

SPAN 2315 900  
*Spanish Language Studies IV*

Hybrid

Wednesdays, 2:00–3:15 pm  
Classroom Hall 204

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<b>Office:</b> Classroom Hall 314–O	<b>Office Hours:</b> Classroom Hall 314–O, W 2:00 –3:00pm (For virtual appointments, send an email with two of your most convenient times)

## A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Spanish Language Studies IV is a fourth-semester course that will focus on the development of reading and academic writing abilities and intercultural competency to develop bilingual and bicultural literacy. This course is also for students with a cultural connection to heritage language speech communities or who have achieved proficiency from study in previous courses. In addition to scaffolding skills that students already have, in this class they will expand their ability to describe abstract and hypothetical situations. Students will also examine formal and informal contexts of language use in speaking and writing. By studying the cultural and historical background shared by students as part of the program, students will develop an increased critical awareness of Spanish language speech communities. The course emphasizes the role of students as storytellers and the narrations and narratives created by generations of skilled Latin American people about their knowledge and culture. Students will read, interpret, historical and cultural products from Spanish-speaking countries and produce a multimedia story about the Spanish-speaking community of San Antonio.

## Goals

- Maintenance of the language
- Decolonizing use of standard register
- The expansion of bilingualism and translanguaging
- The development of academic skills in the heritage language
- Positive attitudes toward both the heritage language and its various dialects and cultures

- The development of cultural sensitivity
- Development of critical language awareness
- Development of multiliteracies

#### Student Learning Outcomes (on syllabi and for assessment)

1. Interpersonal Communication: Students can exchange information on a wide variety of familiar topics in which the students use appropriate vocabulary to describe their daily lives, narrate events in the past, describe future events, and present a simple hypothetical situation with some degree of ease and confidence. Students will record a podcast.
2. Written expression: Students can produce writing in the target language that state their viewpoint about familiar topics and give some reasons to support it, using sentences and series of connected sentences.
3. Interpretive listening: Students can usually understand the main idea and flow of events expressed in various time frames in conversations and discussions.
4. Interpretive reading: Students can usually follow the main message in various time frames in straightforward, and sometimes descriptive, paragraph-length informational and fictional texts.
5. Critical cultural and language awareness: Students can recognize and explain some of the issues facing bilingual communities in accordance with the instructor's expertise and articulation with previous and subsequent courses.

#### Communicative Functions to consider

- expressing moral, intellectual, and social concerns
- Providing suggestions in which the speaker is included
- discussing options, probabilities, or capabilities of doing something
- evaluating the results of an action or an event
- warning someone / discouraging someone from pursuing a course of action
- Interviewing people, formulating questions.
- discussing a literary text, audiovisual production and visual products and multimedia content

## B. COURSE MATERIALS

- All course materials, course notes, and readings will be presented to students in Blackboard.

- Hernández Yanina, and José Esteban Hernández. 2020. *Reflexiones sobre nuestra lengua: Manual de discusión y reflexión*. <https://reflexionessobrenuestralengua.pressbooks.com/>. Open Education Resource\*.

- Other resources

- Microphone and camera access
- <https://spark.adobe.com>
- <https://www.wordreference.com>
- <https://www.linguee.com>

\*An open education resource as defined by SB810, is "Open educational resource means a teaching, learning, or research resource that is in the public domain or has been released under an intellectual property license that permits the free use and repurposing of the resource by any person. The term may include full course curricula, course materials, modules, textbooks, streaming videos, tests, software, and any other tools, materials, or techniques used to support access to knowledge."

## B. COURSE POLICIES

### 1. Course Prerequisite

Spanish 2315 is the second intermediate level course designed for students who are bilingual and/or have taken SPAN 2313 at A&M–San Antonio. The course is designed for bilingual and second language learners of Spanish. The course focusses on developing grammatical, conversational, and listening skills in a positive and culturally relevant setting. Prerequisite: Placement by exam or departmental approval, or successful completion of SPAN 2313.

### 2. More on Placement Testing

Students wishing to enroll in Spanish must take the A&M–SA Spanish Placement Exam (SASPE) for appropriate placement.

### 3. Attendance

Attendance and participation are mandatory. You must come to class **every week** and you must be ready to participate actively in class discussion as well as small group activities. Attendance factors into your participation grade.

- You are allowed **two** “grace” absence, which cannot be taken on a day when you are scheduled to make a presentation or a report. For each subsequent absence 2% will be deducted from your final grade.

- Missed work can only be made up if you have valid documentation. Legitimate excused absences include the following: verifiable confining illness, serious verifiable family emergencies, subpoenas, jury duty, and military service. It is your responsibility to notify the instructor of any excused absences as far in advance as possible. Work must be made up in a timely manner (e.g. before the next scheduled evaluation).
- Documentation for excused absences must be presented as soon as possible. No documentation will be accepted after the last day of regularly scheduled classes.

