

Spanish 2312 Intermediate Spanish II (all mode of instruction: online, face-to-face-hybrid)**Course Description**

Bienvenidos to Spanish 2312! This is an Intermediate Spanish, three-credit course that is part of the Spanish Language Program. It has been designed for students of Spanish as a Second Language who have successfully completed the first Intermediate course (SPAN 2301/2311) or have been placed through the Spanish placement exam. This class is asynchronous online and has several components to follow a communicative approach; from the second week of class students will use Spanish to interact online with their classmates in meaningful contexts. By the end of this course, you will have a general knowledge of Spanish vocabulary and grammar, you will have acquired a better understanding of Spanish-speaking cultures, and students will be able to communicate effectively in general settings using Spanish. From the first day of classes **students will use Spanish to interact with your instructor and classmates in Facebook group activities and/or when you ask questions about grammar, vocabulary and culture. This course is full online, and students must be methodic, organized, and independent.**

SPAN 2312 = 3 credit-hours per week (online) + 2-3 homework for every hour in class = at least 9-12 hours of work per week (including studying, reading, practicing, homework, and test preparation).

The homework of the course is organized in the following manner:

- Tuesdays: Quizzes
- Wednesdays: Explore and Learn activities to complete in VHL (VHL Assignment Calendar). Learners study the grammar and/or topic by themselves, typically using tutorial video lessons prepared by third parties and/or the instructor.
- Thursdays: Practice activities to complete in VHL (VHL Assignment Calendar). Students apply the knowledge by solving problems and doing practical work.
- Fridays: Composition to complete in Blackboard > Compositions > Turnitin
- Sundays: ASC and Communicate activities to complete in VHL (Class and VHL Assignment calendar)

By the end of this course students will have an Intermediate mid/high competency in Spanish vocabulary and grammar, you will be able to communicate effectively in general settings using Spanish, and the most important, you will begin to develop social responsibility, tolerance and understanding of diversity, and a nuanced understanding of the of the diversity and richness of the cultures and people of the Spanish-speaking world: from the basic knowledge to issues connected to history, politics, and cultural diversity. Remember, your instructor may change some activities, syllabus and calendar are tentative, because instructors have to adapt the syllabus and calendar to his/her class group.

Pre-requisites. Successful completion of SPAN2301/2311 (grade C- or better) no more than one year ago OR Spanish Placement Test no more than one year ago OR Valid transfer credit. **Upload documentation to Prerequisite's folder on Blackboard.**

Textbooks and materials

1. Blanco, José. *Portales 2*. Vista Higher Learning. [The bookstore package contains: Portales access code, which includes the e-book version of the program and full technology access.]
2. Where to buy: Vista Higher Learning site or at the UH bookstore.
3. English-Spanish Dictionary.
4. Access to the course on Blackboard and Vista Higher Learning (VHL) site.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO). Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- CLO 1. Comprehend authentic spoken discourse produced by Spanish speakers of diverse origins.
 CLO 2. Produce oral Spanish comprehensible to native speakers using diverse grammatical structures to narrate, describe, and elicit information.
 CLO 3. Demonstrate comprehension of written texts in a variety of genres.
 CLO 4. Write description, narrative and argumentative texts using a variety of grammatical structures and vocabulary.
 CLO 5. Demonstrate ability to formulate cohesive paragraphs and larger segments.
 CLO 6. Practice critical thinking and social awareness through creative activities based on authentic materials.
 CLO 7. Compare products related to XXI Century everyday life, technologies and personal interests or studies.
 CLO 8. Learn about and demonstrate digital fluency in tandem with Spanish language proficiency.

