**Valencia College / West Campus**

**SPN 1120 - Elementary Spanish I**

**Friday 10:00-12:45 / CRN 11928.W03**

**Rm. 5-212**

**Prontuario – PRIMAVERA 2016**

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| Instructor name: Mr. Omar Carmona-Sánchez | |
| Office: CNH 509 | Office Hrs: Friday 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm or by  appointment. |
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## Texts:

* Aventuras: Primer Curso de Lengua Española, Vistas Higher Learning - Blanco/Donley (2014)
* This textbook comes packaged with a code for ***Online Access***, the course management system that you will use this semester in this course.
* It is **mandatory** that you purchase a textbook to bring to class.

**Highly Recommended/optional texts:**

* + - 1. Spanish/English dictionary showing usage
      2. 501 Spanish Verbs
      3. English Grammar for Students of Spanish: The Study Guide for Those Learning Spanish (English Grammar Series); Spinelli

**Materials/Supplies and Tech Requirements:**

* + - * 1. A reliable computer with sound card and speakers
        2. **A good quality computer microphone** (external is preferable to built-in to avoid the background noise)
        3. A dependable Internet Service Provider (ISP)
        4. A working e-mail address

If you have difficulty obtaining the proper computer equipment you may use the following computer labs:

* West Campus: Computer Access Lab 6-101 (located inside the library)
* East Campus: Language Lab 4-104 (located inside the library)
* Osceola Campus: Library lab 1-131
* Winter Park: Library RM. 140

**Course Description:**

Elementary Spanish I is an entry-level course open to students with little or no experience with the Spanish language. The course is designed to progressively introduce students to the Spanish language and the many facets of Hispanic culture. It emphasizes oral proficiency in addition to developing the other language modalities: listening, reading, and writing. In this course, you will develop your ability to communicate at a novice level in Spanish in everyday practical situations and you will acquire some of the skills necessary for effective reading and writing in Spanish.

SPN 1120 C is a hybrid course that combines traditional face-to-face classroom instruction with online computer-based learning. In this course, students will have three hours in class (face to face) and one hour of scheduled responsibilities **online**. Students should expect substantial commitment and study in and out of class. The level of proficiency you attain will depend largely on you as the student. **This course will require self-discipline and time.**

**This class is not open to native or heritage speakers.**  A minimum grade of “C” is required if being used to satisfy the General Education Foreign Language proficiency. Four credits will be earned upon successful completion of this course. If at any time, I find out that you are above the language proficiency for this course, you will be forcibly withdrawn from the class. Do not take this risk.

**Course Objectives:**

Our objective is for you to achieve a basic level of proficiency in the target language (in writing, speaking, reading, and listening). At the end of the semester you will be expected to be able to use the target language at a novice level to:

* Speak Spanish at an elementary level using correct word pronunciation, stress and syntax.
* Write level appropriate paragraphs and compositions using complete sentences in Spanish with correct grammatical structures.
* Speak and write in Spanish using a variety of verb tenses and level appropriate vocabulary.
* Identify the geographical location and cultural characteristics of several Spanish-speaking countries.

**Course Competencies:**

The course objectiveswill be met through achieving the following competencies during the course of the semester:

* Recognize vocabulary and grammatical structures
* Derive meaning from auditory context
* Demonstrate proper pronunciation and intonation
* Describe self and others
* Provide and obtain basic information about events using the appropriate vocabulary and grammar
* Use basic courtesy expressions
* Describe daily routine
* Read and extract meaning from texts written in Spanish containing the level-appropriate vocabulary
* Express likes and dislikes
* Negotiate elements of time

**NATIVE SPEAKERS AND HERITAGE LEARNERS**

SPN 1120 (Elementary Spanish I), SPN 1121 (Elementary Spanish II), SPN 1000 (Conversational Spanish I), SPN 1001 (Conversational Spanish II) are classes specifically designed for non-native speakers or non-heritage learners. If you are a **native speaker** or **heritage learner**, this class is not for you.

A **native speaker** is one who was born and raised in a Spanish-speaking country and has studied the language formerly in elementary school and/or high school in a Spanish speaking country.

A **heritage learner** is one who was born in the United States or moved to the United States from a Spanish-speaking country at a very young age, has never formerly studied the language, but speaks/spoke Spanish at home. A heritage learner can communicate orally with a limited vocabulary but has not fully developed writing or reading skills. In addition, proper sentence formation, correct grammatical usage, and good pronunciation are usually lacking in their conversation.

If you are a native speaker or a heritage learner, this class is not for you. It is strongly encouraged that you take another language class such as Portuguese, French, German or Latin.

