SPAN 1210 (section 501) – Spanish as a Heritage Language I



Sign from Tomé Land Grant on Highway 47

Instructor: Dominique Rodríguez
Email: rodriguezde@unm.edu
Office hours: MW 12pm-2pm
or by appointment
Office: Arts and Sciences #106
Canvas: https://canvas.unm.edu/
Meeting times: Online Asynchronous

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Founded in 1889, the University of New Mexico sits on the traditional homelands of the Pueblo of Sandia. The original peoples of New Mexico - Pueblo, Navajo, and Apache- have deep connections to the land and have made significant contributions to the broader community statewide. We honor the land itself and those who remain stewards of this land through the generations and acknowledge our committed relationship to Indigenous peoples.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a beginning-level Spanish course designed for students who have a cultural connection to the Spanish language. Some students have had very little exposure to the language and enter the class to develop beginning-level skills. Other students may have grown up hearing the heritage language in the community and may understand some Spanish and speak at a basic level as a result. The objective is to draw upon the connection to the heritage language as a source of motivation and engagement for our learning communities. At the same time, we build upon the language base that students may already have as a result of their heritage learner experience in order to develop new proficiencies in Spanish and reactivate the Spanish that students have learned previously. By the end of this course, students will be able to describe their home, campus surroundings and common activities including cultural traditions. At the same time, students gain cultural competency and develop a critical understanding of their linguistic and cultural background.

OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES

After completing this course, students will be able to:

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 a brief 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 awareness: Students can recognize and explain some of the issues facing bilingual communities in accordance with the instructor expertise and articulation with subsequent courses.

REQUIRED TEXTS

All of the course materials will be available on UNM Canvas. You will work through your understanding of the readings and lectures in the assigned exercises for each unit.

POINT SYSTEM & ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments	Points
Online activities	50%
Discussion boards	20%
Cultural lessons	10%
Midterm presentation	10%
Final exam	10%
TOTAL	**100%**

Grade Scale		
Grade	Points	Description
A	90-100	Excellent. Greatly exceeds requirements. Shows high levels of creativity, skill, initiative, and effort.
B	80-89	Good. Exceeds requirements. Shows substantial creativity, skill, initiative, or effort.
C	70-79	Average. Meets, but does not exceed requirements.
D	60-69	Below Average. Meets some requirements but deficient in others
F	0-59	Poor. Deficient in all requirements

COURSE POLICIES

Class Format: All course assignments and content will be available and submitted via Canvas. I am happy to meet over Zoom or in-person; please just reach out to me via email or Canvas messages to schedule a time to meet. As this course does not have regular meetings, it is very important that you organize your time and keep up with deadlines in order to be successful in the class. All modules will be open from the course start date, and you are welcome to work ahead if you know that you will not have access to technology for a certain period of time.

Attendance and Participation: As this is a fully online, asynchronous course, attendance and participation are measured through submission of assignments on Canvas.

Office Hours: Office hours are opportunities to discuss questions about the class, class projects and/or subjects related to the course. Walk-in office hours are Mondays and Wednesdays from 12pm-2pm or by appointment. If you would like to meet by Zoom or make an appointment outside these hours, please use this link or send me an email: https://calendly.com/rodriguezde-unm/30min

Communication: The best way to reach me is by email. Do not wait until the last minute to email me with questions, concerns or problems.

Netiquette: Refers to a set of guidelines in online communication that help to ensure positive interactions. These guidelines seek to keep online components of this class a positive learning environment for everyone. http://online.unm.edu/help/learn/students/pdf/discussion-netiquette.pdf

Late Assignments: If for whatever reason something prevents you from completing your weekly assignments, communicate with me as far in advance as possible. I will do my best to provide reasonable accommodation. **Note that I will not accept assignments after the final deadline of December 8th, 2026.**

Technical Skills: In order to participate in this class, you will need to be able to perform the following basic technical tasks:

- Use UNM Canvas, **"How to Use Canvas"** link on the left side of the home page.
- Use email – including attaching files, opening files, downloading attachments
- Copy and paste within applications including Microsoft Office
- Open a hyperlink (click on a hyperlink to get to a website or online resource)
- Use Microsoft Office applications
- Create, download, update, save and upload MS Word documents
- Download, annotate, save and upload PDF files

Technical Requirements:

- A high speed Internet connection is highly recommended.
- Supported browsers include: Internet Explorer, Firefox, and Safari. Detailed Supported Browsers and Operating Systems: http://online.unm.edu/help/learn/students/
- Any computer capable of running a recently updated web browser should be sufficient to access your online course. However, bear in mind that processor speed, amount of RAM and Internet connection speed can **greatly** affect performance. Many locations offer free high-speed Internet access including UNM's Computer Pods.
- For using the Media Tools inside Canvas, be sure you have downloaded and installed the latest version of Java, Flash, and Mozilla Firefox. They may not come preloaded.
- Microsoft Office products are available free for all UNM students (more information on the UNM IT Software Distribution and Downloads page: http://it.unm.edu/software/index.html)
- For UNM Technical Support: (505) 277-0857 (24/7) or use the "Create a Support Ticket" link in your course.