COMMUNICATION. At the end of the first year of Spanish classes, students will have acquired a intermediate low proficiency level, which means they will be able to handle successfully a variety of intermediate communicative tasks necessary for survival in a Spanish speaking context. More specifically, students completing SPAN 2312 will be able to:

- Talk about environment, nature. animals, parks; technology, science, universe, scientists, inventions, popular culture and mass media, literature and art
- Describe and narrate in future time, events, and conditions
- Create longer and informative sentences, reference general ideas
- Describe relationships between things/people/ideas
- Express affection or scorn
- Express emotions, doubt, denial in the past
- Discuss hypothetical situations and events that depends on other events
- Continue developing grammar skills to advance to the mid and high intermediate level
- Improve the use of verb tenses: future, conditional, past subjunctive, **si** clauses, present perfect, past perfect, subjunctive in adverbial clauses, present perfect subjunctive
- Learn new grammar topics such as augmentatives and diminutives; relative pronouns, the neuter **lo**

Requirements

- It is the student's responsibility to contact Technical Support and provide the instructor with a ticket number every time that a technical program arises.

- *VHL Technical Support: Student and extended hours Tech Support: 800.248.2813.*
- *Chat online [How to chat online?](#)*
- *[Web form to request online help to VHL.](#)*
- *[Blackboard Support](#)*
- If the student does not provide the ticket number to the instructor along with the activity number and a screenshot of the error in the system, the instructor will deduct points in all the activities that student did not complete.

PRE-REQUISITES: Placement Exam: STUDENTS MUST HAVE A PLACEMENT TEST RESULT TO REGISTER IN THIS COURSE or PASSED SPAN 2301/2311 WITH A C- OR ABOVE is required to finish the course or HAVE AN AP SCORE OF 4. IF YOU DO NOT UPLOAD THE PLACEMENT RESULTS OR TRANSCRIPT WITH PREVIOUS COURSES BEFORE THE END OF THE FIRST WEEK OF CLASSES, YOU WILL BE DROPPED FROM THE CLASS.

Go to the [Testing Services location](#) (Click here for directions) to take the Spanish Language Placement Test.

STATEMENTS TO COMPLETE AND SIGN: all students must complete and sign the three statements placed as assignments in BB > Syllabus, Calendar and Statements folder. It was indicated by the University authorities that students must be aware of the most important Undergraduate Catalog information. Complete the first day of classes to avoid being dropped.

Grade distribution

Assignments	Percentage of final grade
Online Homework (5 Chapters, VHL) (CLO 1, CLO 2, CLO 3, CLO 4, CLO 5, CLO 7, CLO 8)	25%
ASC (Actividad sociocultural crítica, 3 in Facebook Group) (CLO 6, CLO 7, CLO 8)	16 %
Compositions (1) (CLO 2, CLO 3)	10%
Participation in Facebook closed group (CLO 2, CLO 6; CLO 7, CLO 8)	10 %
Quizzes (4) (in VHL) ((CLO 1, CLO 2, CLO 3, CLO 4, CLO 5)	16%
Mid-Semester Oral (with a partner, on Supersite VHL) (CLO 2)	10 %
Final project (activities on Facebook group, and oral video on Facebook group) (CLO 1, CLO 2, CLO 3, CLO 4, CLO 5, CLO 6, CLO 7, CLO 8)	13 %
Final grade	100%

Extra credit: Only for students who complete all assignments mentioned above (Grade distribution section) for this course.

- **Mandatory Statements (1 point):** to be completed in Blackboard > Calendar, Syllabus and Statements folder, deadline: second day of classes.

- **Mandatory Mid-semester survey or activity created by instructors (2 point):** to be completed in Blackboard > Surveys folder, TBA
- **Additional activities created by professors: each professor will determine if they want to create additional activities and give extra credit, it is only “courtesy extra credit” and professors do not have the obligation to create extra credit activities.**

Course organization

The course will be conducted on different platforms: Blackboard (Compositions, Gradebook), Supersite (Vista Higher Learning [VHL] platform), and Facebook closed class group.

Blackboard

- Folder **Introducción al curso:** syllabus, class calendar, technical support information, guide videos.
- **Composiciones**
- **Gradebook**

VHL Supersite

- Homework
- Oral exams
- Written exams
- Calendar with all the activities and exams

Facebook

- ASC
- Activities developed by your instructor and the director of the program, some ASCs, answer questions.
- Final project

ATTENTION: The extra credit points will only be given to students who have completed ALL coursework - participation, homework, writing assignments, written and oral tests - in addition to the extra credit activities.

