



SPAN 1411 – Beginning Spanish I

Course Syllabus: Fall 2026

“Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide personal, dynamic learning experiences empowering students to succeed.”

Instructor: Dr. Maryna Svirska-Otero

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Weekday during Fall and Spring terms	Office Hours
Monday	8:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Tuesday	8:00 AM – 12:30 PM
Wednesday	None
Thursday	8:00 AM – 12:30 PM
Friday	None

This syllabus serves as the documentation for all course policies and requirements, assignments, and instructor/student responsibilities.

Information relative to the delivery of the content contained in this syllabus is subject to change. Should that happen, the student will be notified.

Course Description:

SPAN 1411 Spanish I: Four credit hours. Basic Spanish language skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing within a cultural framework. Students will acquire the vocabulary and grammatical structures necessary to communicate and comprehend at the beginner level.

Prerequisite(s): Not applicable

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Engage in conversations using level-appropriate grammatical structures including narrating events that take place in the present and producing questions and responses on a variety of topics dealing with everyday life.
2. Demonstrate understanding of level-appropriate spoken Spanish.
3. Write simple sentences and organize them into short paragraphs.
4. Read and comprehend level-appropriate texts.
5. Identify and discuss traditions, customs and values of the Hispanic world.
6. Compare and contrast the traditions, customs and values of the Hispanic world with characteristics of their own culture.

Evaluation/Grading Policy:

The breakdown of the course requirements is as follows:

%	Requirement
20%	Exam/s

20%	Study Plans (Homework)
20%	Quizzes
20%	Assignments
20%	Discussions

Semester grades will be earned as follows

Percentage	Letter Grade
89.5% and above	A
79.5 %–89%	B
69.5 %–79%	C
59.5%–69%	D
59.4% and below	F

- This course will use the Lumens platform for instruction and the curriculum developed by that entity. The students will be able to move somewhat at their own pace and will be evaluated through participation in all the coursework made on module study plans, quizzes, assignments, a mid-term and a final exam.
- Study plan and quizzes are designed for mastery learning, meaning that student may re-take these types of tasks as many times as needed. On the module quizzes, the students will have two opportunities to accomplish the task, by default, meaning that they can take module quizzes twice using the materials offered through study plans. If students need additional attempts on quizzes, they may contact the professor and request opportunities for the specific module quiz. The better of all attempts will be posted to the gradebook. Students do not need to request additional attempts to master study plans. The better grade will be automatically posted to the gradebook.
- Peer Collaborative Assignments: In this course, you will work with a classmate on several collaborative assignments (marked in the gradebook). You are responsible for finding your own partner and completing the work on time, whether you meet in person or remotely. Why choose your own partner? This allows you to find someone whose schedule matches yours, who shares similar study habits, or who complements your skills. Check the gradebook early, start reaching out to classmates via Blackboard messages, email, Teams, or other means, and plan to ensure you finish on time.

Required Instructional Materials:

The Lumens Epub (similar to an Ebook) and the platform is included in the price of the tuition and is imbedded in the course as soon as it opens in Blackboard. The Epub contains the textbook information, grammar exercises, practice tests, instructions, videos, and the assessments (quizzes). You will need to know how to access your Blackboard course at NTCC and navigate through the modules. No other textbook is required for this course because you will access the entire course through Blackboard.

Publisher: Lumens

ISBN Number:

Optional Instructional Materials:

Spanish/English print or digital dictionary of your choice.

Minimum Technology Requirements:

- The syllabus, course materials, and the gradebook will be available online via Blackboard. You will need dependable internet service to keep up with this course. In case you do not have dependable service at home, you should be able to get good service by coming to campus to complete online coursework.

Required Computer Literacy Skills:

- Google Chrome is proffered to navigate through the Lumens Epub embedded into the course modules.
- You need to record voice and video clips or create PowerPoint presentations for certain assignments. You can record directly inside Blackboard or use your own device. If you host your files on external platforms (like OneDrive, Google Drive, YouTube, or Vocaroo, among others), you must set the privacy permissions to "Unlisted" or "Anyone with the link can view" so the professor can access and grade your work.

