

FIRST YEAR ARTS

SPANISH

2020-2021

Coordinator: Dr Ivan Kenny

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(Castillo de Peñafiel, Valladolid)

Introduction

Welcome to Spanish at NUI GALWAY!

Congratulations on starting your new Arts degree. You have chosen Spanish as one of your subjects for your first year at NUIG. Your goal this year will not only be to learn communicative and cognitive skills to interact with Spanish speakers, here and abroad, but also to immerse yourself in the history and culture of the Spanish-speaking world. The study of Hispanic culture is essential to Spanish-language acquisition, since meaning in language is often dependent on the cultural context. Cultural modules offered in Spanish at NUIG encompass the fields of history, literature, art, film and television. This syllabus will guide you through the variety of courses that you will take in your first year. The success of the year will depend on your level

of engagement. You will be assisted by our friendly and motivated staff. This particular academic year poses some significant challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, much of the course content will be delivered online. Any classes which take place on campus will be subject to current Public Health guidelines.

Since we cannot meet and interact as much as we would in a 'normal' year, I would like to encourage you to create a learning community online. Language is all about developing your communicative spirit and talking to your classmates and teachers. Have fun with the language. Set up or take part in a Spanish society (HispanoSoc). Impress your friends and family by learning how to make a *tortilla española* (Spanish omelette) or a Mexican *mole* (savory chocolate sauce often served with chicken). This is how we all learn a language, by making it a part of our own lives. To facilitate this, I have set up a discussion board for each individual module where you can ask questions, interact, share content and hopefully resolve any technical difficulties. I have also added a list of Spanish-language television series available on Netflix which can help you with language engagement, cultural context, pronunciation and language comprehension (feel free to make your own recommendations to fellow students on the discussion boards).

The approach to language teaching will follow a flipped-classroom model. In short, you will be required to read texts, research topics, watch videos and complete exercises before attending class (in-person or virtual). This facilitates a greater degree of interaction during class time and allows the teacher to focus on common questions/problems that may arise in the group setting. All the core materials you need will be provided on Blackboard. Other sources may also be recommended from time to time by your individual teacher.

Please read the details in this booklet carefully about the course content and assessment methods before making up your mind about committing to Spanish. If, for any reason, you get confused or you run into difficulties during the year, do not hesitate to discuss your situation with any of your Spanish instructors or teaching assistants, all of whom will be happy to help. I am also available during my scheduled office hours (via MS Teams).

There are no entry requirements for Beginners Spanish, but your commitment and engagement from the very first week are essential.



Tortilla española

Mole poblano (mexicano)

Structure of the Programme

Outline of First Arts Spanish:

Beginners Spanish students take:

Code	Module	Semester	Class Hrs/Week	ECTS
SH1100	Intensive Beginners Spanish Language and Culture	1 & 2	3	15
SH1102	Mundo Hispano An Introduction to the Hispanic world. - (BA Connects do not take this course)	1 & 2	1	5

Intermediate (Post-Leaving Certificate – H4 required) students of Spanish

Code	Module	Semester	Hrs/Week	ECTS
SH1101	Intermediate Spanish Language and Culture	1 & 2	3	15
SH1102	Mundo Hispano (For BA only) An Introduction to the Hispanic world.	1 & 2	1	5

Individual module details:

PLEASE NOTE THAT IF YOU HAVE OBTAINED A H4 OR HIGHER IN YOUR LEAVING CERTIFICATE FOR SPANISH, YOU MUST REGISTER FOR INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED SPANISH (SH1101)

Code	Module	Semester	Class Hrs/Wk	ECTS
SH1100	Intensive Beginners Spanish Language and Culture	1 & 2	3	15

INSTRUCTORS: Dr Ivan Kenny, Ms María Bernal Navarro, Ms Joanna Doyle and language assistants.

1. **Description of the language component:** (3 hours a week) This *ab initio* course covers many verb tenses and elements of grammar and vocabulary to achieve an initial grounding in Spanish. Activities cover written, oral and aural exercises; class materials include video and audio recordings and texts for study drawn from a wide range of sources. European Language Level: A2. **NOTE THAT EVEN THOUGH THIS COURSE STARTS FROM A BEGINNERS LEVEL, IT MOVES FAST BECAUSE AT THE END OF THE YEAR YOU WILL BE EXPECTED TO BE BETWEEN A1-A2 WORKING KNOWLEDGE OF SPANISH.**

Learning Outcomes:

- The student will be able to interact orally in Spanish, narrating and describing her/his immediate world and surroundings, daily routine, past events and future expectations.
- The student will be able to answer questions from a native speaker at a basic level with the grammar covered in class.
- The student will be able to follow regular daily conversations about familiar topics in standard Spanish and isolate the main elements of conversations directed to him/her.
- The student will be able to read and analyse short articles, e-mails and simple instructions.
- The student will be able to write short texts at a basic level with the grammar covered in class.