University of Houston Grading Scale

A	93-100	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66
A-	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62
B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	F	below 60

Note: A minimum passing grade of C- OR ABOVE (if you planned to continue studying Spanish) is required to finish the course.

Managing your time

As recommended by the University of Houston Undergraduate Catalog, any undergraduate student “*should recognize that coursework in college will require a significant amount of work outside the classroom—traditionally 2-3 hours for every hour in class. That ratio will vary with subject, but the underlying principle will be: being in college is a time-consuming activity. Any other commitments while enrolled in college courses should be balanced against the time required to attend to one’s college classes and assignments [...] Students living off-campus need to allow time in their schedule for commuting. Working students need to consider how*

many hours remain in the 168 hours of the week after deducting time for eating, sleeping, recreation, and other extracurricular activities. This recommendation would also apply for online or other distance courses.”

(“Course Load”. [Undgraduate Catalog](#))

Based on these considerations, success in this class requires that you dedicate the recommended time of 6-9 + 3 class hours = 9-12 weekly hours to read, study and prepare assignments:

COURSE

MODES OF INSTRUCTION

ONLINE ASYNCHRONOUS: This course is taught totally online and students have to work by themselves. The instructor will answer questions in the Facebook Closed Class Group, and when necessary, she/he will send Anuncios in Blackboard and Facebook Closed Class Group. *It is your responsibility to know all activity deadlines--do not wait for your instructor to send reminders. Read the class calendar in Blackboard and in the VHL Supersite.*

You have access to a weekly calendar showing all assignments and their due dates in the VHL Supersite. It is imperative to study in the online textbook, watch the grammar and vocabulary tutorials, and complete all the homework. *All assignments are due at midnight.*

ONLINE SYNCHRONOUS: This course is taught online with **two weekly synchronous hours**. Students must work by themselves 90 % of the course, and with the instructor via Zoom or Teams 10% of the course. The instructor will answer questions in the synchronous classes, in the Facebook Closed Class Group, and when necessary, she/he will send Anuncios in Blackboard. *It is your responsibility to know all activity deadlines--do not wait for your instructor to send reminders. Read the class calendar in Blackboard and in the VHL Supersite.*

You have access to a weekly calendar showing all assignments and their due dates in the VHL Supersite. It is imperative to study in the online textbook, watch the grammar and vocabulary tutorials, and complete all the homework. *All assignments are due at midnight and, all activities, except for the tests, you can complete in advance, before the deadlines.*

FACE-to-FACE and HYBRID: In-class participation provides one of the best opportunities to develop your Spanish communicative skills. In addition to the class participation, you must participate in the **Foro** or in the Facebook class group. In the **Facebook** students will post any questions about grammar, vocabulary, and assignments in chapters 1 through 5, and all general questions they may have. Taking active part in this course is fundamental for your success since an important percentage of your final grade depends on your performance (writing and speaking) in the target language. The Participation is a combination of in class participation (if you are absent, you have zero in participation), and/or and/or Facebook group, and/or activities created by your instructor to evaluate participation.

Face-to-face: in classroom class, meet twice a week, two hours each day. See your class schedule in UH system website.

Hybrid: in classroom class, meet twice a week, one hour each day. See your class schedule in UH system website.

I. Activities

You have access to a calendar showing all assignments and their due-dates. It is imperative to study in the online textbook, watch the grammar videos, and complete all the homework, to be ready for the class, and to review after class. To improve oral, writing and reading skills. your instructor can create a Facebook close group for the class, and students must participate. Participation in Facebook closed group, will count as Participation and also as part of the quizzes, ASC, or other classes assignments. Your instructor will send every Saturday or Sunday a reminder for the week. *All assignments are due at midnight and, all activities, except for the tests, you can complete in advance, before the deadlines.*

Homework (5 chapters, VHL) 25% All textbook exercises are specifically assigned in VHL platform and can be found in the “Dashboard” and also in the calendar, when students sign into VHL . All activities are graded for accuracy; you have three attempts (3). Ways to not receive any credit: submit blank answers on the first try or submit any fake answers.

