

Springfield Teaching and Resource Services (STARS) 2019-20 Academic Year

Course title	Spanish 1
Tutors	Sonia McCullough Lixandra Rosario
Contact information	Email: nova.starsloveslearning@gmail.com Text-enabled cell:
Class time	Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00-2:00 pm
Course materials	Textbook: <u>Spanish Is Fun</u> , Book 1 ISBN 9781634199285 (softcover edition) ISBN 9781680644708 (hardcover edition) Workbook: <u>Cuaderno de ejercicios</u> Companion Workbook, Book 1 ISBN 9781634199292 Website: https://semuchoespanol.wordpress.com

Course description

Spanish 1 is the beginner level Spanish language course at Springfield Teaching and Resource Services (STARS). It is designed for 9th-12th grade students who have a good grasp of grammar concepts in general. Mature and capable 6th-8th grade students may enroll in this class with the permission of the instructor. This course (or its equivalent) is a pre-requisite for our STARS Spanish 2 course.

This course is designed to introduce students to the basic, most essential grammar concepts, vocabulary, and idiomatic expressions necessary to acquire proficiency in all three modes of communication defined by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL):

- Interpersonal (speaking and listening)
- Interpretive (listening and reading)
- Presentational (speaking and writing)

Coupled with the STARS Spanish 2 course, the content and overall design of this course will enable the student to achieve a mastery level in the INTERMEDIATE range of

proficiency as defined by ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines.¹ An advanced proficiency level may be acquired by taking more advanced language instruction, such as that offered through STARS' Spanish 3 and 4 courses or their equivalent.

Accelerated courses are designed to help students develop language skills in a shortened amount of time. This is **not** an accelerated language acquisition course. A calendar showing the distribution of all 16 modules comprising this course throughout 34 weeks in a school year is attached. This is **not** a self-paced course. However, there is room to adapt as reason and circumstances dictate the need to do so.

If taking the CLEP Spanish Test is under consideration by the student, please let the instructor know.²

Students will have two (2) hours of in-class, face-to-face instruction a week and assigned homework for (5) days a week. Weekly in-class and homework workload will vary slightly according to the specifics of each lesson.

Generally speaking, the student can expect to have on (1) lesson to go over per week. (This need not necessarily be a new lesson. It could take two weeks to work through one lesson.) A video review of each lesson is available on our Spanish course website and the student is expected to have watched it before we meet in class. The student will have the opportunity to ask as many questions as necessary then.

Weekly homework will include one (1) outlining assignment OR one (1) infographic design assignment, textbook and workbook exercises, as well as a minimum of two (2) language labs per week. Online labs consist of repeat-after exercises and comprehension questions. The student may have substitutionary or additional, personalized assignments depending upon individual learning needs. Students are expected to bring hard copies of all lesson-related handouts posted online each week.

Some student homework is required to be typed and sent to the tutor via email. Students need a reliable email address to be used for homework purposes. Parents are included in all email communications unless they opt out. Students with cell-enabled cellular phones will receive text messages and voice memos from the tutors using the vocabulary learned in class. Students are expected to reply in Spanish when called for or else follow whatever instructions given.

¹ See full document here: <https://www.actfl.org/publications/guidelines-and-manuals/actfl-proficiency-guidelines-2012/english>

² The Spanish CLEP exam requires working knowledge of compound verb structures which are not typically included in Spanish 1 and 2 curriculums at the high school level and are instead covered in Spanish levels 3 and 4. It also requires the test-taker to possess a large vocabulary base as well as interpretive skills that take more time to acquire in an instructional setting. Adjustments to the curriculum may be necessary to ensure proper training.

Course objectives

At the end of this Spanish 1 course:

1. The student will be able to express interpersonally in conversations on very familiar topics using a variety of words, phrases, simple sentences, and questions that have been highly practiced and memorized.
2. The student will be able to understand words, phrases, and formulaic language that have been practiced and memorized to interpret (get meaning) the main idea from simple, highly predictable oral or written text with strong visual support.
3. The student will be able to present (communicate information) on very familiar topics using a variety of words, phrases, and sentences that have been practiced and memorized.

Skill assessment

This course aims at depth when it comes to grammar and breadth in regards to vocabulary. There is a limited set of grammar concepts to master but, given their foundational character, they are drilled repetitively all year long. **Memory work will require deliberate effort from the student.**

Generally speaking, the student can expect to take one (1) test per lesson. We will also have in-class quizzes, both oral and written. Some of these are given at the beginning of the class.

We do not spend any time in class taking tests. Parents proctor tests at home. Answer keys are provided with all tests. The student will be required to bring completed tests by the due date for the tutor to see. Tutors can help with grading as well. Specific test-taking instructions will be provided at the proper time.

Students wishing to retake a test must submit their request in writing. Typically, a different test is provided for regrades. Up to three tests can be regraded during the year.

If the student has a disability that requires accommodation, please speak with the tutor(s).

The final grade will include:

- Homework assignments (15%)
- Sixteen (16) written tests (50%)
- Four (4) oral evaluations (20%)
- Class participation (5%)
- Final exam (10%)

Disclaimer

The tutors reserve the right to make modifications to this information throughout the academic year.

Attachments

1. Schedule of assignments
2. Calendar

End of syllabus