Prerequisites: There are no formal prerequisites but those considering the course are advised that a good knowledge of another Romance language will prove helpful.

Min./max. no. of students: Class size restrictions are not in force. If numbers exceed 35 consideration is given to running more groups. The class is routinely split into small groups for spoken language classes (10 to 15).

Teaching and learning methods: A range of oral, aural and written exercises is employed, supplemented by spoken classes and home-based activities. Written work and class tests are prescribed on a regular basis. Since the continuous assessment component plays an important part in the overall result for Spanish, you should make sure you keep up with class work.

Methods of assessment and examination: Overall assessment is based on coursework evaluation and examinations in the spoken and written language. You will get a program and a study guide in your class, explaining each of the assignments. There are a lot!!!!

Repeat/Resit Examinations: Repeat and Resit Examinations for this module take place in August, 2021.

Languages of instruction: English and Spanish.

Core texts – Semester I:

- Curso de Español A1 (available on Blackboard)
- Spanish Verb Tenses by Dorothy Richmond. This text can be accessed online through the Hardiman Library website.

Core texts – Semester II:

- Curso de Español A2 (available on Blackboard).
- Spanish Verb Tenses by Dorothy Richmond. This text can be accessed online through the Hardiman Library website.

Additional Tool: Students should use a notebook to keep a record of new vocabulary and summaries of new grammar points.

NOTES ON STUDENT TIME INVESTMENT:

- There are 3 scheduled hours of class in this course.
- It is recommended that you invest 6-12 extra hours a week of independent work to succeed with this course.

SH1102	Mundo Hispano (for BA only) An Introduction to the Hispanic world.	1 & 2	1	5
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Description of the culture component: (1 hour a week)

Lecturers: Dr Kate Quinn, Ms Begoña Sangrador Vegas.

In Semester 1, students are offered an overview of salient points in the history and cultures of Latin America from Pre-Columbian civilisations to the present day. All lectures are delivered in English. In semester 2, students are introduced to contemporary Spanish society.

Teaching and learning methods: One lecture and some film viewings.

Methods of assessment and examination:

- class tests in each semester

Core texts:

C. Ross, B. Richardson, B. Sangrador-Vegas, *Contemporary Spain* (4th edition), Routledge, 2016.

W. Fowler, Arnold, *Latin America 1800 – 2000: Modern History for Modern Languages*, Arnold, 2015 (out of print)

Recommended Reading:

Burkholder, M. & Johnson, L. *Colonial Latin America*, OUP, latest edition

Carr, R. *Modern Spain 1875-1980*, OUP, latest edition

Haynes, K. *A History of Latin America*, Houghton Mifflin, latest edition

Mills, K. & Taylor, W.B., *Colonial Spanish America*, Scholarly Resources, latest edition

Romero-Salvadó, F.J., *Twentieth-Century Spain*, Macmillan, latest edition

Ross, C.J., *Spain 1812-1996*, Arnold, latest edition

Code	Module	Semester	Hrs/Week	ECTS
SH1101	Intermediate Spanish Language and Culture	1 & 2	3	15

INSTRUCTORS: Ms Daniela Toulemonde, Ms Laura Álvarez and Language assistants.

1. Description of the language component: This course builds on the knowledge of Spanish acquired before entry to University. Classes (3 hours a week) offer practice and consolidation in the spoken and written skills of language. This course starts at the European Language Level A2 and moves towards a B1 level.

Learning Outcomes:

- The student will be able to interact orally in Spanish, narrating and describing her/his immediate world and surroundings, daily routine, past events and future expectations.
- The student will be able to answer questions from a native speaker on topics of personal interest and the topics covered in class.
- The student will be able to follow regular daily conversations about familiar topics in the standard Spanish variety and isolate the main elements of news on the radio or T.V. and conversations directed to him/her.
- The student will be able to read and analyse texts based on topics of personal interest and short articles, e-mails and simple instructions.
- The student will be able to write and organize short texts based on topics of personal interest with the grammatical content covered in class.

Prerequisites: **A grade H4 or higher in the Leaving Certificate Honours Spanish examination or an equivalent attainment. Students who obtained this grade in Honours leaving Certificate Spanish MUST register for Intermediate.**

Min./max. no. of students: Class size restrictions are not in force. If numbers exceed 35 consideration is given to running more groups. The class is routinely split into small groups for spoken language classes (10 to 15).

