

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
UG Course Syllabus

Basic Spanish for International Management

LANG5330

No. of Credits: 2

Any pre-/co-requisites: LANG 1330

Course Description

LANG 5330 is a two-credit course exclusively for students enrolled in the MSc in International Management program who have previously completed LANG 1330. The course addresses all language skills (listening, reading, speaking, and writing), with a primary emphasis on interaction. Its objective is to provide students with a foundational proficiency in Spanish, enabling them to communicate effectively on a range of relevant topics and to integrate more seamlessly into academic or professional environments where knowledge of a European language other than English is assumed.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

On successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Understand, make, and respond appropriately to everyday conversational enquiries.
2. Understand basic instructions, notices or information.
3. Take part in a basic factual conversation.
4. Understand short reports or descriptions.
5. Take and pass on simple messages.
6. Make factual summaries and requests based on notes taken, including times, dates and places.
7. Understand and give straightforward opinions and explanations.
8. Understand and produce short texts.
9. Demonstrate sufficiently accurate pronunciation and grammatical structure to be understood by native speakers of Spanish.
10. Show confidence when dealing with Spanish-speaking people and Spanish-language materials in their study and in business contexts.

Assessment and Grading

This course will be assessed using criterion-referencing, and grades will not be assigned using a curve. 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.
Cultural Presentation (in-class)	20%	Week 12*
Global Simulation (in-class)	20%	Weeks 9-12, with presentation week 13*

Oral Assessment (in-class)	20%	Week 13*
Review Quiz (in-class)	30%	Week 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 short, in-class quizzes administered at the instructor's discretion during class sessions that test students on material covered during the course.	ILO1, ILO2, ILO8	This task evaluates students' ability to understand and respond to basic instructions or information (ILO 2). It also assesses their knowledge and application of vocabulary and grammar principles (ILO 8), while encouraging active engagement with course content (ILO 1).
Cultural Presentation (in-class) An individual presentation on an assigned Spanish-speaking country, focusing on specific aspects of a cultural and/or business context, including a company and an entrepreneur from that country.	ILO1, ILO7, ILO10	This task assesses students' ability to provide straightforward opinions and explanations (ILO 7) and enhances cultural understanding (ILO 1). It also builds confidence in engaging with Spanish-language contexts (ILO 10).
Global Simulation (in-class) Students work in pairs to create a company based in a Spanish-speaking country. Throughout the course, they develop different tasks related to this company. The simulation culminates in an integrated company presentation and oral interview.	ILO1, ILO7, ILO9, ILO10	Assesses ability to present company information clearly (ILO1), give straightforward explanations about products and business decisions (ILO7), demonstrate accurate pronunciation and grammar (ILO9), and show confidence in a business presentation context (ILO10).
Oral Assessment (in-class) A role-play activity conducted in pairs, where students apply vocabulary and grammar learned in the course to respond to realistic conversational scenarios.	ILO1, ILO3, ILO7, ILO9	Evaluates ability to participate in basic factual conversation (ILO3), respond appropriately to conversational enquiries (ILO1), give straightforward opinions about products and company (ILO7), and demonstrate clear pronunciation and grammatical accuracy in spontaneous interaction (ILO9).

Review Quiz (in-class) • Listening Task • Vocabulary & Grammar Assessment	ILO2, ILO4, ILO5, ILO8	Listening Task: This task evaluates students' comprehension of basic instructions and short descriptions (ILO 2, ILO 4) while also testing their ability to process and relay simple messages based on the recordings (ILO 5). Vocabulary & Grammar Assessment: This task assesses students' understanding of basic instructions or information (ILO 2) and evaluates their proficiency in recognizing and applying vocabulary and grammar rules accurately in structured, context-based scenarios (ILO 8).
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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
A	Excellent	Demonstrates excellent achievement across all learning outcomes and fulfils all specified assessment criteria. Shows complete understanding and effective use of familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases to meet needs. Confidently asks and answers questions about personal details and interacts competently in areas covered.
B	Good	Demonstrates good achievement in all learning outcomes. Understands and generally uses familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases appropriately to fulfil needs. Can ask and answer questions about personal details effectively and interacts suitably in areas covered.
C	Satisfactory	Achieves satisfactory performance in most learning outcomes. Can partially understand and use familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases to meet specified needs. Shows basic ability to ask and answer questions about personal details and interacts with limited appropriateness in areas covered.
D	Marginal Pass	Meets minimal standards in a limited number of learning outcomes. Demonstrates difficulty in understanding and using familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases. Has limited ability to ask and answer questions about personal details and interacts poorly in areas covered.

F	Fail	Fails to meet the required standards for a number of learning outcomes and/or does not satisfy the assessment criteria. Unable to understand or use familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases to meet concrete needs. Cannot effectively ask or answer questions about personal details and is unable to interact appropriately in areas of immediate need or on familiar topics.
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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.