

SPAN 1411.454 - Beginning Spanish I

Fall 2026 | Online Dual Credit | August 24-December 10, 2026

Meeting / Location	Online - no scheduled college class meeting
Instructor	Wayne Langehennig, Professor of Spanish
Office	B005 (Basement), South Plains College - Lubbock Downtown Center
Phone	(806) 716-4029 - leave voicemail with a good call-back time and number
SPC Email	wlangehennig@southplainscollege.edu
Office Hours	Tuesday 10:45 AM-1:45 PM; Wednesday 3:00-4:00 PM; Thursday 10:45 AM-1:45 PM; Friday 9:00-10:00 AM; or by appointment
Faculty Page	southplainscollege.edu/faculty/langehennig-douglas.php

Course Description & Sequence

SPAN 1411 is designed for beginning Spanish students and develops basic listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills within a cultural framework. Students acquire vocabulary and grammatical structures needed to communicate and comprehend at the beginner level. Semester Hours: 4; Lecture Hours: 3; Lab Hours: 3. Prerequisite: none.

Course content: Chapters 1-4 of Vale, venga, ¡vamos!.

A grade of C or higher is required to continue to SPAN 1412.

Course Modality & Participation

This is an online dual-credit college course and is not self-paced. Students should expect to participate and study consistently throughout each week. Language learning develops gradually through repeated exposure and practice; it cannot be successfully compressed into one long session immediately before a deadline.

Participation: This course includes a 3-hour weekly lab obligation. Students are expected to log in weekly, complete assigned activities, and remain at or above 80% completion of posted coursework. Students who fall below this level may receive a written warning and may be subject to being dropped if satisfactory participation is not restored.

Required Materials & Technology

Text / Learning Site	Vale, venga, ¡vamos! - a free online Spanish textbook and practice site
Website	valevengavamos.com
Course Code	RCUDMY
Also Required	Computer with reliable internet access, camera, microphone, active SPC email, and Blackboard access

Vale, venga, ¡vamos! works in a browser on a computer, tablet, or phone and includes grammar explanations, vocabulary with audio, flashcards, practice activities, listening exercises, culture readings, and games. Register for the course using the code above. Please use your SPC email when possible.

Course Platforms & Communication

Keep the roles clear: Vale, venga, ¡vamos! is your textbook and learning/practice site. Blackboard is where graded coursework, exams, announcements, supplemental materials, and the course gradebook will be located. SPC email is how I communicate with you.

- Vale, venga, ¡vamos!: Use the site to read explanations, study vocabulary, listen to examples, practice concepts, and prepare for graded work. Practice completed on the Vale site itself is not automatically recorded in the Blackboard gradebook.
- Blackboard: Check Blackboard for weekly graded assignments, special activities, tests, announcements, supplemental content, and your course gradebook.
- SPC Email: Check your SPC email every day. I use SPC email for student-instructor communication and do NOT use Blackboard messaging as my primary communication method. When emailing, include your course and section in the subject line when possible.

SPC Technology Support

Problem	Where to Get Help
SPC email, username/password, login, or general SPC technology	SPC IT Help Desk - (806) 716-2600 helpdesk@southplainscollege.edu Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM-4:00 PM
Blackboard after successful sign-in	Blackboard Support - (806) 716-2180 blackboard@southplainscollege.edu

SPC IT Help Desk: southplainscollege.edu/technology/it-help-desk.php

Using Vale, venga, ¡vamos! Successfully

The Vale site is your learning and practice environment. Grammar, vocabulary, conjugation, audio, culture, and practice pages remain available to you throughout the course. Use them before and after graded assignments. The goal is to study, practice, make mistakes, review explanations, and improve.

Study approach: Regular Blackboard assignments are homework/practice, not exams. Use Vale, your notes, and other instructor-approved course materials while completing them. I strongly recommend taking handwritten notes as you study grammar, vocabulary, and examples in the textbook.

