

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
UG Course Syllabus

Spanish Language and Culture for Beginners II

LANG2330

No. of Credits: 3

Pre-/co-requisites: LANG1330 or equivalent proficiency level

Name of Course Leader: PAREJA LOPEZ Maria Jose

Email of Course Leader: lcmariajose@ust.hk

Office Hours of Course Leader: Available by appointment only.

Course Description

This 3-credit course builds on *LANG 1330* as an upper-beginner course and prepares students for intermediate-level Spanish studies. The course develops integrated language skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking, while strengthening Spanish vocabulary, grammar, and cultural understanding. Over 13 weeks, students will acquire essential communication skills for daily interactions in class, such as using vocabulary related to food and dining, describing cities and travel experiences, narrating past experiences and expressing future plans. They will also develop an understanding of cultural practices and social norms in Spanish-speaking countries, fostering respectful and informed interactions with Spanish speakers. The course emphasizes practical language use through guided and experience-based tasks that connect learning to students' everyday environments, and it provides a foundation for students who wish to pursue certifications such as the DELE A1 examination after completing the course. This course adopts a **pass/fail grading system**.

Devices such as laptops and smart books are required in class exclusively for instructional purposes to complete the assigned activities.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. communicate orally in Spanish to express needs, wishes, experiences, and future plans using appropriate pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary;
2. produce clear written texts about personal experiences, opinions, and future plans using appropriate vocabulary and grammar;
3. demonstrate understanding of spoken Spanish in structured contexts (e.g., dialogues and short announcements);
4. participate in simple and guided spoken interactions on familiar topics in real or simulated contexts;
5. demonstrate awareness of cultural practices and diversity in the Spanish-speaking world.

Assessment and Grading

This course adopts a pass/fail assessment system, rather than a letter-grade scheme. This system will recognise satisfactory attainment of learning outcomes. Detailed rubrics for each assignment are provided on Canvas, outlining the criteria used for evaluation.

Assessments

Assessment Task	Contribution to Overall Course grade (%)	Due date
Pop-Quizzes (in-class)	10%	To be conducted unannounced throughout the course to encourage consistent engagement with the material.
Learning Tasks (out-of-class)	20%	To be completed online after each lesson.
Learning Portfolio (out-of-class)	30%	Weeks 3, 10 and 11
Review Quiz (in-class)	40%	Weeks 12 and 13

*Assessment marks for individual assessed tasks will be released within ten working days of the due date.

Mapping of Course ILOs to Assessment Tasks

Assessed Task	Mapped ILOs	Explanation
Pop Quizzes (in-class) 4 pop-quizzes administered at the instructor's discretion during class sessions	ILO1, ILO3, ILO5	This task assesses students' understanding of spoken and written Spanish, their ability to use language accurately in context, and their ongoing engagement with course content.
Learning Tasks (out-of-class) Interactive practice on Canvas where students can practice and review the content for each lesson.	ILO2, ILO5	These tasks provide opportunities for students to practise written communication, consolidate vocabulary, and review key language points. They also include cultural content related to the Spanish-speaking world, helping students develop intercultural awareness.
Learning Portfolio Two individual 3–5-minute video tasks (2 × 10%): Students complete two individual video tasks: one related to Spanish/Latin American gastronomy in Week 3, and one describing a selected landmark or shopping area in Hong Kong in Week 10. One 250–300-word short reflection (10%): Students write a reflection on their experience of recording the videos and using Spanish in authentic contexts in Week 11.	ILO1, ILO2, ILO4	The Learning Portfolio allows students to apply Spanish beyond the classroom through authentic and experience-based tasks. The two video blogs assess students' ability to communicate orally in Spanish (ILO 1) while interacting with real-world cultural environments in Hong Kong. The written reflection develops students' ability to communicate ideas in written Spanish (ILO 2). The portfolio also requires students to participate in guided spoken interactions and authentic communicative situations, supporting the development of communicative competence (ILO 4).

Review Quiz (in-class) • Reading Comprehension (10%) • Listening Task (10%) • Writing Task (10%) • Speaking Task (10%)	ILO1, ILO2, ILO3, ILO4	Reading Comprehension: This component assesses students' ability to understand and interpret written Spanish texts, identify key information, and extract meaning from authentic and semi-authentic materials commonly encountered in everyday contexts (ILO 3). Listening Task: This component assesses students' ability to comprehend short dialogues, announcements, and other spoken texts in Spanish, demonstrating their understanding of key information and their ability to respond appropriately in familiar contexts (ILO 3). Writing Task: This component measures students' ability to produce clear and coherent written messages using appropriate vocabulary and grammatical structures, demonstrating their ability to communicate ideas effectively in written form (ILO 2). Speaking Task: This component evaluates students' ability to communicate orally in Spanish using appropriate pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammatical structures (ILO 1), as well as their ability to participate in simple spoken interactions on familiar topics (ILO 4).
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Grading Rubrics

Detailed rubrics for each assignment will be provided on Canvas. These rubrics clearly outline the criteria used for evaluation. Students can refer to these rubrics to understand how their work will be assessed.

Final Grade Descriptors

Grades	Short Description	Elaboration on subject grading description
P	Pass	Demonstrates satisfactory achievement of the course learning outcomes and meets the requirements of the assessment tasks. Can understand and use familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases, communicate on familiar topics, and participate in simple interactions appropriate to the level of the course.

F	Fail	Does not demonstrate satisfactory achievement of the course learning outcomes and/or does not meet the requirements of the assessment tasks. Shows limited ability to understand or use familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases and is unable to communicate effectively on familiar topics at the expected level.
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Course AI Policy

We encourage students to use all the tools available to support their learning and enhance their ability to communicate effectively in Spanish. We also expect students to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. While there is no penalty for using or not using GenAI, these tools must not be used as a substitute for a student's independent work. The use of GenAI or other tools should be limited to supplementary assistance, such as exploring vocabulary, grammar rules, or cultural insights, and not as a means of generating responses or completing tasks on behalf of the student.

Communication and Feedback

Assessment marks for individual assessed tasks will be communicated via Canvas within ten working days of submission. Feedback on assignments will include strengths and areas for improvement where relevant. Students who have further questions about the feedback including marks should consult the instructor within five working days after the feedback is received.

Resubmission Policy

Resubmissions are not accepted, except in exceptional circumstances.

Required Texts and Materials

- Eva María Lloret I, Ribas, Rosa et al (2021). ¡Nos Vemos Hoy 1!: Libro del alumno /Cuaderno de ejercicios. Barcelona: Difusión. (ONLINE VERSION)
- Handouts and PowerPoints are provided via Canvas.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to adhere to the university's academic integrity policy. Students are expected to uphold HKUST's Academic Honor Code and to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. The University has zero tolerance of academic misconduct. Please refer to [Academic Integrity | HKUST – Academic Registry](#) for the University's definition of plagiarism and ways to avoid cheating and plagiarism.