

South Plains College

Arts and Sciences Division

Communication Department

Spanish 1411 – Fall 1st 8 Weeks 2026

(.181) Online

Prof. Philip Williams

SPC--- Levelland Campus--- Office CM123C

pwilliams@southplainscollege.edu

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: Computer with internet access, camera, and microphone. SPC email. Access to Blackboard.

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.

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 Spanish-speaking programs, listening to Spanish radio stations, choosing print materials of personal interest that are in Spanish, and engaging in interactions with others that speak the language. 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. In learning such an array of communication skills you must diligently practice and strive for improvement. It is impossible to “cram” for a language class and expect satisfactory results as communicative competence is built gradually over a period of time. 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.

Communication: All communication must be done through your SPC Email account. I will not answer emails from personal email accounts. Blackboard messaging is acceptable to use. If you email me, you can expect a response within 24 hours on weekdays. Additionally, I will be posting announcements with important course information frequently, so be sure to have notifications from Blackboard enabled. If you would like to schedule a phone call or Zoom call, please send me an email.

Assignments: This course will cover chapters 1-4 of Vale, venga, ¡vamos!. Assignments will be due weekly on Fridays at midnight CST unless otherwise stated. Some assignments (like tests) may have special due dates. Graded assignments will be posted exclusively on Blackboard, and will include readings and textbook exercises (oral and written/taped), supplementary worksheets, and any other activities designed to stimulate and reinforce foreign language acquisition. Please prepare your assignments carefully and expect to be active in the course several hours each week. This is an 8-week course, so the pace is roughly double that of a 16-week section; plan your week accordingly.

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.

Blackboard Assignments are structured as follows:

Assignments: Weekly assignments will be the majority of your online assignments in this course. You will be able to work these exercises 3 times AFTER looking at the corresponding grammar, vocabulary, or culture pages. The highest grade of your three attempts will be recorded into the gradebook. It is important that you self-evaluate and learn from your mistakes on these exercises. These are not exams; they are homework so you should be utilizing your textbook and notes to complete them (be prepared before you start).

Special Activities: These include things like Discussion Boards, Video Assignments, Projects, etc. They are still calculated into the chapter grades, but are subject to different weight values, check each assignment for point value. Check each assignment for number of attempts.

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: These will be posted on designated test days. All questions must be answered. You will have one attempt. 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. 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. There are no exemptions for the Final Exam.

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:

Chapter assignments (includes all weekly exercises posted on Blackboard).....	60%
Chapter Exams (On Blackboard).....	30%
Final Exam	10%

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

Assignments and Blackboard: This class includes a 3-hour weekly lab obligation. 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 (see Special Notice section below).

Special Notice: If at any time you decide to quit attending class it is your responsibility to follow the appropriate procedures and drop the course. I strongly encourage you to visit with your professor before dropping any course. The last day to drop the course is **Thursday, October 8th**. If you have not logged into the Blackboard, 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, the 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/>