If you are a Heritage learner, Valencia has created a course for you that will count as Foreign Language credit. This course is called Spanish for Heritage Speakers I and II (SPN 1340 and SPN 1341). These classes are designed for students who have some level of fluency but wish to become more fluent, become better readers in Spanish and become better at expressing themselves orally and in written form in Spanish all while improving their vocabulary and grammar. SPN 1340 will be offered in the Fall 2016. **To both Native Speakers and Heritage Learners: You are strongly encouraged to drop this course or I will withdraw you from the class**. If it is suspected that you are a Native Speaker or Heritage Learner, you will be asked to take a placement exam at the beginning of the semester. If the results of this exam indicate that you are indeed a Native speaker or Heritage learner, you will be asked to drop the course. If you do not, you will be dropped administratively. If the results of this exam indicate that you belong in Elementary Spanish but later your work indicates that you are a Native speaker or Heritage learner, you will be dropped from the course. That is to say, it is within your best interest to do your very best on the placement exam so that in the event you are a Native speaker or Heritage learner you will have time to register in a different class or take the CLEP test. If you do not do your very best on the placement exam and weeks into the semester you demonstrate that you are a native speaker or Heritage learner, you will be dropped from the course leaving you no time to register for another class.

For Elementary language courses, we don’t allow students to use any elements of the language that we are not specifically learning in the class.  Why is this?  Because this is a good indication that somebody else is doing their work for them or they are using an online translator.  If this happens, they receive a very low grade or a zero.    For students that have some level of fluency (Native speakers or Heritage learners), it is inevitable that they use elements of the language that is not in our learning parameters.  They as well, receive a low grade or a zero.   As a result, in order to get a good grade, Native speakers and Heritage Learners feel forced to use a level of the language that is lower than their level of proficiency. As a result, no real learning is taking place.   For this reason, we offer many other languages or Spanish for Heritage Speakers.

**Drop/Refund deadline: September 6th, 2016 - 11:59 p.m.**

**Withdrawal Policy:**

* Per Valencia Policy 4-07 (Academic Progress, Course Attendance and Grades, and Withdrawals), a student who withdraws from class before the established deadline for a particular term will receive a grade of “W”.
* A student may withdraw at any time during the term in Atlas up until the withdrawal deadline of October 14th, 2016.
* After the withdrawal deadline each semester, students can no longer withdraw themselves.
* Before the withdrawal deadline, both a student and faculty may withdraw a student.
* After the withdrawal deadline, a student cannot withdraw him-/herself.
* Any student knowing that he/she is not going to pass the course stops coming to class will receive an F for the course unless he/she withdraws himself before the withdrawal date of October 14th, 2016.
* Withdrawing from a course is the student’s decision. The professor may recommend to drop or stay in the course however by making these statements is by no means guaranteeing a passing or failing grade.
* The professor will not withdraw the student after the withdrawal deadline.

**Grading:**

Your grade will be calculated as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Grade Categories** | **Percentage of final grade %** | **Grade Percentage** | **Letter** |
| Chapter exams/quizzes | 20 | 90-100 | A |
| Homework (supersite) | 20 | 80-89 | B |
| Writing | 10 | 70-79 | C |
| Speaking | 15 | 60-69 | D |
| Participation | 10 | 59 - 0 | F |
| Final Exam | 25 |  |  |

**Exams:**

* Throughout the course you will have chapter exams and random quizzes.
* The lowest grade will be dropped per semester. If you miss one EXAM, it will be considered your lowest grade to be eliminated.
* There will be NO MAKE-UP EXAMS regardless of excuse. If you miss ONE exam, regardless of your excuse, it will be considered your lowest exam grade and will be dropped. All other exams will be calculated into your grade.
* **The tests are not curved.**

**Writing:**

Writing assignments will be given to evaluate the students’ writing skills. These writing assignments are designed to evaluate the progress of the student and **the student alone**. Rules and guidelines for writing assignments are as follows.

* DO NOT WRITE IN ENGLISH FIRST AND ATTEMPT TO TRANSLATE. This usually results in using an on-line translator or using a Spanish-speaking friend to translate it.
* This is a beginning Spanish class. All writing assignment should contain the material that we are learning in class….**nothing more, nothing less.**
* If there is anything in your paper that would indicate to the professor that you used a translator or a Spanish-speaking friend/family member, YOU WILL RECEIVE A ZERO on the assignment with no chance of a make-up. This matter will not be up for discussion or debate. It could also result in you being dropped from the class or expulsion from Valencia College. (Indicators are sentence structure, grammar/verb conjugation not covered in class, advanced vocabulary, slang etc.). **IT IS BETTER TO DO YOUR OWN WORK AND LEARN FROM YOUR MISTAKES AND LOSE A FEW POINTS THAN GET A ZERO AND LEARN NOTHING.**
* Writing activities are due on the day the professor specifies. **Do not ask if you can turn in an assignment late.** LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED but you will lose 10% for each day you are late. It is your responsibility to have a working computer with internet.

