¡Bienvenidos!

Welcome to Online Spanish 101! My name is Tony Pacheco, but you can call me “Maestro Pacheco” and I will be your instructor for the course. I was born in a Spanish Speaking country and I love sharing my passion for the language and culture with my students. I know learning a second language can be challenging for many people, so it’s not uncommon to feel a bit overwhelmed at first. I’m hear to support you along the way and am looking forward to a successful semester as your instructor. Spanish is a wonderful language and is filled with vibrant culture!

Course Description

Online Spanish 101 is an entry-level course that will introduce students to the Spanish language and cultures of the Spanish-speaking world. Students will develop oral, aural, and written proficiency. Students will be expected to interact in Spanish during all activities. We will cover Lección 1-6 from Portales.
Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. Conduct simple conversations in Spanish, demonstrating listening comprehension skills and knowledge of grammatical concepts and vocabulary at the beginner level.
2. Read and discuss texts in Spanish.
3. Write dialogs, short paragraphs, and simple correspondence.

Course Management

Canvas will be our main point of contact for this course. On Canvas I will post a weekly overview page that explains what you need to do for each week. This includes announcements, links, instructions for completing activities, and explanatory materials and/or videos that will guide you through the Week Module. The entire semester is neatly organized into these Modules that walk you through the learning process and follow the course calendar. Please set up your Canvas account by clicking HERE.

Course Learning Activities

Portales is the online Spanish language learning curriculum that we will use as our primary learning tool. It's like a virtual textbook with dynamic features including video tutorials, interactive presentations, practice exercises that provide immediate feedback, and much more. Portales is accessed through the publisher website located at www.vhlcentral.com. Although this course is managed through Canvas, VHL Central is where you will login to access Portales, and complete the majority of the course Learning Activities.

Interaction Online

There will be regular and substantive interaction with me and your classmates during this course. I will be engaging the class and interacting with you through the “Announcements” feature in Canvas. Be sure to enable your notification preferences in Canvas so you receive announcements.

Here are other ways the class will effectively interact online:

1. Discussion Board Activities
2. Ciber Café Q&A Forum
3. Email / Canvas Inbox
4. Skype
5. Online Office Hours
6. Feedback in Portales

Computer Readiness

This online Spanish course requires you to navigate computer technology with relative ease. To avoid frustration with technology, please keep these points in mind:

• Basic Computer Skills
To be successful in this course, you need to have basic computer skills. You need to know how to access email, download / upload files, download software programs, navigate the internet with ease and even work with more than one webpage / tab open at a time. More importantly, you should be able to search for solutions or contact the help desk if technical difficulties arise.

• Video and Audio in Spanish
This online Spanish course requires you to watch videos, record videos, listen to recordings, and make voice recordings of yourself speaking in Spanish while also interacting with other students and myself using synchronous (real time) videoconference software.

Computer Requirement
Your computer should be no more than 5-years old, have an updated operating system, and have a web browsers that is compatible with Canvas and Portales. Recommend using Google Chrome.

• Confer Now: We’ll use ConferNow for office hours and oral assessments.
Evaluation

Your final grade is calculated based on percentages. Please see the chart below on how grades will be calculated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Breakdown</th>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Portales Learning Tracks</td>
<td>25% A 90-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portales Lesson Exams</td>
<td>20% B 80-89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Activities</td>
<td>10% C 70-79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Activities</td>
<td>10% D 60-69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Oral</td>
<td>10% F 0-59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Engagement</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Due Dates

Every week you will complete various sections of your Learning Tracks in Portales. These Portales activities are due on Wednesdays and Sundays by 11:59 p.m. every week.

Oral Activities

In order to learn Spanish to communicate with other people, it is necessary to have authentic interaction with the language. Part of this course focuses on that interaction through Oral Activities designed to assess your oral proficiency in the context of a real-world scenario. There will be three types of oral proficiency in this course including:

1. Virtual Chats: Virtual Chat assignments will take place in Portales, accessed through vhcentral.com. You will have a virtual conversation with a native speaker and submit your voice recording for a grade. Detailed instructions will be provided in Canvas prior to the first Virtual Chat.

2. Video Discussion: Video Discussion activities will be completed in Canvas. You will record and post a video of yourself in Spanish, and respond to your classmates videos in Spanish for a grade. Detailed instructions will be provided in Canvas in advance.