Course Structure and Overview:

This coursework is fully available on Blackboard. Read the Start Here folder for an explanation of how to navigate this platform. Additional personal study time will be necessary for most students depending on prior knowledge and skills and experience with Spanish language learning. Feel free to study with a partner but complete study plans, assignment, quizzes, and exams on your own (see Honesty Policy.)

Communications:

NTCC uses the college email system as the official form of communication for all matters. Students may communicate with me at msvirskaotero@ntcc.edu or contact me through Microsoft Teams or Blackboard messages. All questions or other needs for information will receive a response within 24-48 hours. The fastest way to reach me is through Microsoft Teams. Students are encouraged to check their NTCC email daily.

Institutional/Course Policy:

- Consistency is Key: Learning a language is a cumulative process that requires daily practice. Be diligent with your daily study time, staying on top of Study Plans, activities, discussions, and quizzes.
- Deadlines Matter: Keeping up with dates is critical in this course. Please note that Blackboard automatically tracks the exact date and time of all submissions, so plan to ensure timely submissions.
- Academic Language and Mechanics: SPAN 1411 is an academic course. All written submissions should follow standard academic writing rules, including proper sentence structure, capitalization, and punctuation. Please note that punctuation rules differ slightly in Spanish (such as inverted question marks (¿) and exclamation points (!)), and standard Spanish mechanics require the correct use of accent marks.
- Late Work and Extensions: Late submissions will receive a 10% deduction if turned in within one week of the due date. Work submitted more than one week late will not be accepted. If you face extenuating personal circumstances and need an extension, it is your responsibility to contact the professor before the deadline to request accommodation.

Alternate Operations During Campus Closure and/or Alternate Course Delivery Requirements:

In the event of an emergency or announced campus closure due to a natural disaster or pandemic, it may be necessary for Northeast Texas Community College to move to altered operations. During this time, Northeast Texas Community College may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include, but are not limited to, online through the Blackboard Learning Management System, online conferencing, email messaging, and/or an alternate schedule. It is the responsibility of the student to monitor NTCC's website (<http://www.ntcc.edu/>) for instructions about continuing courses remotely, Blackboard for each class for course-specific communication, and NTCC email for important general information.

Additionally, there may be instances where a course may not be able to be continued in the same delivery format as it originates (face-to-face, fully online, live remote, or hybrid). Should this be the case, every effort will be made to continue instruction in an alternative delivery format. Students will be informed of any changes of this nature through email messaging and/or the Blackboard course site.

Statement Regarding the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technology:

Employees and students shall be permitted to explore artificial intelligence (AI) and implement its use in and out of the classroom in accordance with policy and administrative regulations. The use of AI shall only be as a support tool to enhance student outcomes or as necessary to engage in research and shall never take the place of faculty, staff, and student decision-making. Any use of AI must comply with law, policy, and administrative regulations relating to student and employee privacy and data security. A student shall only use AI tools with faculty permission and shall be expected to produce original work and properly credit sources, including AI tools used in creating the work.

Example:

APA (7th edition)

OpenAI. (2026). ChatGPT (March 25 version) [Large language model]. <https://chat.openai.com/>

MLA (9th edition)

OpenAI. ChatGPT. 25 Mar. 2026, <https://chat.openai.com/>.

Employees or students who use AI tools to deceptively harm, bully, or harass others shall be disciplined in accordance with policy. [See DH, DIA series, FFD series, FFE, FLB, and the FM series] AI Use by Employees and Students. Northeast Texas Community College 225500 TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES CRB ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (LOCAL) DATE ISSUED: 12/8/2025 1 of 1 UPDATE 50 CRB(LOCAL)-AJC Adopted: 12/16/2025

NTCC Academic Honesty/Ethics Statement:

NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. The college expects all students to engage in their academic pursuits in an honest manner that is beyond reproach using their intellect and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty and Academic Ethics policies stated in the Student Handbook. Refer to the student handbook for more information on these subjects.