- All homework should be completed by the date indicated on the schedule.
- **Late submission is accepted. The VHL system will take 5% off per late day. No complaints, the system is doing it automatically, if you do not want to lose 5% per late day, submit the homework on time.**
- **No late homework will be accepted after the end of a chapter.**
- You will have three (3) attempts to complete the homework. Do not guess! Study the content first, and after studying, complete the activities. **Explore** and **Learn** activities are due before class, which will prepare you for the rest of the classroom's practice.
- **Speaking Activities:** Students will answer questions, and / or have listening and oral activities.
- You can use the Language Commons (AH 215) to complete your online homework.
- **Speaking Activities:** The voice recorder is very easy to use. You will have on average 1-2 oral activities per week.

Composición(10%). Students must complete 1 composition. Each composition has a first version (draft) and final version, and it has to be completed in Turnitin, accessible via Blackboard.

- All instructions are in Blackboard > **Folder Compositions**. All writing is to be **your own work**. You **may not seek tutoring or any other kind of help** for the writing activities; only your instructor is authorized to give such help. **Use of translation devices or services** to complete a writing task is not allowed either. **If the instructor, after comparing a student's composition with other written assignments, determines that the student received help or used an online translator to complete the composition, the student will receive an automatic zero.** (Please refer to section 'On plagiarism')
- The compositions have two parts: The first draft and the final version. Students will write the draft, review the instructor feedback, make the corrections suggested by the instructor, complete the **Ficha de errores**, and submit the final version. **If you have a grade of 94 or above, you do not need to submit the final version and your instructor will repeat the grade of the draft. If you have 93 or below, you must complete the final version, attach the Ficha de errores at the end of the composition, and submit through Turnitin.**
- **Not late submissions will be accepted.**
- The final version of all compositions must have a minimum of 300-400- words. No excuse is accepted to write less than 300 words at this level.
- **Do not use online translators. Translated compositions will be given an automatic zero. Your instructor has the authority to decide if you are using online/electronic translators or if you ask**

help to write the compositions. He/she will compare your compositions with the compositions in your homework and quizzes.

Active Participation in Facebook Closed Class Group (10%)

Students must participate in the *Facebook Closed Group*.

- Students will have to become a member of a Facebook class closed group, and participation is mandatory. Students should ask questions and answer other students' questions about challenging activities in the Facebook group. Also, students will complete activities created by your instructor.

In the **Facebook Closed Group** students will post:

- Answers to ASC
- Final Project
- Answers to activities created by the instructor
- Questions about grammar, vocabulary, and all general questions they may have.
- Taking an active part in this course is fundamental for your success, since an important percentage of your final grade depends on your performance (writing and speaking) in the target language.

Tests

- **Oral Production.** Your oral skills in Spanish will be assessed in a **Mid-Semester test (10%)**, and in the **Final Project (13%)**.
- **Quizzes. (16%)** There will be five quizzes on all course content, including vocabulary, grammar structures, reading and writing and language skills, with special emphasis on listening and writing. As language acquisition is a summative process, so each quiz will include chapter content as well as previously presented material. Tentative dates are indicated in the course schedule and may be changed as needed.
- **Students requiring special testing accommodations can take the exam at any place with a computer and Internet connection.**
- Dates for the tests are indicated in the course schedule (Calendario).
- **Once you start the quiz, the quiz will remain open for one hour and fifteen minutes (60 minutes) on the date of the exam.**

Actividades Socioculturales Críticas (ASC) (3 activities in Facebook class group = 16 %)

- There will be three socio-cultural activities (ASC) throughout the whole semester.
- All activities were created to promote critical thinking and cultural awareness and use authentic and current materials.
- **All ASC count for your final grade. Be careful, read the instructions, take time to prepare these**

activities, and pay attention to avoid plagiarism: do not copy and paste your responses. Always quote your researched answers.