Blackboard Assignments & Activities

Graded coursework will be posted in Blackboard. Weekly assignments may include textbook-based exercises, written or oral work, supplementary activities, and other practice designed to reinforce language acquisition. Specific due dates and point values will be shown in Blackboard.

- Regular assignments are designed for learning and practice. The number of attempts available will be stated in each Blackboard assignment. When multiple graded attempts are offered, use them to review mistakes and improve rather than simply repeat answers.
- Special activities may include discussion boards, video assignments, projects, or other activities. These may use different point values or submission rules, so read the directions for each assignment carefully.
- Students are responsible for monitoring Blackboard throughout the week for assigned work and due dates.

Late Work, Missed Work & Communication

Before the deadline: If you see a problem developing, contact me BEFORE the deadline. I can often work with a student who communicates while an assignment or exam is still pending. Once work is already past due, the options become much more limited.

Late work is not accepted. Students are responsible for monitoring deadlines and completing assignments and exams on time. If illness, a family emergency, an approved school activity, a technology/access problem, or another significant circumstance may affect pending work, contact me before the deadline whenever reasonably possible. Limited flexibility, when appropriate, is at the instructor's discretion and should be expected to be rare.

Authentic Work, AI & Translation Tools

Work submitted in this course must represent your own developing Spanish-language ability. Course materials, notes, dictionaries, grammar references, and other instructor-approved resources may be used to support learning when an assignment allows them. Using AI, online translators, websites, or other tools to generate or substantially produce Spanish that you submit as your own is not permitted unless specifically authorized for an assignment.

The goal is not perfect Spanish; the goal is evidence of your developing Spanish.

Chapter Exams & Final Exam

Chapter exams will be posted in Blackboard on designated test dates and ordinarily allow one attempt. They may assess grammar, vocabulary, listening, reading, and writing in a variety of formats. Unless otherwise instructed, outside assistance, translators, AI tools, websites, notes, or other unauthorized resources may not be used during an exam.

The final exam is cumulative, with material from the final portion of the course represented more heavily. It allows one attempt and must be completed according to the instructions and availability window posted in Blackboard. There are no exemptions from the final exam unless required by college policy.

Evaluation & Course Grade

Category	Weight
Chapter Assignments (weekly Blackboard coursework)	60%
Chapter Exams	30%
Final Exam	10%

The Blackboard gradebook will be updated throughout the semester and is the primary place to monitor your recorded course grades. Standard grading scale: A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = below 60.

A grade of C or higher is required to continue to SPAN 1412.

Extra credit should not be expected. Students should use the regular assignments, available practice, feedback, and permitted additional attempts to improve throughout the semester.

Important Fall 2026 Dates

Date	Fall 2026 Event
Aug. 24	First Class Day / Fall semester begins
Aug. 24-28	Add/Drop/Late Registration
Sept. 7	Labor Day Holiday - all campuses closed
Sept. 9	Official Census Date (12th Class Day)
Oct. 16	SPC Fall Break - all campuses closed
Nov. 25-27	Thanksgiving Holiday - all campuses closed
Nov. 30	Classes resume
Dec. 3	Last day to drop Fall courses
Dec. 7-10	Finals Week
Dec. 10	Last Class Day / semester ends

Withdrawal Responsibility

Students are responsible for monitoring their enrollment status and following SPC procedures if they decide to withdraw. Simply ceasing participation or stopping coursework does not constitute an official withdrawal. Students are strongly encouraged to speak with the instructor before withdrawing. The last day to drop a Fall 2026 course is December 3, 2026.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

Course Changes & Student Responsibility

Students are responsible for reading this syllabus, checking SPC email daily, reviewing Blackboard announcements, and following instructions provided for assignments and exams. Assignment dates, exam windows, and course pacing may be adjusted when necessary. Changes will be communicated through SPC email and/or Blackboard announcements.

Institutional Statements

Official South Plains College syllabus statements are available at: southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/

Please ask questions early. Consistent study, timely communication, and regular practice are the best path to success in this course.