Before We Begin, You Should Know:

This course is intended for TRUE BEGINNERS of the Spanish Language. This means that if you have had two, three, four or more years of Spanish within the last five years you SHOULD NOT BE ENROLLED. Students with previous knowledge of Spanish MUST take the MTU online placement exam prior to enrolling in an MTU language course. If you have enrolled in this class with prior background in Spanish but have not taken the exam, you can register at:
http://www.mtu.edu/humanities/undergraduate/modern-languages/placement

Students with previous knowledge of Spanish may earn up to 9 semester credits of Spanish by taking the placement exam and successfully completing (with B or better) the appropriate validation course.

The transitional course (HU2293) offered in fall 2013 and spring 2014 is also available for those who have had TWO YEARS (or even less) of Spanish in high school. HU2293 is an intensive review, and prepares students to enroll in intermediate level courses. Students completing 2293 with B or better in fall receive 3 placement credits for a total of six (3 for 2293 and 3 for 2292)! What a bargain!

Required materials:

  http://www.mhhe.com/portafolio

  The Online Learning Center website provides you with additional review exercises and grammar tutorials, as well as useful vocabulary and grammatical self-quizzes which you can email to me for extra participation credit.

- **IMPORTANTE: Portafolio de actividades (Online Workbook/Laboratory Manual).** The online workbook provides you with direct access to video and audio work as pertains to each chapter of the Portafolio textbook. In order to access the Online Portafolio de actividades that accompanies Volume 1 of the Portafolio textbook you will need to create a CENTRO account at http://www.mhcentro.com. Instructions will be provided to you on the first day of class.

  **PLEASE NOTE:** If you purchase a used copy of Portafolio, without the required book code information, you may not have direct access to the CENTRO dashboard. This will create problems for you.

  Most assignments must be completed through the ONLINE CENTRO dashboard.
Learning Goals:

This course is designed to introduce you to the Spanish language through theme-based chapters that will provide a meaningful context for the purpose of communicating. The four basic skills (listening, reading, speaking and writing) will be developed during the semester through practice and the application of specific learning strategies. In order to raise your cultural awareness and to facilitate authentic communication, this course will also explore some of the many facets of Hispanic culture by giving you a visceral "feel" for the cultures of different Spanish-speaking regions.

Grading Distribution and Scale:
Your grade in this class will be based on the following criteria:

1. Attendance and Participation 15%
2. In-class activities & quizzes 10%
3. CENTRO activities/points 10%
4. Reflective Journals (5%) +
   In-class Writing Assignment (10%) 15%
5. 2 Exams 20%
6. Final exam 15%
7. Oral exam 15%

The grading scale used in this class is:

- 93-100 = A
- 92-89 = AB
- 88-82 = B
- 81-77 = BC
- 76-70 = C
- 69-65 = CD
- 64-60 = D
- <60 = F

Your final grade will be based on the following class requirements. PLEASE NOTE: All requirements must be completed to pass the course.

Plan on studying approximately 9 hours a week, three hours outside of class for each hour in class. Always check your ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE (separate handout) for assignment due dates; it is your responsibility to make sure written work is handed in on time.

Attendance
Attendance in this class is mandatory. Students who miss THREE CLASSES without university–approved excuse will lower their final grade by half a grade; those who miss MORE THAN THREE will lower their grade by a full grade. There will be no passing grade for students who miss MORE THAN 25% of class without university permission (excused absence: see below). Excessive tardiness will also result in a grade reduction.
What is an excused absence?

An excused absence is one that is authorized in writing by a doctor, another instructor, a coach (for UNIVERSITY-SPONSORED events only), a program director, a supervisor, or the Dean of Students. An excused absence will not be assigned with a simple email message to me. No excused absence will be assigned for NON-UNIVERSITY-SPONSORED events.

NOTE 1: If you have flu-like symptoms with fever, stay home! Consult with a physician before returning to class with your note in writing.

NOTE 2: Only students who have excused absences are permitted to make up graded work. If you know in advance that you will not be able to attend class or complete a quiz or exam on the date specified, it is your responsibility to make prior arrangements with me to complete the required assignment or exam.

NOTE 3: IF YOU DO NOT NEED TO ATTEND THIS CLASS TO PASS THE QUIZZES AND EXAMS, YOU BELONG IN A MORE ADVANCED SPANISH CLASS.

1. Participation 15%

   Class participation is a vital part of your language-learning experience and, along with attendance, important in this course.

   Your participation will be assessed every day, although you will only receive an averaged grade every two weeks. This takes into consideration, but is not limited to:

   1) your use of Spanish
   2) your willingness to participate and cooperate in pair and group work
   3) your level of preparedness for class.
   4) your respect and attitude towards the class and your peers
   5) your attendance and punctuality

A great way to prepare to engage in Spanish in class (particularly if you are more visually inclined) is to check out the course-wide content exercises available at the Portafolio Online Learning Center (OLC): www.mhhe.com/portafolio, including the very visual Grammar Tutorials. You can also find grammar and vocabulary Quizzes for each chapter of Portafolio.

**NOTE: Keep in mind that, while the OLC can be accessed through CENTRO, The Portafolio Online Learning Center (OLC) and the CENTRO Online Workbook station are two different platforms. Use of both stations is recommended, and often necessary.

2. In-Class activities & Quizzes 10%

   Included in this category are: quizzes and any other assignment given by your instructor. If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to make up the missed work. If you miss class you should always contact a fellow classmate to discuss what has been done in class, in order to come prepared the next day. If you have missed a quiz or an in-class assignment, it will be your responsibility to contact your instructor to see when and how you will make up your missed work.
3. **CENTRO activities/points**  

The work you complete in this category will serve as an important learning tool to practice grammatical functions and new vocabulary as well as to evaluate your reading and listening comprehension.