Final project (13 %)

- The final project in Spanish 2312 will incorporate all grammar, vocabulary and cultural themes explored throughout the semester; and it is related to the lesson about entertaining. It will be worth 13% of your final grade. For the final project, you will be required to do the following:
- Create posts in Facebook closed group to complete several activities, read a poem and complete activities about that poem.
- Share a song in Spanish by a Spaniard or Latin American composer and Spaniard or Latin American singer.
- Comment classmates' answers.
- Prepare a video talking about the song that you chose (your instructor will give the directions to prepare the video). DO NOT READ. Instructors know when students read the speech in the computer or behind the computer, and they will give a zero. NOT COMPLAINTS, students must talk not read.

II. Absence Policy

Regular class attendance, participation, and engagement in coursework are important contributors to student success. Absences may be excused as provided in the University of Houston [Undergraduate Excused Absence Policy](#) and [Graduate Excused Absence Policy](#) for reasons including: medical illness of student or close relative, death of a close family member, legal or government proceeding that a student is obligated to attend, recognized professional and educational activities where the student is presenting, and University-sponsored activity or athletic competition. Under these policies, students with excused absences will be provided with an opportunity to make up any quiz, exam or other work that contributes to the course grade or a satisfactory alternative. Please read the full policy for details regarding reasons for excused absences, the approval process, and extended absences. Additional policies address absences related to [military service](#), [religious holy days](#), [pregnancy and related conditions](#), and [disability](#).

- If you will be absent from a quiz or cannot attend a synchronous class or complete an assignment on time, **you must contact** your Instructor **in advance**.
- 'Pre-existing travel plans' **will not be considered** a reasonable cause for missing a class assignment, quiz or class. This is an online course and students have to be sure to have Internet access and a reliable computer to complete homework and tests on time.
- Please read the [Excused Absence Policy](#)

III. Contacting your instructor

Instructor can be contacted via email: You should limit instructor emails to the following situations:

- Asking a question about your grade.
- Clarifying expectations of a test or other assignment.
- Send documentation for your absence to a quiz or for not completing an assignment on time.

Remember, **if you have grammar questions, please use Ask your Instructor in VHL, or post in the Facebook Group.**

IV. Important Class Policies

- **No Disruptive Behavior or Derogatory speech will be tolerated in this class.** Disruptive behavior includes making in class derogatory, racist, or rude comments; or posting derogatory, racist, or rude comments; questioning instructor explanations about the content of this syllabus, and/or class assignments in the Facebook group, or VHL answers. For complete information on Disruption see the **Student Code of Conduct**, [Managing Disruptive Behavior](#)
- Anyone using derogatory speech against another person based on their gender, race, sexual preferences, nationality, religion, culture, etc. will be asked to leave the class and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office.
- Violations of the Academic Honesty Code of Conduct will not be tolerated. This means that homework assignments, writing assignments and exams and **must be your own work**. Any violation of this policy will result in expulsion from the class, and the implementation of sanctions as stated in the [Student Handbook Code of Conduct](#). Your instructor has the right to make changes and inform you in advance.
- **Recording of Class:** Students may not record all or part of class, livestream all or part of class, or make/distribute screen captures, without advanced written consent of the instructor. If you have or think you may have a disability such that you need to record class-related activities, please contact the [Center for Students with DisABILITIES](#). If you have an accommodation to record class-related activities, those recordings may not be shared with any other student, whether in this course or not, or with any other person or on any other platform. Classes may be recorded by the instructor. Students may use instructor's recordings for their own studying and notetaking. Instructor's recordings are not authorized to be shared with *anyone* without the prior written approval of the instructor. Failure to comply with requirements regarding recordings will result in a disciplinary referral to the Dean of Students Office and may result in disciplinary action.
- **Syllabus Changes:** Due to the changing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, please note that the instructor may need to make modifications to the course syllabus and may do so at any time. Notice of such changes will be announced as quickly as possible through (*specify how students will be notified of changes*).
- **Webcams:** Access to a webcam is required for students participating remotely in this course. Webcams must be turned on **during online synchronous classes and / or office hours**.

