

SPANISH: THE BASICS **LANG6401**

Course Outline – Online

Description: “Spanish: The Basics” is intended to participants who are attracted to this powerful language, with little or non-previous knowledge of it. The only requirement to join, is the will to gain or expand communication skills while getting to know important cultural aspects of Spanish speaking countries in Latin-America and Europe. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to build and use useful phrases for common daily situations or when traveling, and will also learn important pronunciation rules, tricks, and expressions widely used.

During live weekly virtual sessions, students will have the opportunity to join conversations and will ask and answer questions after watching videos, listening to music, and playing interactive group games. Participants will also work asynchronously during the rest of the week, reviewing material assigned by the instructor and will complete exercises that will help them enhance grammar and communication skills. These assignments will be available on OWL and will be necessary for the completion of the course. The topics for each session have been carefully chosen to provide the necessary foundation for a successful learning experience, and to encourage an active participation in class. Lectures will be combined with weekly activities that will help to retain the information learned in class, not by memorization, but by practicing and participating in various ways.

Course Goals: To build a strong foundation of Spanish that enables the student to effectively communicate in daily situations with simple but meaningful and well-structured phrases, putting emphasis on pronunciation and in understanding and using widely known expressions in the Hispanic world. Another goal is to prepare students for a deeper understanding of the language in “Spanish beyond the basics”.

Course Objectives: At the completion of this course, the student will be able to: Build written and oral sentences in the Present Tense, by using conjugations of Spanish regular verbs. The student will be able to communicate effectively in daily situations

Evaluation: This is a graded course where a complete or incomplete will be issued. Evaluation will be based on participation and completion of course activities.

Textbook: TBD

Attendance Policy:

Due to the length of this course, students cannot be absent for more than 2 classes. The live sessions will not be recorded, but students who are absent will have access to the lesson content. If a student is not present for the online session, this will be considered an absence.

Completion Requirements

This is a graded course where a complete or incomplete will be issued. Evaluation will be based on attendance and completion of course activities. Participants can miss no more than two classes.

Policy on Cheating and Academic Misconduct: Academic honesty is a cornerstone of conduct at Western University. We cannot have freedom of expression without integrity. Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences; please refer to the section on “Scholastic Offences” in the current University Academic Calendar, or on

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the web at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca>. Such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in this University or elsewhere (without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom the work is submitted). Students enrolled in non-degree courses are expected to abide by the University's code of conduct.

Code of Student Conduct:

The purpose of the Code of Student Conduct is to define the general standard of conduct expected of students registered at Western University, provide examples of behaviour that constitutes a breach of this standard of conduct, provide examples of sanctions that may be imposed, and set out the disciplinary procedures that the University will follow. For the complete Code of Student Conduct: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/board/code.pdf>.

When will I receive my grades?

Final grades will be available 2 weeks after the last scheduled day of the course. A grade report can be printed from myWCS.

Western Digital Badge

If you have met the course requirements for this Western approved [micro-credential](#), you will receive an email from [MyCreds](#) to claim your digital badge. Badges are embedded with data that verifies your skills and achievements. Share them with your employer, on LinkedIn and other social media sites.

Course Schedule:

GENERAL TOPICS

1. INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH

- The Spanish Alphabet and pronunciation
- Introducing ourselves in Spanish
- Starting a conversation
- Countries, nationalities, occupations
- The notion of Cognates and false Cognates
- A glimpse of Hispanic culture

2. GREETINGS, NOUN GENDER AND ARTICLES

- Greetings and Farewells
- Nouns and Gender
- Definite and indefinite articles
- The Plural form of Nouns
- A glimpse of Hispanic culture

3. VERBS SER and ESTAR

- Subject Pronouns
- The notion of verb conjugation
- Verbs SER and ESTAR
- Words That Change Meaning with SER and ESTAR
- A glimpse of Hispanic culture

This course outline is a sample only and is subject to change.

4. ACTION!

- Uses of the Present Tense in Spanish
- Verbs Ending in AR in the Present Tense • Yes-No Questions
- Making a Sentence Negative

5. WHO IS THIS?, WHAT IS THAT?

- The use of question words
- Question Words ¿Dónde?, ¿Cuándo?, and ¿Cuánto?
- A glimpse on the Hispanic culture
- The power of adjectives

6. DESCRIBING PEOPLE AND THINGS

- Adjectives placement in a sentence • Contrasting Adjectives
- Colors as adjectives
- Describing People
- A glimpse on the Hispanic culture

7. LOCATION, NUMBERS AND TIME

- Conjugation of verbs ending in –ER: Present Tense • Conjugation of verbs ending in –IR: Present Tense
- The Months of the year
- Cardinal Numbers
- How much is it?
- A glimpse on the Hispanic culture

8. A MATTER OF TIME

- What time is it?
- The days of the Week
- The Seasons
- Verbs SABER, CONOCER and PODER
- The Verbal Form “HAY”
- Talking About the Weather with verbs HACER and ESTAR
- A glimpse of Hispanic culture

9. ONGOING ACTIONS

- The Present Progressive tense with the verb ESTAR • Forming Present Participles
- Comparing people or things
- Demonstrative Adjectives and Pronouns
- The Verb GUSTAR
- A glimpse on the Hispanic culture

10. AT THE RESTAURANT

- Prepositions of Place and Location
- Verbs TENER and VENIR
- The verb TENER (age, feelings, qualities)
- TENER as possession, and TENER QUE as obligation
- A glimpse of Hispanic culture