**Attention:**

If it is suspected that somebody else is doing your work for you the following will take place:

* + **First offense: verbal warning**
  + **Second offense: zero**
  + **Third offense: withdrawn from class.**

**Homework in Supersite:**

The supersite can be found at **VHLCentral.com.** This is the online component of the textbook where you will do many of the activities of the course and keep track of your grade. The assigned activities will be listed in the calendar of the website. The activities will include extensive grammar-driven practice, vocabulary practice, listening practice, oral communication activities, reading activities as well as activities to develop your oral proficiency. These activities will assist the student in internalizing the material they have learned. Homework will be completed on the dates that appear in the calendar in **VHLCentral.com**. There will be homework most days of the week. This is to ensure that you are staying in touch with the course on a daily basis.

**Some things to remember:** You are not in High School. I WILL NOT REMIND YOU EVERYDAY TO DO YOUR HOMEWORK. LATE WORK is late work REGARDLESS OF YOUR EXCUSE. Please be responsible and manage your time wisely. Make sure you have a working computer. Remember, there are computer labs on all Valencia Campuses that are available to you the student.

**Oral Communication (presentations):**

During the semester, you will participate in impromptu and/or prepared speaking activities (without notes) in SPANISH; various small presentations in class and one major presentation. Your instructor will provide you with the guidelines for the presentations.

* If you are absent the day you are scheduled to give a presentation, you will be able to make it up during a time that the professor specifies. Your highest possible grade will be a “C” (19/25)
* You must do your own work. Any use of vocabulary, sentence structure, grammar, slang etc. that is not being taught in the class or in the book will be deemed suspicious and could result in the student receiving a ZERO on the activity or being dropped from the course.

Group Oral Exam skit: **(**5%): The Group Oral exam will be scheduled for November. It will be a short 3-4-minutes skit done with one or two other classmates. This will be an impromptu presentation. Your professor will have a set of topics and you will choose one randomly. This skit will be timed and excludes the use of notes or any other resources.

**Attendance:**

In order to fully participate in Elementary Spanish I - SPN 1120 students must attend class. With this in mind, the reasonable needs of students are taken into consideration and an acceptable number of absences are permitted. These absences should be used for valid reasons, such as illness, medical appointments, religious holidays, death in the family, court appearance, etc. Students may have the following number of absences without penalty:

* For classes that meet once per week: 1 class

After one week’s worth of absences (as outlined above) you will **lose 2 percentage points per** **class** missed. Obviously, excessive absences will lower your final grade considerably. Lack of attendance will result in a loss of participation points. If you are not in class, you cannot participate. Please note that your instructor may elect to mark you absent if you arrive late more than 30 minutes late or leave class early.

**Participation:**

***(8-10%)*** Speaks Spanish in class, especially when doing group activities. Is focused in class, participates freely, and asks questions. Answers may not always be correct, but willingness to participate and/or volunteer information is evident. Works collaboratively in groups. Shows signs of reading assigned pages and completing assignments, which means coming to class prepared. Doesn’t give up when attempting something in Spanish. (13 to 15 points)

***(6-7%)*** Speaks English in class at times although responds to questions in Spanish when called on. May begin speaking in Spanish but resorts to English when faced with difficulties. Usually focused in class. Generally prepared for class. (8 to 12 points)

***(2-5%)*** Speaks more English than Spanish in class. Makes little attempt to respond to questions. Rarely asks questions or volunteers answers. Usually is not prepared. Rarely attempts to ask questions in Spanish. Frequently translates instructions/class activities into English or asks a classmate to translate. (3 to 7 points)

***(0-1%)*** Rarely participates and when does so, it’s either in limited Spanish or in English; is not focused in class. Is not prepared; arrives late; leaves early. (0 to 2 points)

**Final Exam:**

You will take one final comprehensive exam. The final exam will cover chapters 1-5. Students who do not take the final exam will receive an F in the class.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:**

Student Conduct and Academic Honesty: Each student is required to follow Valencia policy regarding academic honesty. All work submitted by students is expected to be the result of the student’s individual thoughts, research, and self-expression unless the assignment specifically states “group project.” Any act of academic dishonesty will be handled in accordance with Valencia policy as set forth in the Student Handbook and Catalog.

VCC Expected student conduct: 10-03 Student Code of Conduct

Specific Authority: 1006.60, FS.

Law Implemented: 1006.60, FS.

