

SPAN 1313

Instructor: Dr. Alexandra Rodriguez	Email: yrodriguez@tamusa.edu	Online Class Mon & Wed: 11:00 am- 12:15 pm
Office: Classroom Hall 314-O	Office Hours: M & W 3:15- 4:15 pm For virtual appointments, send an email with two of your most convenient times	

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

1. Overview

This is a beginning-level Spanish is designed for students who grew up in an environment where Spanish was spoken frequently and are oftentimes capable of understanding spoken Spanish, so this course will build upon students' prior knowledge and skills to expand their ability to communicate in a wide variety of contexts. Some students have had very little exposure to the language and enter the class to develop beginning-level skills. The course is inclusive of bilingual and second language learners of Spanish. This course employs a multifaceted approach that foment the development of the four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. By the semester's end, students will be able to comprehend, speak, read, and write the language, building on student's previous knowledge and contact at home and in the community. In this class, students gain cultural competency and develop a critical understanding of their linguistic and cultural background. These goals are best achieved through using Spanish as the primary language of communication in the classroom, consistent attendance, daily pre-class preparation, and active in-class participation.

Student Learning Outcomes (on syllabi and for assessment)

1. Interpersonal Communication: Students can engage in exchanges in culturally appropriate ways using understandable pronunciation on familiar topics using contextualized words, phrases, common idiomatic expressions, and simple sentences.
2. Written expression: Students can write an essay/poem/story/creative sketch/lyric in the target language that describes a past/present/future (fictional) event to the reader.
3. Interpretive listening: Students can understand familiar questions and statements from simple sentences in conversations.
4. Interpretive reading: Students can identify the topic and some isolated facts from simple sentences in informational and fictional texts.
5. Critical cultural and language awareness: Students can recognize and explain some of the issues facing bilingual communities in accordance to the instructor's expertise and articulation with subsequent courses.

Communicative Functions to cover:

1. Identify attitudes towards language and their underlying ideologies, and the history of Spanish language.
2. Identify and recognize grammar structures of the language (reflexive verb constructions, present verbs, and impersonal and passive constructions with "se," number and gender of nouns)
3. describe how language is used to create and maintain structures of power in society
4. Differentiate language variation in the Spanish speaking world and specifically Spanish in the U.S.
5. Recognize linguistic resources in their community and throughout the world.

B. COURSE MATERIALS

Books required:

Español en los Estados Unidos: Una aproximación histórica y comparativa del español estadounidense by Foulis and Rodriguez. This is an open access ebook (free access) and you can download it here:

Asina is How We Talk: A collection of Tejano poetry written en la lengua de la gente. Edited by Eddie Vega

C. COURSE POLICIES

1. Course Prerequisite

Spanish 1313 is a beginner course designed for students who have had no formal Spanish courses in the past **AND** have placed into this course level via the Spanish placement exam.

2. More on Placement Testing and the

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.

NOTE ON ZOOM: This is an in-person class, occasionally due to documented illness or other pressing issues, you might request the instructor to allow you to join via Zoom. If request granted, you are expected to have your **camera ON** during the class, and to actively participate.

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. 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. BLACKBOARD/E-mail

There is a BLACKBOARD site for this course where readings will be posted, along with grades and other course information and assignments. It is your responsibility to check BLACKBOARD regularly for announcements and updates. 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. E-mail is the easiest and quickest way to get in touch with your instructors, and we will do our best to respond to your emails within 24 hours.

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.

*. Student Life Disability Services

The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with The Office of Disability Support Services (DSS). After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. DSS contact information: <https://www.tamusa.edu/disability-support-services/>

GRADING PROCEDURES

1. Grading Scale

		C	70-79
A	90-100	D	60-69
B	80-89	F	Below 59

2. Final Grade: Components and Weighting

Grade Components	Weighting
Class participation	100
Oral Presentation	60
Digital story-telling Project (Poem)	150
Midterm exam	100
Final Exam	150
Homework	280
Projects 8	160
TOTAL	1000

3. Course Assignments & Expectations

A. General Assignment Expectations

You are expected to turn in all assignments by the due date established by the instructor to receive credit. No late work will be accepted for ANY reason. You cannot email assignments to the instructor. You should turn in written assignments in a Word document or PDF format. Students are expected to complete written assignments to the best of their ability in Spanish without translating directly from English (with the use of online translators). Please contact your instructor if you have any concerns regarding this matter.