ADA Statement:

It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodation for qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodation as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to request accommodation. An appointment can be made with the Academic Advisor/Coordinator of Special Populations located in Student Services and can be reached at 903-434-8264. For more information and to obtain a copy of the Request for Accommodations, please refer to the special populations page on the NTCC website.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's educational records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are considered "eligible students." In essence, a parent has no legal right to obtain information concerning the child's college records without the written consent of the student. In compliance with FERPA, information classified as "directory information" may be released to the general public

without the written consent of the student unless the student makes a request in writing. Directory information is defined as: the student's name, permanent address and/or local address, telephone listing, dates of attendance, most recent previous education institution attended, other information including major, field of study, degrees, awards received, and participation in officially recognized activities/sports.

Tentative Course Schedule:

LUMENS – Spanish 1411

o Module 1: ¡Hola! ¿Cómo te llamas?

- Section: Encantado
 - Saludos y respuestas: Identify common greetings and goodbyes.
 - Escuchar: Saludos y respuestas: Identify appropriate responses to spoken greetings and goodbyes.
 - ¿Formal o informal?: Identify formal and informal greetings
 - El alfabeto: Recognize the sounds of letters in Spanish.
- Section: En la clase
 - En el salón de clases: Identify common objects in the classroom.
 - Números 0-31: Form numbers up to 31
 - Escuchar: Números 0-31: Recognize spoken numbers.
- Section: ¿Cuántos libros hay?
 - Género de sustantivos: Identify the gender of nouns.
 - Número de sustantivos: Change nouns from singular to plural
- Section: ¿Qué hay en la clase?
 - Artículos indefinidos y definidos: Select the appropriate definite or indefinite article for the context.
 - ¿Qué hay?: Identify whether there is or there are different items based on spoken questions

o Module 2: ¿Eres estudiante?

- Section: ¿Qué día es hoy?
 - Días y meses: Identify months and days.
- Section: ¿Cuál es la fecha hoy?
 - La fecha: Tell the date.
 - Escuchar: La fecha: Understand spoken dates.
- Section: ¿El lápiz es de ella?
 - Los pronombres de sujeto: Change personal nouns into subject pronouns.
 - El verbo ser: Identify the correct conjugations of the verb ser (to be).
 - Ser + de: Recognize possession indicated by ser + de.
- Section: ¿El estudiante es inteligente?
 - Colores: Identify the color of things.
 - Concordancia de adjetivos: Recognize the correct position, gender and number of adjectives.
 - Escuchar: Concordancia de adjetivos: Identify things based on spoken descriptions.
- Section: Cultura U2
 - Cultura: Los hispanos en los Estados Unidos: Identify written information about Latino, Latina, and Latinx

o Module 3: ¿Qué clases tomas?

- Section: ¿Estudias en la biblioteca?
 - Verbos -ar (2): Identify the meanings of common -ar verbs.
 - Números 30-100: Form numbers up to 100.
- Section: ¿Qué idiomas hablas tú?
 - Conjugación (verbos -ar): Identify the correct conjugations of select verbs ending in -ar.

- Section: ¿Caminas a la universidad?
 - Verbos regulares con –ar: Identify the correct conjugations of verbs ending in -ar.
 - Preguntas: Verbos regulares con –ar: Answer questions using -ar verbs
 - Escuchar: Verbos regulares con –ar: Recognize the subject of a sentence (personal pronoun) based on ve verbs).
- Section: ¿A qué hora es tu primera clase?
 - ¿Qué hora es?: Tell the time.
 - Escuchar: ¿Qué hora es?: Recognize and understand spoken time.