Teaching and learning methods: A range of oral, aural and written exercises is employed, supplemented by spoken classes. Written work and class tests are prescribed on a regular basis. Since the continuous assessment component is important in the overall result of the course, you should make sure you keep up with class work.

Methods of assessment and examination: Overall assessment is based on coursework evaluation and examinations in the spoken and written language.

Repeat/Resit Examinations

Repeat and Resit Examinations for this module take place in August, 2021

Language of instruction: Spanish.

Core texts

- Curso de Español A2 (Blackboard).
- Spanish Verb Tenses by Dorothy Richmond. This text can be accessed online through the Hardiman Library website.

Additional Tool: Students should use a notebook to keep a record of new vocabulary and summaries of new grammar points.

DISTRIBUTION OF MARKS IN FIRST YEAR

Coursework and class tests attract around 30% of the total marks available. Accordingly, any student who does not attend lectures and classes and who is not present for class tests will find it extremely difficult to achieve an overall pass in Spanish. Please refer to the course program to see the distribution of marks across the continuous assessment tasks and projects.

The oral exam is 30% and the written exam is 40%.

Student Weekly Study Guide

We understand that Spanish is not easy at university level and we want to make sure that you understand the commitment and engagement that we need from you from Day 1 of this course. There are 3 hours a week in the language course and 1 hour a week in the culture (for BA only). We would recommend at least another 6 – 12 hours of work a week on your part in order to succeed in First Year Spanish.

As we understand this is an intensive amount of work on your own, we have decided to provide you with a guide as to how to work and study with Spanish in first year. It can become a template for all language work you do throughout your degree.

1. **ATTEND ALL YOUR LECTURES AND CLASSES.** If you do not, you will fall behind and it takes a huge amount of work to catch up in this subject because the course moves at a fast pace.
2. **Keep your notes organized.** It may help to get a ring binder and keep your work from each class organized under different sections. ORGANIZATION IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS at the speed this course is going to move.
3. **Review the materials** that you have covered in each and every class. The materials covered in these classes will also be on Blackboard.
4. **Do your homework.** There will be regular homework set in all classes and this will take at least up to 1 – 2 hours a week.

5. **Reading.** You are going to be reading literature from week 6 or so. It is recommended that you work with a partner so that you can help each other understand the hard parts of the texts. Reading is one of the more challenging activities (but also one of the most rewarding), so make sure you don't leave your readings to a week before your assignments and exams.
6. **Study** – Language learning requires organization, rewriting and memorization, but it's best to study in short bursts of time (20-30 minutes regularly does wonders!). **SCHEDULE YOUR LANGUAGE STUDY THROUGHOUT THE WEEK AND KEEP AT IT AS IF IT WERE A FITNESS CLASS.**
7. **TALK!!!!** Find time during the week to speak the language, even if it's just to yourself in the mirror at the beginning. In a few weeks, you will be surprised how you can start joining in with HispanoSoc activities. Get to know a Spanish-speaking partner to have a 30-minute conversation without the fear of making errors, just for the fun of communicating in a second language.
8. A section in your notebook should be dedicated to:
 - a. Questions. As you study on your own, you will come up with questions. Note them down to ask your teachers in their office/consultation hours.
 - b. Errors. Every time we give you back a piece of assessment whether for grades or not, make sure you review your mistakes – write out the corrected sentences and these can be part of your revision for the final exam.

ALL IN ALL, IN ORDER TO EXCEL IN THIS COURSE YOU WILL NEED 6-12 HOURS A WEEK OF STUDY.

Best of luck!!!!

**Ivan Kenny
First Year Coordinator**

If you are an ERASMUS OR VISITING STUDENT and you NEED to take Spanish in NUI Galway, THERE ARE SOME COURSES AVAILABLE TO YOU BUT THEY HAVE A DIFFERENT CODE. Please contact me: ivan.kenny@nuigalway.ie and I'll try to help you as best as I can.

OTHER INFORMATION

Academic calendar 2020.21

In Autumn 2020, it is likely that a significant portion of the curriculum will be delivered online, especially taking into consideration the large number of students taking first-year Spanish. All arrangements will be guided by public health advice.