Valencia College is dedicated to the advancement of knowledge and learning, and to the development of responsible personal and social conduct. By enrolling at Valencia, a student assumes the responsibility for knowing and abiding by the rules of appropriate behavior as articulated in the Student Code of Conduct. The primary responsibility for managing the classroom environment rests with the faculty. Faculty may direct students who engage in inappropriate behavior that results in disruption of a class to leave the class. Such students may be subject to other disciplinary action which may include a warning, withdrawal from class, probation, suspension, or expulsion from the college. Please read the Student Code of Conduct in the current Valencia Student Handbook. Here is the link to Valencia’s Student Code of Conduct website: http://www.valenciacollege.edu/policies/policydetail2.cfm?PolicyCatID=10&PolicyID=3

**Exams and homework are considered individual effort; any submissions that are too similar for coincidence will receive no credit. Any submission that appears to have been done by somebody else (i.e a native speaker, google translate) will be considered plagiarism and will receive no credit.**

Students may collaborate in group assignments. Collaboration should be used to edit or to clarify doubts. If anyone is involved in incidents of cheating a zero will be given. Each student is expected to be in complete compliance with the college policy on Academic Honesty as set forth in the admissions catalog and the student handbook. **Any student(s) cheating on an exam will receive a zero on the exam.** This cannot be replaced with the final score and the professor at his/her discretion can withdraw you from the class or give you an F as a Final Grade. Please see more information on Plagiarism at the following website

http://valenciacollege.edu/west/arts-and-humanities/writing/plagiarism.cfm

**Tutoring:** There is tutoring available in building 7-240. You must go there to make an appointment. They will not accept appointments over the phone.

**Valencia College Expected student conduct:** **10-03 Student Code of Conduct:**

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http://www.valenciacc.edu/policies/policydetail2.cfm?PolicyCatID=10&PolicyID=3

**Students with Disabilities:**

Studentswho qualify for academic accommodations must provide a letter from the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) and discuss specific needs with the professor, preferably during the first week of class.  The Office for Students with Disabilities (West-SSB 102) determines accommodations based on appropriate documentation of disabilities.  The goal at the OSD is to open doors, remove barriers and assist you in any way the can. The key to success is matching your needs to the services provided. Please contact this office to discuss your individual needs. Here is the link to Valencia’s OSD website:

http://www.valenciacollege.edu/osd

West Campus   
SSB, Rm. 102 Ph: 407-582-1523 Fax: 407-582-1326 TTY: 407-582-1222

**Baycare Behavioral Health’s Student Assistance Program:**

“Valencia is committed to making sure all our students have a rewarding and successful college experience. To that purpose, Valencia students can get immediate help that may assist them with psychological issues dealing with stress, anxiety, depression, adjustment difficulties, substance abuse, time management as well as relationship problems dealing with school, home or work. Students have 24 hour unlimited access to the **Baycare Behavioral Health’s confidential student assistance program** phone counseling services by calling **(800) 878-5470**. Three free confidential face-to-face counseling sessions are also available to students.”

**Security Statement:**

Consider adding a security statement to your syllabus. This statement comes from our chief of security:

*We want to reassure you that our security officers are here around the clock to ensure the safety and security of the campus community. It’s important to remain alert and aware of your surroundings, especially during the early morning or evening hours. Remember that you can always call security for an escort if you feel uncomfortable walking alone on campus. White security phones can also be found in many of our buildings; simply pick up the phone and security will answer. Finally, report any suspicious persons to West Campus Security at 407-582-1000, 407-582-1030 (after-hours number) or by using the yellow emergency call boxes located on light poles in the parking lots and along walkways.*

**Valencia I.D. Cards**

Valencia ID cards are required for LRC, Testing Center, and IMC usage. They can be obtained at the Security office in the SSB.

**Disclaimer Statement:** This outline may be altered, at the instructor’s discretion, during the course of the term. It is the responsibility of the student to make any adjustments as announced. The schedule of activities and exams are subject to change. All changes will be announced in class.Read the listed sections below before coming to class each week. You are responsible for keeping up with the reading and homework assignments.

**Tips For Success:**

* Print a copy of the course syllabus and calendar. Keep it by your computer.
* Check the course email regularly.
* Set aside specific times each week to complete class activities. If not, your other work will expand to fill all the time you have.
* Expect electronic glitches/power outages and plan ahead. Don’t wait until the last minute to submit your work.
* If the course website has been working well for you, but begins to “act up,” contact tech support. Make sure that you obtain an **incident id** from tech support.

**NOTES:**

* Your instructor may administer an assessment at the beginning of class.
* There are no make-ups for homework, quizzes, partial exams or the final exam.
* Missed work counts as 0 points.
* **No extra credit will be given**.
* Please make sure that you turn off cell phones and other unnecessary electronic devices.
* This syllabus is subject to change.
* You don’t have to be here, you can take another language.

**Bienvenido al curso. ¡Buena Suerte!**