

South Plains College

Arts and Sciences Division

Communication Department

Spanish 1411 – Fall 2026

(.001) T/Th 9:00-10:40 --- Levelland --- CM 113

Prof. Philip Williams

SPC --- Levelland Campus --- Office CM123C

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In-Person Office Hours: Levelland Office CM 123C: Monday 11:50-12:50, 2:30-3:30; Wednesday 11:50-12:50, 2:30-3:30; Friday (Lubbock Downtown Center) 12:00-2:00

SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE IMPROVES EACH STUDENT'S LIFE

Required Materials: Paper (spiral or journal) for taking notes in class. Computer or tablet with internet access for required work in and out of class. No additional purchases are necessary.

Textbook: Vale, venga, ¡vamos! (valevengavamos.com): This course uses Vale, venga, ¡vamos!, a free open Spanish textbook I wrote and maintain. It is zero-cost, and works in any browser on a computer, tablet, or phone. It contains your grammar explanations, vocabulary lists with audio, flashcards, practice activities, listening exercises, culture readings, and games to support you in the course.

Specific sign-up instructions can be found on the Blackboard course home page.

Course Description: SPAN 1411. This course is specifically designed for beginning Spanish students. The course includes a study of basic Spanish language skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing within a cultural framework. Students will acquire the vocabulary and grammatical structures necessary to communicate and comprehend at the beginner level. Semester Hours: 4; Lecture Hours: 3; Lab Hours: 3. Pre-requisite: none. Students with two or more years of high school Spanish or significant Spanish-speaking background can be enrolled in SPAN 1412.

Additional Information: This course is founded on interaction, communication, and culture and is geared at improving all aspects of Spanish language-speaking, listening, reading, writing and knowledge of the Hispanic culture. Strong emphasis will be placed on reading and speaking the language; therefore, the course entails a great deal of reading preparation and oral practice of the language during class time. You will exchange real-life information about yourself in a variety of activities. You will continue to acquire and improve upon your aural comprehension by listening to me and others speak in class, which will be conducted primarily in the target language (Spanish), and by listening and responding to the comprehension exercises in Blackboard, as well as any additional materials presented online or in class. It is recommended that you spend time outside of class exposing yourself to the Spanish language by watching, listening, or reading Spanish language content (shows, podcasts, books, etc.). You will continue to acquire and improve your speaking ability by using Spanish with the whole class and in small activity groups. Nevertheless, it is always important to understand the basic principles of grammar in order to become more proficient, and this will require that you learn said principles and rules, which will be discussed in English. You will be given ample resources to help you succeed and you will be held to high expectations in all aspects of this course. Having and maintaining an active email account as well as online access will be essential for this course. Please note campus computer lab locations and times.

Attendance: This class is a face-to-face course, and your attendance is mandatory. You must arrive on time and stay for the entire duration of the class to be counted present.

You will be allowed 4 absences for this course. You will be dropped from the course upon the **5th** absence.

Assignments: This course will cover chapters 1-4 of Vale, venga, ¡vamos!. Assignments are to be finished by the posted due date. Assignments are due on the nights before class (for this class, assignments will be due Monday nights and Wednesday nights), unless otherwise stated. Graded assignments will be posted exclusively on Blackboard, and include a variety of textbook exercises (listening, reading, writing, and speaking). There may also be supplementary worksheets and other activities designed to stimulate and reinforce second language acquisition. Please prepare your assignments carefully and expect to participate in class discussion. Since this class has an online lab, you can expect to work at home an amount of time equal to that spent in class.

Please note that in this class, utilizing translation websites for written assignments in Spanish will not be allowed and will infringe upon the guidelines of academic integrity. Proper use of online translators will be covered in class.

Blackboard assignments are structured as follows:

Practice activities: These exercises will be most of your online assignments on the calendar. You will be able to do these exercises 3 times AFTER learning about the concepts in class and looking at the corresponding textbook pages. The highest grade earned on any of the attempts is the value recorded in the gradebook. It is important that you self-evaluate and learn from your mistakes in these exercises. These are not exams; they are homework so you should be utilizing your textbook and notes to complete them (but be prepared before you start).

Practice activities include mastery exercises for concepts learned in class. Most focus on the grammar topic at hand, while others focus on building reading and listening comprehension. All activities include instructions at the beginning, be sure to read them carefully before beginning.