B. Homework / Tarea

Homework will be assigned weekly and will be due on Sundays before 11:59PM. Your instructor will post the homework packet along with instructions and due dates on BLACKBOARD. No late homework will be accepted. You will turn in the homework packets as Word or PDF files on each designated assignment on BLACKBOARD. Any other document format will not be accepted.

C. Oral Presentation

You will have a short oral presentation in Spanish relevant to the class content and as an expansion of what was explored in class. Your instructor will provide detailed instructions towards the end of the semester. Your presentation will include visuals only. You cannot read from PowerPoints slides or bring notes. It's strongly recommended that you visit your instructor's office hours or the tutoring room to practice.

D. Digital Story-Telling Project

For this project, you will audio-record and narrate a poem in Spanish, either your original poem or one from a Spanish speaking poet. For your digital story, you will add visuals that connect to the poem and add background music (sound-only, no lyrics). You should introduce the poem and it's them ("Este poema es de la autora Laurie Ann Guerrero, se titula XYZ, y se trata de...XYZ"), you will then recite the poem (pay attention to tone, intonation, pauses, etc.). You should include 6-10 images (do not repeat images) that should appear as you narrate the poem.

E. Participation

You are expected to have read the materials before coming to class and actively participate in class discussions and activities. You will be evaluated daily. (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.)

F. Midterm and Final exams

There will be 2 exams and a final exam (3 total). The final exam will be accumulative. Make-up exams cannot be administered without a documented excuse and without authorization from the HL program leader. Students should contact the instructor before the date of the exam in case of a time conflict. If an emergency happens the day of the exam, you need to contact the instructor or, if unavailable, the department immediately to make the necessary arrangements before the next class period. Make-up exams cannot be administered after two days of their initial scheduled date.

Tutoring and Additional Support

Your instructor will upload your weekly study guides, readings and other supplemental materials via BLACKBOARD modules. Additionally, your instructor will provide study guide packets pertaining to the grammar material studied in class (by the end of the week each week) through BLACKBOARD. You are always encouraged to take notes and meet with your classmates outside of class to study. If you have questions or need additional support outside of class, your instructor will hold office hours every week. If you are unable to attend office hours, please email your instructor as soon as possible to schedule an appointment. You may also visit the tutoring room in **Classroom Hall 304**, please check online schedule.

Note: Course Syllabus

The information contained in this course syllabus, except for grades and course policies, may be subject to change with reasonable advanced notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Academic Accommodations for Persons 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, please contact Disability Support Services in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210, or at (210) 784-1335 or visit <https://www.tamusa.edu/index.html> or email us at 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 and their instructors 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, 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/or 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 Modular C, Room 166 (Rear entrance).

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.

Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 (after-hours select option '2'). For more information and self-help resources, please visit www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling

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/campus-information/safety/university-police-department/documents/emergency-operations-plan.pdf> and <https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/campus-information/safety/university-police-department/documents/emergency-action-plan.pdf>

Download the SafeZone App for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (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 the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend 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://bit.ly/WLDCCenter>.

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 contact the Dean of Students (DOS@tamusa.edu) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to provide any resources they may possess.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, and special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployment, drill requirements, disability

accommodations). You are also encouraged to visit the Patriots' Casa in-person room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at 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 an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or 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, equality of 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 within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should 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, gender identity, gender expression, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units.

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, 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 or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (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 reasonable accommodations to pregnant students that would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition and 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; 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.

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, 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 student 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, University Catalog and to comply with them, as well as 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 an environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notification.

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. Behaviors that infringe 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](#).