Canvas Site: Canvas will be an integral part of this course. The class syllabus and any changes hereafter will be posted there. In addition, more detailed descriptions of class assignments, as well as useful guides for the class will also be posted.

UNM POLICIES

Credit Hour Statement: This is a three-credit-hour course delivered in an entirely asynchronous online modality over sixteen weeks during the fall 2026 semester. Please plan for a minimum of 9 hours per week to learn course materials and complete assignments. The purpose of Tarea (homework) is to provide opportunities to practice the material we study in class to better prepare you for course assessments and mastery of learning objectives. https://online.unm.edu/readiness/index.html

Academic Integrity: Each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional matters. The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, against any student who is found guilty of academic dishonesty or otherwise fails to meet the standards. Any student judged to have engaged in academic dishonesty in coursework may receive a reduced or failing grade for the work in question and/or for the course. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or without the University; and nondisclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications or other University records.

Accommodations: UNM is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for students with documented disabilities. As your instructor, it is my objective to facilitate an inclusive classroom setting, in which students have full access and opportunity to participate. To engage in a confidential conversation about the process for requesting reasonable accommodations for this class and/or program, please contact the UNM-Valencia Equal Access Services (Sarah Clawson, Coordinator), at (505) 925-8840 or by email at sjclawson@unm.edu. Also available is the Accessibility Resource Center at UNM-Albuquerque at arcsrvs@unm.edu or 505-277-3506.

You are always welcome to contact me for support with any learning needs. I can be reached via email or scheduled appointments through https://calendly.com/rodriguezde-unm/30min

UAP 2720 and 2740: Our classroom and university should foster mutual respect, kindness, and support. If you have concerns about discrimination, harassment, or violence, please seek support and report incidents. Find confidential services at LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center, the Women's Resource Center, and the LGBTQ Resource Center. UNM prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex (including gender, sex stereotyping, gender expression, and gender identity). All instructors are "responsible employees" who must communicate reports of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct and sexual violence to Compliance, Ethics and Equal Opportunity. For more information, please see UAP 2720 and UAP 2740.

Support: LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center and the support services listed on its website, the Women's Resource Center and the LGBTQ Resource Center all offer confidential services and reporting.

Citizenship and/or Immigration Status: All students are welcome in this class regardless of citizenship, residency, or immigration status. Your professor will respect your privacy if you choose to disclose your status. UNM as an institution has made a core commitment to the success of all our students, including members of our undocumented community.

Respectful Conduct Expectations: I am committed to building with you a positive classroom environment in which everyone can learn. I reserve the right to intervene and enforce standards of respectful behavior when classroom conduct is inconsistent with University expectations [and/or classroom community agreements]. Interventions and enforcement may include but are not limited to required meetings to discuss classroom expectations, written notification of expectations, and/or removal from a class meeting. Removal from a class meeting will result in an unexcused absence. Three or more unexcused absences may result in permanent removal and a drop from the course (see Drop Policy). The University of New Mexico ensures freedom of academic inquiry, free expression and open debate, and a respectful campus through adherence to the following policies: D75: Classroom Conduct, Student Code of Conduct, University Policy 2240 – Respectful Campus, University Policy 2210 – Campus Violence.

Drop Policy: Students may be dropped from the course after 3 weeks if there has been no response to inquiries or if the student has 3 or more unexcused absences.

Safety: UNM offers several resources to help keep Lobos Safe. LoboGuardian, https://loboguardian.unm.edu is a mobile app that increases user safety by creating a virtual safety network of friends and family. The entire UNM campus has blue light emergency phones. UNM Police Department, tel.: (505) 277-2241, offers a free escort service for safety. Lobo Alerts https://loboalerts.unm.edu is UNM's emergency text messaging system that can inform you of any occurrences that impact safety. Get Help Now at LoboRespect Advocacy Center https://loborespect.unm.edu/Get%20Help%20now/index.html for concerns such as sexual misconduct, hate/bias, bullying, hazing. Student Health Services https://shac.unm.edu provides counseling and health services to all students.

UNM Policies: This course falls under all UNM policies for the last day to drop courses, etc. Please see http://www.unm.edu/studentinfo.html or the UNM Course Catalog for information on UNM services and policies. Please see the UNM academic calendar for course dates, the last day to drop courses without penalty, and for financial disenrollment dates.

UNM RESOURCES

CTL Tutoring Services: CTL is a free-of-charge educational assistance program available to UNM students enrolled in classes. Online services include the Online Writing Lab, Chatting with or asking a question of a Tutor.

https://valencia.unm.edu/campus-resources/learning-commons/index.html

https://caps.unm.edu/services/auth-access/olc.php?_gl=1*8ok57c*_gcl_au*MTQ3NjcwNzMyNi4xNzEwMTkxNTE1

UNM Libraries: http://library.unm.edu

Student Health & Counseling (SHAC) Online Services
http://online.unm.edu/help/learn/support/shac