Grammar, Vocabulary, and Conjugator Pages: These pages are always available to you in Vale, venga, ¡vamos! at valevengavamos.com, and each week's Blackboard folder links to the ones we are covering. Grammar lessons explain each concept in English with Spanish examples you can listen to, and end with quick practice. The book is your learning and practice site, so use it as much as you like, before and after each assignment. Keep in mind that practice you complete there is **not** recorded in the Blackboard gradebook; only the work you submit in Blackboard counts toward your grade.

Tests: There will be one test for each chapter (excluding the last chapter), making 3 tests in total. These will be posted on designated test days. Tests will be completed in-person in the Computer Lab. They are not timed, but you only have one attempt, and you must finish after you start. They will cover all forms of grammar and vocabulary from the chapter. You will have listening, reading, and writing sections in multiple formats (true/false, fill in the blank, multiple choice, word banks, and short sentence answers).

Final Exam: The final exam is cumulative, but content from the last chapter of the course is more heavily represented. The Final Exam will be completed in-person in the Computer Lab. It is not timed, but you only have one attempt, and you must finish after you start. It will cover all forms of grammar and vocabulary from the course. Students with an average of 90 or above **and** 2 or fewer absences at the time of the Final Exam may be exempt.

Late work policy: Late assignments will be accepted with a 10% penalty per day, up to 5 school days. Assignments turned in after 5 days will not be accepted. In addition to the campus safety plan, I encourage you to let me know if you fall ill during the course of the semester, have a family emergency, or find yourself with an approved school activity that impedes with pending assignments (not past due). I will, at my discretion and within reason, work with you. I would expect these occurrences to be rare.

Evaluation - Grade Determination:

Blackboard Activities.....	50%
Participation (includes in class discussions and activities).....	10%
Chapter Exams and Project	30%
Final Exam	10%

***A grade of 'C' or better is required to continue to the next level of Spanish at SPC. The next course is SPAN 1412.**

Special Notice: This class includes a 3-hour weekly lab obligation in addition to class meetings and discussions. This means that you must log in weekly and successfully complete the assigned activities and exercises in order to pass the course. You are to remain above 80% completion of all assigned exercises at any given time. Students not meeting this requirement will receive one warning in writing. Failure to meet requirements will result in the student being dropped from the course.

If at any time you decide to quit attending class is your responsibility to follow the appropriate procedures and drop the course. I strongly encourage you to visit with me before dropping any course. The last day to drop the course is **Thursday, December 3rd**. If by this date you have not logged into Blackboard and maintained an 80% completion of all posted exercises after being warned, expect to be dropped from the course by the instructor.

Academic Integrity: Cheating and plagiarism constitute serious offenses and will not be tolerated. (Refer to the SPC General Catalog and Student Guide). For this class, improper use of online translators/websites for written assignments is considered cheating.

SPAN 1411 Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Engage in conversations using level-appropriate grammatical structures including narrating events that take place in the present and producing questions and responses on a variety of topics dealing with everyday life.
2. Demonstrate understanding of level-appropriate spoken Spanish.
3. Write simple sentences and organize them into short paragraphs.
4. Read and comprehend level-appropriate texts.
5. Identify and discuss traditions, customs and values of the Spanish-speaking world.
6. Compare and contrast the traditions, customs and values of the Spanish-speaking world with characteristics of their own culture.

Course Objectives: The purpose of this course is formed by ACTFL National Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the 21st Century, focusing on the five general areas:

Communication

Communicate in Languages Other Than English

Standard 1.1: Students engage in conversations, provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions, and exchange opinions.

Standard 1.2: Students understand and interpret written and spoken language on a variety of topics.

Standard 1.3: Students present information, concepts, and ideas to an audience of listeners or readers on a variety of topics.

Cultures

Gain Knowledge and Understanding of Other Cultures

Standard 2.1: Students demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the practices and perspectives of the culture studied.

Standard 2.2: Students demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the products and perspectives of the culture studied.

Connections

Connect with Other Disciplines and Acquire Information

Standard 3.1: Students reinforce and further their knowledge of other disciplines through the foreign language.

Standard 3.2: Students acquire information and recognize the distinctive viewpoints that are only available through the foreign language and its cultures.

Comparisons

Develop Insight into the Nature of Language and Culture

Standard 4.1: Students demonstrate understanding of the nature of language through comparisons of the language studied and their own.

Standard 4.2: Students demonstrate understanding of the concept of culture through comparisons of the cultures studied and their own.

Communities

Participate in Multilingual Communities at Home & Around the World

Standard 5.1: Students use the language both within and beyond the school setting.

Standard 5.2: Students show evidence of becoming life-long learners by using the language for personal enjoyment and enrichment.

Course Syllabi Statements

For a full list of Course Syllabi Statements, visit: <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>