#### 4. Class participation

This course is conducted in Spanish. Students are expected to participate (group discussions and assignments) in Spanish. This is a class for YOU to feel confident producing the Spanish you may have heard before as you were growing up. Taking risks in Spanish is crucial for you to build up your oral skills. The use of Spanish is expected in every activity in the class with the instructor and classmates, but the class also welcomes **translanguaging**. You are expected to attend all classes, read the material before class, and participate actively in classroom activities. **You will be expected to participate in class activities and discussions, to continue to improve your speaking fluency.** A grading rubric for oral participation will be provided. Keep in mind that if you are absent, you will receive no participation points for that day.

#### 5. Technology Use

In general, the use of laptops, tablets, and cell phones for personal use during class is not allowed. Exceptions will be made when talking about discussion posts in class or accessing BLACKBOARD for course materials. Please turn off and put away these devices during class lectures, discussions, and exams. These devices can be distracting to you and others in the class and can prevent you from focusing on course content and participating in class discussions.

#### 6. Assignment Due Dates

Due dates are firm. Work is due at the *beginning* of each class period (unless specified otherwise) and late work will not be accepted. **Coursework turned in late will receive zero points for the assignment.** We will make exceptions for university-excused absences and unavoidable circumstances (e.g., deaths, personal/family illness and emergencies) with written verification. *All assignments need to be uploaded onto BLACKBOARD.*

#### 7. Make-up Exams and Presentations

If you are not in class on the scheduled day to take an exam or to participate in the group presentation you will **receive a score of zero.** Make-up exams and presentations will be arranged for university-excused or unavoidable circumstances (e.g., deaths, personal/family illness, and emergencies), but *only* with written verification. Proper documentation must be submitted within 72 hours of your absence. I also ask that you inform us of these types of situations at least 24 hours in advance.

## 8. E-MAIL

Email is the easiest and quickest way to get in touch with your instructors, and we will do our best to respond to your messages within 24 hours. To ensure effective communication, please use your Texas A&M email when contacting Dr. Rodriguez ([yrodriguezs@tamusa.edu](mailto:yrodriguezs@tamusa.edu)). If you send emails through Blackboard, do not expect a prompt response, as **all communication will be conducted through Texas A&M email**. You are also responsible for all information that is sent to your TEXAS A&M email account regarding the course, and you should check this information regularly.

## 9. Academic Misconduct

It is the responsibility of the Committee/Office on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct. For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct <https://www.tamusa.edu/student-rights-and-responsibilities/student-conduct.html>

In this course, academic misconduct is constituted by using any online automatic translators, such as Google Translate, or automatic translator on SpanishDict.com, among others, or receiving help in composition or exams from others. We encourage students to visit the Writing, Language, and Digital Literacy Center for writing and language support and to use resources such as <https://www.wordreference.com/> for sentence level and grammatical checks on essays and projects. However, these resources must not be used on exams or quizzes unless it is explicitly permitted by the instructor. If you are unsure about using a resource, please ask your instructor. You will receive a zero on the assignment turned in using any of the resources listed above (or similar ones) the first time. On the second offense will receive a zero and you will be reported to the office of academic misconduct.

The sanctions for the misconduct can include a failing grade in this course and suspension or expulsion from the university.

## 1. Grading Scale

A	90–100
B	80–89
C	70–79



D	60–69
F	Below 59

## 2. Components and Weighting

Grade Components	Weighting
Participación	150
Examen de mitad del semestre	100
Presentación oral	100
Manual de práctica: Tareas on BB	200
Proyecto final: Multimedia Story (Storymap Project)	300
Final Exam	150
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1000</b>

**Participación (150 pts.):** Participation is a fundamental part of this course. Please read ahead, practice the vocabulary for the week so you are able to actively contribute to the class. No hay la posibilidad de *make-ups* en el caso de las actividades de clase. (Please note: *This is not merely an attendance grade, but rather a global assessment of the quality of your participation in class activities.* You are expected to contribute to all group activities and class discussions.)

**Manual de práctica: Tareas (200 pts.)** There will be various assignments about the studied grammar vocabulary, and spelling topics presented on each unit. Gramática, ortografía y vocabulario are topics found under each unit module. There will also be several other homework assignments some of these include discussions about multimedia, creative writing assignments, and Blackboard assignments.

**Midterm Exam (100 pts) & Final Exam (150):** There will be a midterm and a final exam that will include the material covered in each unit: *Manual de discusión y reflexión* and *Manual de práctica*. Exam dates are specified in the course calendar.