3. Final Oral: There will be a Final Oral Exam in which you will meet with me via Skype to have a conversation using the grammar concepts and vocabulary we have studied. Scheduling and details will be provided in advance.
Course Policies

1. Drop Policy: Enrolled students that have not logged on to Canvas the first day of the semester to complete the specified activities will receive an email from me letting you know that you are in danger of being dropped from the course. If you do not respond in some way, you will be dropped from the course. During the semester if an entire week goes by with no activity on your part either through Discussion Board participation, email, or submission of Portales activities, you will be dropped from the course. You must email me if your contribution to the class will be interrupted.

2. Late Work: In an effort to create a fair and equitable learning environment for all students, late work will NOT be accepted for major assignments and exams. All work must be turned in on time in order to receive credit. Record due dates on your calendar and make it a priority to stick to them. If you believe you have a legitimate circumstance that warrants an exception, please discuss it with me as soon as possible. Portales Lesson Learning Tracks will be deducted 10% when completed late.

3. Communication Policy: Please post general Spanish questions to the Ciber Café Q&A Form. Your questions may be the same ones that other students have, and my replies will be visible to the entire class. The best way to reach me for personal questions is through the Canvas Inbox. However, you can also reach me by email. When sending an email, please include the TITLE and SECTION of the course, and your FULL name in the “subject” line. I will respond within 24-36 hours, Monday - Friday. Over the weekend, I may not get back to you quite as quickly.

4. Academic Honesty: Each student is expected to maintain high standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional matters, and all students deserve a fair and equitable learning environment. There is zero tolerance for cheating, and failure to honor these regulations will result in the appropriate disciplinary measures. To view MJC’s Academic Integrity Policy, visit: http://www.mjc.edu/studentservices/freedomintegrity.php It is the responsibility of each student to understand and abide by these rules.

“Aprender un idioma es tener una ventana más desde la que observar el mundo.”

- PROVERBIO CHINO
Time Commitment

This is a 5-unit course compared into 7 weeks, and the workload reflects that. You will be required to spend roughly 25 hours a week reviewing grammar tutorials, watching cultural videos, and completing various activities to practice and reinforce what you are learning. You will also spend time completing oral and written assignments, chapter exams, and studying for the final. It is NOT realistic to assume you can pass the class without doing the assigned homework on a daily basis. 

NOTE: This is NOT a self-paced course. All activities have clear due dates.

Overall Engagement

Learning another language requires active and frequent practice of the four basic skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking. Therefore it is essential for you to actively engage in all of the class actives. Learning a language online is a “student-centered” endeavor and your active engagement involves completing all online activities on time, using Spanish whenever possible, participating appropriately in group/partner work, treating all classmates with respect, asking questions as needed, and maintaining a positive and cooperative spirit through the course. Your class engagement will be assessed at the end of each lesson by checking to see that you completed the online class activities in Portales.

Tips for Success

- Learning a language requires that you practice on a daily basis. To avoid frustration, space out your homework and do a little every day.
- Stay on top of deadlines. I will provide you with a Course Calendar.
- Check your MJC student email and Canvas frequently.
- Search for solutions and ask for help in the Q&A Form.
- If this is your first online learning experience, expect to invest extra time to orient yourself to the course design and learning tools.

Help & Resources

If you are feeling lost or overwhelmed...

1. Make an Appointment
You are welcome to email me or make an appointment to meet with me via Skype. Many questions and issues can easily be resolved this way.

3. Online Helpdesk
Become familiar with Canvas. The Online Helpdesk is the best resource for support related to Canvas and accessing your account. http://www.mjc.edu/instruction/online
Phone: 209.575.6412

4. Portales Website Helpdesk
Become familiar with the Vistas Higher Learning Website (vhlcentral.com). This website is how you access Portales. For questions and support:http://support.vhlcentral.com
Phone: 800.248.2813

Accessibility

We strive to make our courses at MJC accessible to all students. If you require accommodations, please inform me the first day of classes so that we can make needed arrangements, and email me the necessary documentation. You may also contact:
Disabled Student Programs and Services: (209) 575-6225

Your Instructor

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Phone: 209.575.6187
Skype: maestropacheco19

¡Bienvenid@s a la Clase de Español en Línea!