**Once you establish your CENTRO account online (www.mhcentro.com) you will be able to access the Portafolio de actividades workbook assignments.** Most of the assignments are either for practice, for credit/no-credit or graded. In order to earn point/credit for work online you will need to complete a minimum of 70% of online assignments. This means for example, that if a particular chapter is marked for a total of 400 points, then you need to complete at least 280. The Section Summary Score is marked for each chapter. I will be checking the Online CENTRO activity roster regularly to make sure everyone is working online. The more points you earn (the more activity submitted online), the higher your point score.

4. **Reflective Journals (5%) / In-Class Writing Assignment (10%)**  

During the semester you will keep a journal in which you will reflect on a variety of in-class topics as well as on your own personal interests. The purpose of this written communication process is to give you an enjoyable outlet in which to express your thoughts in Spanish, while strengthening vocabulary and grammar structures studied. You will write one entry every week. Some entries will be on topics of your choice (friends, family, academic life, etc.) while other entries will be on specific topics related to material covered in class. All entries are to be completed in blue books and must be a minimum of 1 page in length (double space). The journal will be collected almost every Monday.

Your Reflective Journals will be graded for completion only, but full credit will only be assigned if the whole journal is in Spanish only, comprehensible, and on topic. The topics will be posted on Canvas.

You will be given three In-class Writing Assignments. Your instructor will assign each topic and students will be given 15 minutes to write in class. You must have a documented excuse to make up the in-class writing.

5. **Chapter Exams**  

There will be two exams in this course, one for 2 chapters covered in class. (Exam 1 will cover chapters 1&2, exam 2 will cover chapters 3&4. The final exam will cover all the chapters, with a big emphasis on chapters 5 & 6. **If you cannot be present for an exam, it is your responsibility to let me know BEFORE the exam, and to make arrangements with me to take it (or a make-up exam) at a different time.** Please remember: Make-ups are allowed ONLY FOR OFFICIALLY EXCUSED ABSENCES!
6. Final Exam 15%

The final exam will be comprehensive and cumulative in nature. The final exam will include reading and written work. The questions will come from material covered in class and will require short and extended writing as well as an understanding of cultural material, grammatical functions and vocabulary covered in class.

7. Oral Exam 15%

This exam will be done in pairs, and take place in your regularly scheduled classroom. The exam will last approximately 8-10 minutes, and consists of a role-play with your partner. The conversation may include different tasks such as asking and answering questions, describing and/or responding to a situation etc. Sample topics will be provided. This exam will be worth 15% of your final grade.

**Academic Honesty**

Students who cheat, plagiarize, or fabricate information as well as students who help others to do so can receive sanctions ranging from warning to special failing grade to expulsion from the University, depending on the severity of the offense. See the MTU Student Handbook or the Academic Integrity Policy: [www.admin.mtu.edu/usenate/propose/02/18-02.htm](http://www.admin.mtu.edu/usenate/propose/02/18-02.htm)

Student work products (exams, essays, projects, etc.) may be used for purposes of university program, or course assessment. All work used for assessment purposes will not include any individual student identification.

**HDMZ: Humanities Digital Media Zone and Modern Language Lab (Walker 113)**

The Language Lab is a valuable and important resource. The Language Lab houses copies of the CD-ROMS and DVDs that accompany *Portafolio, Vol. 1* and *Portafolio de Actividades, Vol. 1*. Copies of both paper texts are also available there. Other materials, such as videos, movies, grammar and vocabulary computer software, as well as Spanish dictionaries are also located there. Monitors are available to help you locate materials and work with the equipment. **Lab hours are usually posted outside the door of Walker 113. Please note:** You are automatically charged a lab fee upon registration for a language class! Put this money to good use by taking full advantage of the state-of-the art equipment and varied materials available there.

There are various procedures that need to be followed when using equipment or material in the lab. **Whenever you use the lab, be sure to sign in using the log sheets for this class.** You can obtain a blank log sheet at the start of the summer session and use the same log sheet for the entire session. Simply fill in the log sheet with your name, language, instructor, class #, and lab usage information. After you fill in the log sheet, put the sheet into the basket by the folders. Blank log sheets are located in the back of the folder bin. The Modern Language folder is located at the consultant desk and is available for student use even when there is no consultant on duty.
Premio y Recompensa (Your reward!) 😊

The payoff for all the work you will do in this class is one of the most exhilarating and gratifying: the expansion of mind and spirit. The study of language is not only about learning how our neighbors speak and act in their cultural settings, space and time. We also gain important insights into our own language and cultural ways of being. Through language and culture study we learn to live in a diverse community complexly woven of similarities, differences, connections, and relationships.

HU2291 also sets you on track to continue language study at the intermediate and upper levels, and toward the completion of a Spanish Minor, the Spanish International Minor, and/or the Certificate in Spanish and Area Studies, all of which are great additions to any professional portfolio or resume. More information on the Minors and Certificate is available at the Department of Modern Languages website at http://www.hu.mtu.edu/mod_lang/

😊 Buena suerte con el español! 😊

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- MTU complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disability Act of 1990 (ADA). If you have a disability and need reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at MTU, please contact the Dean of Students Office at 487-2212. For all other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department chair, or the Affirmative Action Office at 487-3310.

- This syllabus may be revised during the semester to accommodate the needs either of students or the instructor.