

**SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
SPANISH 263: INTERMEDIATE SPANISH I  
TENTATIVE SYLLABUS**

**3 CREDIT HOURS**

**SUMMER I, 2008**

**SHSU PUEBLA FIELD SCHOOL**

**PUEBLA, MEXICO**

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Class to be held on the campus of the Universidad Iberoamericana-Golfo-Centro, as well as at important cultural sites in the area.

Class time: 9:00- 10:45 a.m. on Iberoamericana campus

Office hours: 11:00 -1:00, on class days, in the cafeteria of the Iberoamericana

**DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:**

This course furthers the introduction to basic Spanish structures, as well as reviews and expands on the materials learned in Spanish 141 and Spanish 142. Language codes with more complexity are discussed, drilled and practiced in various ways. The course prepares the student to function in areas of immediate needs and to deal in Spanish with simple situations related to personal interests and daily life. Listening, speaking, reading and writing are developed simultaneously with emphasis on oral communication skills. Students are expected to use the language within the limits of their developing skills, to participate actively in class, to prepare assignments on time and to practice whenever and wherever possible.

**STYLE:**

This course has a seminar-style, student-centered, format in class, with a variety of activities designed to encourage the student to speak. This course comprises 66 contact hours, including activities in the classroom and on field trips. The classroom will provide the necessary background for learning, but much individual effort outside the classroom is essential to develop the Spanish language skills that are the goals for this course. It is also important that students keep up with the written homework assignments and that they do these on their own, without outside help. Otherwise, I won't know where you need help or in what way the concept was not understood.

**GENERAL GOALS:**

The goal of this course is for students to improve their communication abilities in Spanish. They should advance from the level of a novice to that of an intermediate-low or intermediate-mid level, in writing, reading and listening-- but especially in speaking abilities.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Since this course will be conducted in Mexico, students will take advantage of this immersion in a Spanish-speaking environment by speaking and listening in real situations. The instructor will assign specific tasks that the student will carry out in the city of Puebla, such as describing situations, speaking with merchants, asking for directions, ordering at a restaurant, inquiring about opinions and making purchases. Students will visit museums dealing with several aspects of Mexican culture, factories, markets, restaurants, department stores, travel agencies, small stores and archeological sites. Students will also be expected to seek spontaneous opportunities to practice the language on their own. Frequently they will relate their experiences by role-modeling situations in front of the class. Students should pay attention to guides on field trips, ask them sincere questions, take notes and thank guides. Students will be expected to absorb a reasonable amount of cultural information from field trips. Students should read the local newspapers, find out what is going on and what people are interested in, so that they can initiate conversations and inquire about the opinions of others. Students should encourage their new acquaintances to correct their errors, whether in pronunciation, grammar or vocabulary. If students are open to others correcting them, their mistakes will be less likely to become "fossilized".

**TEXTBOOK:** Eduardo Zayas-Bazán and Susan M. Bacon; ¡Arriba! *Comunicación y cultura*; Fifth Edition (2008). Although this course has no lab, if you still have your access code to QUIA, you will find these electronic exercises useful. Also, the Companion Website for ¡Arriba! has very good interactive exercises.

**GRADES:**

Students will be evaluated in a variety of ways throughout the semester for their skills in listening comprehension, reading, writing, speaking, as well as grammatical and cultural knowledge. Evaluations for the course will be distributed in the following way:

Quizzes:	20% --a series of short quizzes monitoring your progress
Midterm exam:	20% --an exam that covers first half of course
Final exam:	20% --a comprehensive exam
Journal:	10% -- Buy a notebook/scrapbook in Puebla; 1. keep a list of new vocabulary and expressions that you hear; explain the circumstances in which you heard them and later used them. 2.Keep a list of observations that you make about Mexican culture. Turn this in at the midterm and at the final.
Project:	10%-- To be explained later.
Participation:	20% -an assessment of your participation in the classroom, on fieldtrips and of your growth in the overall cultural experience.

You MUST show GOOD BEHAVIOR as described in the SHSU Puebla Field School Student Guidelines during your study abroad experience. You must be courteous and attentive to guides on fieldtrips. You must display responsible behavior at all times. Any misbehavior at any time can affect your “Participation” grade.

If your misbehavior results in your dismissal from the program (See “Student Guidelines), you will receive an automatic F for this course.

PLEASE CHECK course website on BLACKBOARD frequently for announcements, assignments and any changes.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Because the summer course is brief, the pace is very intensive and absences prevent students from performing adequately. Everyone is expected to attend all classes and to participate actively in class activities, as well as field trips. You are permitted three absent hours; after that, for each hour missed 1% will be deducted from your semester grade. Regardless of the reason for your absence, you are required to complete any in-class work or due assignments, and be informed of any other due assignments. To that effect you may e-mail an attachment of your assignment to the instructor. If absence is necessary due to illness, please leave a message at the hotel or call Olivia at the Iberoamericana (229-0700 ext. 467 or ext. 576) and ask her to give me the message.

**Student Syllabus Guidelines:** You may find online a more detailed description of the following policies. These guidelines will also provide you with a link to the specific university policy or procedure:

<http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

**Academic Dishonesty:** Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. See Student Syllabus Guidelines.

**Classroom Rules of Conduct:** Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students are to treat faculty and students with respect. Students are to turn off all

cell phones while in the classroom. Under no circumstances are cell phones or any electronic devices to be used or seen during times of examination. Students may tape record lectures provided they do not disturb other students in the process.

**Student Absences on Religious Holy Days:** Students are allowed to miss class and other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Students remain responsible for all work. See Student Syllabus Guidelines.

**Students with Disabilities Policy:** It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. See Student Syllabus Guidelines.

**Visitors in the Classroom:** Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.