### Oral Presentation & Visuals: (100 pts.)

Students will prepare a presentation exploring the changes of a chosen urban space and its community in Spanish. The oral presentation should include visuals of both the past and present of the urban space (include your own photographs), videos or relevant media content is also accepted. Presentation should highlight a reflection on the significance of this particular location for the student. This assignment is designed to develop communication, critical thinking, and personal responsibility skills. The oral presentation will be evaluated

individually as an oral exam, and the presentation time should be evenly distributed. The presentation should last approximately 5–7 minutes. Please refer to the oral evaluation rubric on BLACKBOARD for more details

#### (Visual narrative, urban poem and poetic narrative)

This course will focus on students as both knowledge holders and producers, valuing their cultural backgrounds and personal experiences as vital components of their linguistic and literacy growth. Through engagement with various storytelling mediums—oral, written, visual, and digital—students will create multimodal narratives connected to the urban spaces of San Antonio.

To enhance their storytelling skills, three bilingual artists from San Antonio will lead workshops in poetry, storytelling, and photography. After each workshop, students will develop their own narratives (students can reach out to the artists for feedback). Additionally, students will receive peer review and formative feedback from their instructor. The final version of students' photographs, poetic narrative and urban poem, incorporating both the artists' suggestions and peer feedback, and instructor formative feedback will be submitted as part of the final project. The instructor will provide additional instructions and rubrics for each submission. The assignments should primarily be written in Spanish, but limited use of translanguaging is acceptable.

#### Final Project (300):

The culmination of the course will be the creation of a final project consisting of three narratives: a poem, a short story, and a piece of photography. Students will curate these three narratives into a cohesive multimedia project, which will be uploaded to the course's Storymaps platform.

#### No Use of Generative AI Permitted

SPAN 2315 900 assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M–San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

#### IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Academic Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, Disability Support Services is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210.

You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us <https://www.tamusa.edu/DisabilitySupport-Services/index.html> or email us at [dss@tamusa.edu](mailto:dss@tamusa.edu). Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services as soon as possible.

Academic Learning Center: The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online

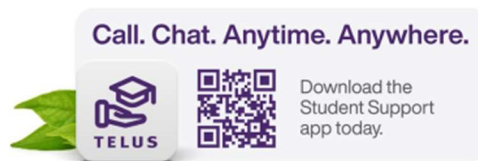
tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the Tools section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing [tutoring@tamusa.edu](mailto:tutoring@tamusa.edu), calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202.

**Counseling/Mental Health Resources:** As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information on SCC services visit <http://tamusa.edu/studentcounseling>

Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331.

Additionally, the TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including support for in the moment distress, an anonymous peer-to-peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.



**Emergency Preparedness:** JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com>

More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/emergency-management/>

Download the SafeZone App (<https://safezoneapp.com/>) for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. NonEmergency (210) 784-1900.

**Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance:** According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended by the published Census Date (the first week of class). Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend prior to the published Census Date (the first week of class) will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

**Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center:** The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on "Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center" to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics>.



Meeting Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to submit a CARE referral (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/StudentRights-and-Responsibilities/file-a-report.html>) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources.

Office Hours: All faculty with teaching assignments should include regularly scheduled office hours on each syllabus in addition to "by appointment." Please review your appointment letter for the number of weekly office hours you are expected to set. Regularly scheduled office hours should also be posted outside your office door (where applicable).

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots' Casa building, room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at [military.va@tamusa.edu](mailto:military.va@tamusa.edu) or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided with an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or course work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

The Six-Drop Rule: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equal opportunity, and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual on our campus and within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees are to be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the University's Civil Rights Officer at 210-784-2061 or [titleix@tamusa.edu](mailto:titleix@tamusa.edu).

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking based on sex, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX

Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or other related sex-based misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator ( [titleix@tamusa.edu](mailto:titleix@tamusa.edu), 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

Pregnant/Parenting Students: Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5)

refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide such reasonable modifications to pregnant students as would be provided to a student with temporary medical condition that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status ([titleix@tamusa.edu](mailto:titleix@tamusa.edu); 210-784-2061; CAB 439K). Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

Young Jaguars: can support parenting students with daycare who meet this criteria: Must be enrolled in classes at TAMUSA in the current semester. Must be Pell eligible or a single parent. They serve children ages 3 to 12-years-old. Children must be enrolled in Pre-K-3 through 6th grade. [youngjaguars@tamusa.edu](mailto:youngjaguars@tamusa.edu) (210) 784-2636

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

#### Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and pregnancy/parenting or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university students' rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

#### Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty, and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, on our website, and University Catalog, and to comply with them, as well as with federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation, or disability. Conduct that infringes on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the Student Code of Conduct (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/documents/Student-Handbook-2022-23.pdf>) or visit the resources available in the OSRR website (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/academicintegrity.html>).