V. On plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious form of cheating. To plagiarize is to claim another's ideas or writing as one's own. **It is a form of stealing.**

Plagiarism can take several forms. Students often associate the term with writers who copy entire passages from a book, magazine, encyclopedia, or other printed source and turn them in to an instructor as their work. This is, perhaps, the most blatant form of plagiarism as well as the easiest for instructors to detect. After all, instructors can usually recognize a passage lifted from Time magazine or other sources with distinctive styles. In fact, instructors can almost always recognize professional writing, even if they cannot immediately identify its source.

But plagiarism takes several other forms. For instance, students plagiarize when they borrow ideas from others without giving them credit. In this case, students might not even use the other person's language; nevertheless, they are stealing the person's ideas or content. Students also plagiarize when they present another student's work (*or the work of a professional paper writing service, or any material copied from a website*) as their own. Thus, documentation involves more than just citing the source of direct quotations.

Because plagiarism is such a complex concept to come to grips with in its entirety, take note of the following summary definition:

- Plagiarism includes the **literal repetition without acknowledgement of the writings of another author**. All *significant words, phrases, clauses or passages* in a student's paper or presentation which have been taken directly from the source material must be enclosed in quotation marks and acknowledged either in the text itself or in foot or endnotes.
- Plagiarism includes borrowing without acknowledging another person's **general plan, outline, or structure of argument** in the creation of one's own organization.
- Plagiarism includes borrowing another's **ideas** and representing them as one's own. To **paraphrase** the thoughts of another writer, professor or classmate without acknowledging them is to plagiarize.
- Plagiarism also includes allowing **any other person or organization (including those found on the Internet)** to prepare a paper or assignment, and submitting it as one's own work.

Plagiarism in the course will not be tolerated. Penalties for plagiarism include, but are not limited to, failure in the course, suspension, and permanent expulsion from the university. For more information, consult the University of Houston *Undergraduate Student Handbook 2017-2018*, section "Academic Honesty." **Plagiarism:** read also [Academic Honesty](#) **Plagiarism**, take a test to recognize what plagiarism is: [Plagiarism Quiz](#)

VI. Students with Disabilities

The University of Houston System complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, pertaining to the provision of reasonable academic adjustments/auxiliary aids for students with a disability. In accordance with Section 504 and ADA guidelines, the University of Houston strives to provide reasonable academic adjustments/auxiliary aids to students who request and require them. Students seeking accommodation in this course should contact the instructor after obtaining the appropriate documentation through the UH Center for Students with Disabilities.

VII. Counseling and Psychological Services

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) can help students who are having difficulties managing stress, adjusting to college, or feeling sad and hopeless. You can reach [CAPS](#) by calling 713-743-5454 during and after business hours for routine appointments or if you or somebody you know is in crisis. No appointment is necessary for the "Let's Talk" program, a drop-in consultation service at convenient locations and hours around campus. [Let's Talk program](#).

VIII. Helpful information

COVID-19 Updates: <https://uh.edu/covid-19/>

Coogs Care: <https://www.uh.edu/dsaes/coogscare/>

Laptop Checkout Requests: <https://www.uh.edu/infotech/about/planning/off-campus/index.php#do-you-need-a-laptop>

Health FAQs: <https://uh.edu/covid-19/faq/health-wellness-prevention-faqs/>

Student Health Center: <https://uh.edu/class/english/lcc/current-students/student-health-center/index.php>

This syllabus and calendar are a contract between you and the University of Houston, it is the student responsibility to read it, follow all the instructions, and meet the deadlines. Your instructor will not make exceptions. PLEASE DO NOT ASK FOR EXCEPTIONS.

QUESTIONS:

1. In Facebook group: Grammar, Vocabulary, etc.
2. E-mail your instructor: confidential questions.
3. **Additional questions, concerns, minoring or majoring in Spanish: contact the Director of the Spanish as L2 Program, Dr. Balestra, abalestra@uh.edu**