Semester 1

Orientation week: 21-25 Sept 2020

Term: 28 Sept - 18 Dec 2020

No final exam in Semester 1

Semester 2

Term: 8 Feb - 2 Apr 2021

Field Trips: 6 Apr - 9 Apr 2021

Term: 12 Apr – 7 May 2021

Exams: 18 May – 4 Jun 2021

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism means presenting the words of another writer as if they were your own. This is a serious matter; if plagiarism is detected in your essay or coursework it may result in you losing all marks for the module or exercise in question. The way to avoid plagiarism is very simple: always put quotation marks around someone else's words and credit them to their source. **WE WANT TO HIGHLIGHT THAT THE USE OF GOOGLE TRANSLATE CAN BE CONSIDERED PLAGIARISM AS WELL AS HELP BY OTHER STUDENTS, NATIVE SPEAKERS OR NOT.** Similarly, if you borrow ideas from another writer without referencing them properly, you can be penalized for plagiarism. Reference your sources well and in this way you can impress an examiner by showing that you have done some research. You do not always have to appear utterly "original"! If you need further help with your writing you can contact the Academic Writing Centre in the university and they will help you any time.

Language

Always avoid the use of language which is sexist, racist, or otherwise offensive.

Grades, marks and degree classes

Degree Class	Mark Bands
1 st class honours	70+ and above
2 nd class, grade 1	60-69
2 nd class, grade 2	50-59
3 rd class honours	45-49
Pass	40-44
Fail	39 and below

Scholarships and Prizes in Spanish for First Year Students

Every year the National University of Ireland offers a scholarship and prizes for the best academic achievement among students of Spanish in UCC, UCD, NUI, Galway and NUI, Maynooth. The awards are based on the First Year overall examination marks in language and associated studies.

First Year - Grading Criteria for language assignments

- Your written or spoken language assignments and coursework constitute 30% of your final grade in a module.
- In **written assignments** we will assess:
 - Coherence: Your ideas are organized logically and well presented in paragraph format.
 - Format: Untidy presentation is not considered good practice.
 - Language: The structures and vocabulary used as appropriate to your level of Spanish. Note that your level will vary rapidly from one week to the next. Make an effort to use the new structures and vocabulary that you have learnt just before each assignment.
 - Sources: The correct use of references will be rewarded. Plagiarism is illegal and will be severely penalized. Plagiarism is copying, pasting or paraphrasing from sources without referencing the fact that they have been used. Always make sure that the work you hand in is COMPLETELY your own. We consider plagiarism the use of Google translate or other online translation devices, copying from a classmate or asking someone else to write your assignment for you.
 - Culture written assignments will have to be relevant to the topic suggested and/or chosen by the student with the help of his/her instructor.
- In **spoken assignments** we will assess:
 - Coherence: Your ideas are organized logically.
 - Pronunciation and intonation.
 - Fluency and spontaneity.

- Language: The structures and vocabulary used as appropriate to your level of Spanish. Note that your level will vary rapidly from one week to the next. Make an effort to use the new structures and vocabulary that you have learnt just before each assignment.
- Sources: The correct use of references will be rewarded. Plagiarism is illegal and will be severely penalized. Plagiarism is copying, pasting or paraphrasing from sources without referencing the fact that they have been used. Always make sure that the work you hand in is COMPLETELY your own. We consider plagiarism the use of Google translate or other online translation devices, copying from a classmate or asking someone else to write your assignment for you.

Continuing on with Spanish as part of your degree?

- In your third year, you are expected to attend university in a Spanish speaking country, so all our courses are geared to preparing you for that. If you are considering becoming a secondary school teacher of Spanish, then you should note that the teaching body in Ireland is the Teaching Council and they require you to have spent a minimum of 10 weeks living in a Spanish-speaking country.

- As you already know or you probably learnt throughout the year, studying languages is a task that requires continuous work and extra practice. If you are thinking about continuing with Spanish next September, you cannot forget about Spanish during the summer.

If you are interested in carrying on with Spanish beyond first year, here is the list of courses that we offer in second and final years – as you know your **THIRD YEAR** will ideally be spent at a university abroad:

Second YEAR	FINAL YEAR
Core Courses Spanish Language Optional Courses (not available every year) • Spanish Language II • Hispanic Literature and Culture • Spanish Drama • Hispanic Literature and Culture II: • Latin American Short Stories • Cultural Debates in Latin America	Core Courses Spanish Language Optional Courses (not available every year) • Spanish Language III • Spanish Language IV • Hispanic Literature and Culture III: • Contemporary Latin American Studies • Hispanic Literature and Culture IV: • Hispanic Cinema • Hispanic Crime Narrative • Reading Gesture in Latin American Literature • Mexican Women Writers

For more information, visit our website or contact: spanish@nuigalway.ie