale | |
|---|-----|---------------|--------|
| Attendance & <u>Active</u> Participation | 15% | A+ | 100-98 |
| Homework - (workbook activities, various assignments) | 20% | A | 97-95 |
| Quizzes | 25% | A- | 94-90 |
| Midterm Assessment | 15% | B+ | 89-87 |
| Final Oral Project | 15% | B | 86-83 |
| Final Portfolio Reflection | 10% | B- | 82-80 |
| Total | 100 | C+ | 79-77 |
| | | C | 76-72 |
| | | D+ | 71-67 |
| | | D | 66-60 |
| | | F | 59-0 |

nevertheless still request and agree this absence with the faculty member teaching the course they will be absent from.

3. *Permission to be absent from class for reason of extra-curricular activities is not automatic and is at the discretion of the faculty member.*
4. *Faculty members may permit a student to be absent for a reason other than fieldwork, but is entitled to apply grading penalties. Faculty members determine their own practices in this respect and these will be clearly stated on the course syllabus.*
5. *Faculty members may penalize students for unauthorized absence.*
6. *Penalties for both authorized and unauthorized absence will normally be on a sliding scale of severity.*

Preparation: You should come to class prepared and ready to engage. This means that you should have completed the assigned workbook activities and reviewed the corresponding grammar section at the end of each chapter (“Informe”).

Participation: You are expected to participate actively in class by asking questions, making comments, and answering the instructor’s or another student’s questions, in Spanish. Remember, practice makes perfect.

b) Homework (20%):

The assigned eBook exercises on CONNECT for each chapter should be **completed and submitted by the due date** as indicated on the CONNECT website. Pay special attention to the Listening and Pronunciation exercises. You should work on these exercises **regularly** and avoid trying to complete them all at once.

d) Quizzes (25%):

This module will use a continuous assessment model. Short quizzes (“pruebas”) will be used throughout the semester to assess your mastery of the material. Some of the questions will be from the workbook but they may also include other activities. The dates for these quizzes or “pruebas” will be indicated on CONNECT.

Note: *What happens if you missed a quiz deadline? You all will have one chance to retake a quiz if you missed the deadline provided you have **NOT** accessed it in Study Mode. I will also drop your lowest score at the end of the semester to calculate the final grade.*

e) Midterm Assessment or Exam (15%):

You will be given a question or topic pertaining to the themes studied thus far. In this task you will get a chance to use the vocabulary and grammatical structures learned throughout the first half of the semester. It is very important to study by practicing with classmates and friends in order to improve your language fluency and accuracy. More details will be provided at that time.

g) Final Oral Project (15%):

This assessment will give you an opportunity to show your mastery of the materials covered so far in the form of a short video recording. You are encouraged to use your creativity and required to include vocabulary and grammar learned throughout the semester. More details about this project will be given in class and via Canvas. The video will serve as a review of the main grammatical points and vocabulary covered during the semester.

h) Final Portfolio Reflection (10%):

The final written task will consist of a short essay **in English** talking about your work during the semester with the **Language Portfolio**, in particular your **Intercultural Journal** and **Language Dossier**. There will be time in class to go over this to address any questions.

Note on Grades:

| | |
|-----------|--|
| A, A+ | Excellent work. Above expectations in all aspects. |
| B+, B, B- | Good work. Meets all the course goals and fulfills all the course requirements |
| C+, C | Fair. Meets some of the course goals and requirements |
| D+, D | Poor. Barely passing work of low quality |
| F | Fail |

Note on College Academic Policies:

1. Students are generally entitled to miss one class meeting of a course for the purposes of required fieldwork for another course. Students must nevertheless still request and agree this absence with the faculty member teaching the course they will be absent from.
2. Permission to be absent from class for reason of extra-curricular activities is not automatic and is at the discretion of the faculty member.

Note on Academic Integrity:

Academic Integrity Policy Yale-NUS College expects its students to abide by the highest standards of academic integrity as a matter of personal honesty and communal responsibility. Acting with academic integrity requires that (a) students do their own work, (b) students not interfere with the work of others, (c) students accurately and honestly represent the content of their work, and (d) students properly attribute others' work. Violations of the College's academic integrity standards undermine both the community and the individual growth of students. Accordingly, they will be addressed with the utmost seriousness and sanctions ranging from grade penalties to expulsion. Examples of violations of academic integrity include plagiarism, copying or sharing homework

examples of violations of academic integrity include plagiarism, copying or submitting someone else's answers, submitting work completed for one course as 'new' work for another course, or fabricating or falsifying research data. For more information please visit the Student Services website, Policies and Procedures section: <https://studentlife.yale-nus.edu.sg/policies/academic-integrity/>.

The Yale-NUS Library provides resources on citations and plagiarism here: <https://library.yale-nus.edu.sg/avoiding-plagiarism/>

Note on Late Submissions:

All homework and assignments must be submitted on the due date. Late homework MAY NOT be accepted or graded. If you miss class due to illness or any other valid reason, you must contact me asap to make arrangements to hand in any missed assignment.

Your assignment will be considered late if it misses the deadline without an AD note or Medical Certificate from a Doctor. For every late assignment, you will pay a penalty, as your grade will go down by 5 points if you do not submit by the deadline. The grade will fall by 5 points (or a 1/3 of a letter grade) per 24 hours after the deadline. Please note the following from the Academic Regulations (p.19): "Students are expected to plan and manage their workloads, and to ensure they do not lose work through IT malfunction. Students are expected to submit work on or before the deadlines specified in the syllabi or as advised in class. Faculty members may penalise students for work submitted after a deadline in accord with their policy, which will be clearly stated on the course syllabus."

Health and Wellness Contacts

If you are experiencing undue stress or feel you might benefit from private counseling, please contact the Yale-NUS Health and Wellness Centre. The Wellness Centre also offers a wide range of enriching workshops and events. You may also want to reach out to your Assistant Dean within your residential College. For this and other kinds of support: <https://studentlife.yale-nus.edu.sg/wellness/>