○ **Module 4: ¿Tienes prisa?**

- Section: ¿Descansas en la residencia estudiantil?
 - Los lugares y cursos de la universidad: Recognize the vocabulary of locations and courses at the university.
- Section: ¿Tienes una clase por la noche?
 - El verbo tener: Recognize the use of the irregular verb tener.
 - Escuchar: El verbo tener: Recognize the subject of a spoken sentence based on the conjugation of tener.
 - ¿qué/cuál?: Ask and answer questions with ¿qué/cuál?
- Section: ¿Tienes que estudiar hoy?
 - Expresiones con tener: Recognize and understand the common expressions with the verb tener. Tener + que: Use tener + que + infinitive to describe things one has to do.
- Section: ¿Adónde vas?
 - El verbo ir: Recognize the correct conjugations of the verb ir.
- Section: Cultura U4
 - Cultura: La universidad: Identify information from a written text about universities in the Spanish-speaking community.

○ **Module 5: ¿Quiénes son los miembros de una familia?**

- Section: El árbol de familia
 - La familia: Recognize vocabulary of family relations.
 - Escuchar: La familia: Understand spoken information about the members of a family.
- Section: Mi casa es tu casa
 - Los posesivos: Recognize possession indicated by possessive adjectives.
 - ¿Cuánto(s) y quién(es)?: Ask and answer questions with ¿cuántos y quién(es)?
- Section: ¿Qué aprendemos ahora?
 - Verbos regulares de -er/-ir: Recognize the meaning of verbs in the present tense that end in -er & -ir.
 - Conjugación (verbos -er/-ir): Identify the correct conjugation of verbs in the present tense that end in -er & -ir.
 - Escuchar: Verbos regulares de -er/-ir: Recognize the subject of a sentence based on the conjugation of an example verb.
- Section: Mi perro es bonito y pequeño.
 - Adjetivos descriptivos: Recognize adjectives describing physical and mental traits.
 - Escuchar: Adjetivos descriptivos: Identify people based on spoken descriptions.
 - Los países, las nacionalidades y más: Recognize adjectives of nationality used to describe people.

○ **Module 6: ¿Necesito un sueter?**

- Section: ¿Qué ropa llevas?
 - La ropa: Recognize the vocabulary of clothing.
 - Escuchar: La ropa: Identify articles of clothing based on spoken descriptions.
- Section: ¿Cómo contamos?

- Los números 101 +: Recognize numbers past 100.
- Section: ¿Qué tiempo hace hoy?
 - El clima: Recognize the vocabulary of weather.
 - Escuchar: El clima: Understand spoken descriptions of the weather.
- Section: ¿Qué te gusta hacer?
 - El verbo gustar + infinitivo: Recognize phrases using gustar+infinitive to express what someone likes to do.
 - Escuchar: El verbo gustar + infinitivo: Comprehend spoken sentences expressing what someone likes to do.
- Section: Cultura U6
 - Cultura: Camino de Santiago: Identify information about the Catholic pilgrimage tradition.

○ **Module 7: ¿Dónde están mis llaves?**

- Section: En la casa
 - La casa: Recognize the vocabulary of rooms and furniture in the home.
- Section: ¿Dónde está el gato?
 - El verbo estar : Recognize the correct conjugations of the verb estar.
 - El verbo estar + preposiciones : Use the prepositions of location to describe where things and people are.
 - Escuchar: El verbo estar + preposiciones : Identify locations from spoken text.
- Section: ¿Adónde vas a ir este fin de semana?
 - Ir + a + infinitivo: Recognize statements about plans and future events which use the infinitive after ir + a.
 - Escuchar: Ir + a + infinitivo: Identify plans and future events from spoken text.
 - Making Plans or Going Places?: Distinguish the use of ir with destinations and the use of ir with infinitives.
- Section: ¡Sí, podemos!
 - Verbos con cambio de raíz (o-ue) : Recognize the correct conjugations of o-ue stem-changing verbs
 - Escuchar: Verbos con cambio de raíz (o-ue) : Understand spoken statements using o-ue stem-changing verbs.

○ **Module 8: ¿Cómo pasas tu tiempo libre?**

- Section: ¿Cuál es tu pasatiempo favorito?
 - Los pasatiempos: Identify verbs and nouns related to pastimes, sports and other activities.
 - Escuchar: Los pasatiempos: Understand spoken statements about pastimes, sports and other activities.
- Section: ¿Te gustan los deportes?
 - El verbo gustar + sustantivos : Recognize the correct pronouns and correct forms of gustar to say what they like and don't like
 - Escuchar: El verbo gustar + sustantivos : Distinguish what things are pleasing to different people.
 - Querer and gustar: Use "querer" and "gustar" to explain your wants and likes.
- Section: ¿Prefieres patinar o esquiar?
 - Verbos con cambio de raíz (e-ie) : Recognize the correct conjugation of e-ie stem-changing verbs.
 - Escuchar: Verbos con cambio de raíz (e-ie) : Understand spoken questions using e-ie stem-changing verbs.
- Section: ¿Corres rápidamente?
 - Adverbios de modo: Recognize adverbs of motion ending in -mente.
- Section: Cultura: U8

- Cultura: El fútbol y el dominó: Identify some important pastimes and sports in the Hispanic world.

○ **Module 9: ¿Estás triste, por qué?**

- Section: ¿Estás contento hoy?
 - Adjetivos de emoción y condición: Recognize adjectives of condition and emotion.
 - Algunas respuestas: Give an appropriate response to someone's condition or emotion.
- Section: ¿Cómo estás?
 - Estar + emociones: Identify how estar is used with adjectives to describe conditions and emotions.
 - Escuchar: Emociones: Describe conditions and emotions based on spoken prompts.
- Section: ¿Cómo eres? ¿Cómo estás?
 - Ser y Estar I: Recognize different uses of ser and estar.
- Section: ¿Estás cansada o enferma?
 - Conjunciones coordinadas: Recognize coordinating conjunctions.
 - Porque & question word por qué: Recognize the difference between porque and ¿por qué?

○ **Module 10: ¿Cuál es tu comida favorita?**

- Section: ¿Qué te gusta comer?
 - Food and eating: Recognize the vocabulary of foods, cooking, and eating.
- Section: ¿El restaurante sirve papas fritas?
 - Verbos con cambio de raíz (e-i): Recognize the correct conjugations of e-i stem-changing verbs.
- Section: ¿Salgo con ustedes?
 - Verbos irregulares en la forma de "yo": Recognize the correct conjugations of verbs that have irregularities.
 - Escuchar: Verbos irregulares en la forma de "yo": Understand spoken sentences using irregular verbs
- Section: ¿Qué es esto?
 - Todas las preguntas: Review and practice use of all question-words
- Section: Cultura
 - Cultura: Las comidas típicas y rápidas: Identify information about some typical dishes of the Hispanic World

○ **Module 11: ¿Traigo un mapa?**

- Section: ¿Dónde está el banco?
 - Navegando la ciudad: Recognize the vocabulary of places in the community.
 - Escuchar: Navegando la ciudad: Identify where people are going based on spoken text.
- Section: ¿Estás caminando ahora?
 - El presente progresivo: Recognize correct forms of the present progressive
 - El presente y el presente progresivo: Distinguish present progressive from present tense.
- Section: ¿Conoces la ciudad?
 - Saber y conocer: Recognize the appropriate uses of the verbs saber and conocer.
- Section: ¿Dónde estás? ¿De dónde eres?
 - Ser y Estar II: Distinguish ser and estar in their unique uses (time, definition, origin, location, etc.)

Fall 2026 first class day 8/24/2026
Fall 2026 last day to drop with "W" 11/17/2026
Fall 2026 last class day 12/3/2026
Fall 2026 final examinations 12/4/2026 - 12/10/2026

Fall 2026 graduation 12/11/2026
Spring 2027 first class day 1/18/2027
Spring 2027 last day to drop with "W" x/x/2027
Spring 2027 last class day x/x/2027
Spring 2027 final examination x/x-x/2027
Spring 2027 graduation 5/15/2027
Summer 1 first class day 6/7/2027
Summer 1 last day to drop with "W" 6/30/2027
Summer 1 last class day/final examination 7/8/2027
Summer 2 first class day 7/12/2027
Summer 2 last day to drop with "W" 8/5/2027
Summer 2 last class day/final examination 8/12/2027
Summer graduation 8/13/2027