Online Spanish 2303
Spanish for Spanish Speakers One

COURSE INFORMATION
CRN: 17509/12609
Semester/Year: Fall 2026
Delivery Method: Asynchronous-Online
Location: Texas Western Hall, Room 217

Instructor: Dr. Erika Zavala
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Office: Graham Hall 311
Office Hours: Monday–Thursday, 3:00–4:00 p.m.
Virtual Office Hours: By appointment

Welcome!

Hello class! I am **Dr. Zavala** and I will be your instructor for the next few weeks. I am looking forward to a fun and interactive Spanish class. If you have any questions about the syllabus, please feel free to ask me.

Description:

Online Spanish for Spanish Speakers 2303 is a course for students—typically north-of-the-border bilinguals—who speak Spanish at home and/or in the community but who have never seriously studied it and who are therefore not fluent readers or writers of it. SPAN 2303 is not designed for students who have been raised and (largely) educated in countries where Spanish is an official language; it is also not designed for north-of-the-border bilinguals who already read and write Spanish proficiently thanks to high-school coursework, K-8 dual-language programs, and the like.

Prerequisites:

Prerequisites for Spanish 2303: Entrance into SPAN 2303 is by examination only. You must take the Spanish Placement Test (SPT). If you have already taken SPAN 2304, you cannot sign up for SPAN 2303 to receive credit. If you took the SPT and placed into SPAN 2303, you must enroll in SPAN 2303; if you placed into SPAN 2304, you must enroll in SPAN 2304 (unless you show your instructor written permission from the Placement Director to drop back to SPAN 2303). The Department of Chicano Studies, Languages, and Linguistics reserves the right to rectify errors in placement caused by a student's failure to observe these guidelines, including the option to drop a student enrolled in an inappropriate course.

Credit Hours: 3 Credit Hours

About Course Materials:

Galería 2 (de lengua y cultura Supersite) by Vista Higher Learning, 2025.
You can by your direct access from VHL
https://vistahigherlearning.com/store/school/utelpaso/ **or you can buy it at the UTEP bookstore** https://www.bkstr.com/texaselpasostore

Either of these links lead to registration in VHL after purchase. However, do not try to buy a used book or code because access codes are of a single use. Codes can only be used once by one student. **NOTE:** Access to VHL must be purchased by the third day of class (_____) to avoid falling behind and or being dropped from the course. Contact your instructor immediately if an extension is required.

- Computer (desktop or laptop)
- Webcam, microphone, and speakers or earphones/pods

About Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1) Read, comprehend, and analyze authentic texts in Spanish in a variety of genres.
2) Write short reports and essays that display effective organization and coherence, command of grammatical structures, and minimal orthographic errors.
3) Employ diverse vocabulary and a variety of grammatical structures contrasting between formal and informal social contexts in oral and written communication.

About Online Courses:

Myth 1: Taking an online course will take less time since you don't have to be physically in a classroom.
The Reality: Taking an online class, especially for the first time, can be time consuming. Just like with a face-to-face class, you still need to prepare effective class materials, engage with other students, and assess your learning. Although student interaction is handled differently, online classes should be just as complex and intense as campus-based classes.

Myth 2: There will be little class participation.
The Reality: A well-designed online course can increase participation from students who might not feel comfortable sharing their thoughts in a campus-based class. These students now have the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and strengths through student-to-student and student-to-instructor conversations.

Myth #3: Students in an online course do not learn as much as students in a face-to-face course.
The Reality: Learning objectives should be the same for online and face-to-face classes, and in either case, assignments support the learning objectives. Research suggests that students can learn more in an online course when collaborative learning approaches, critical thinking prompts, and discussion boards are used.

Myth 4: My classroom is a very interactive environment, so it would not translate well online. I am concerned that I will lose this rapport.
The Reality: With an online class, the professor doesn't have to rely entirely on what she or he can present. A whole world of resources that can address different learning styles is available to develop student engagement and foster an interactive learning environment. Additionally, online students may have more opportunities to engage with and learn from each other than in a face-to-face class.

Computer Readiness:

This Spanish course requires you to watch and record videos, make voice recordings, and complete other assignments that require an updated computer.
To avoid frustration with technological issues, please make sure you do the following before beginning this course:

- Update all your browsers (Firefox, Safari, and Chrome).
- Make sure that you have access to your UTEP email address and Blackboard so that you receive all my emails and announcements.
- Your instructor expects that you have basic Internet skills if you are on this course. Those skills include:

- The ability to login to the course website, send, and receive emails with attachments.

- Also, you must be familiar with MS Word to complete the course written assignments and know how to save all assignments in RTF (rich text format). If you need to review any of the Internet basics, please go to the Microsoft site and brush up.

- Install a grammar spell checker in Spanish (see resources)

About the Grading Scale and Distribution:

The following scale will be used to calculate your final grade:

A	90.0 – 100%
B	80.0 - 89.9%
C	70.0 - 79.9%
D	65.0 - 69.9%
F	64.9% or less

VHL and homework…….……....25%(250 pts)
Compositions (4)…….……..20% (200 pts)
Discussions (4)…….…….....15% (150 pts)
Module Assessments (4)……..……..…...40% (400 pts)

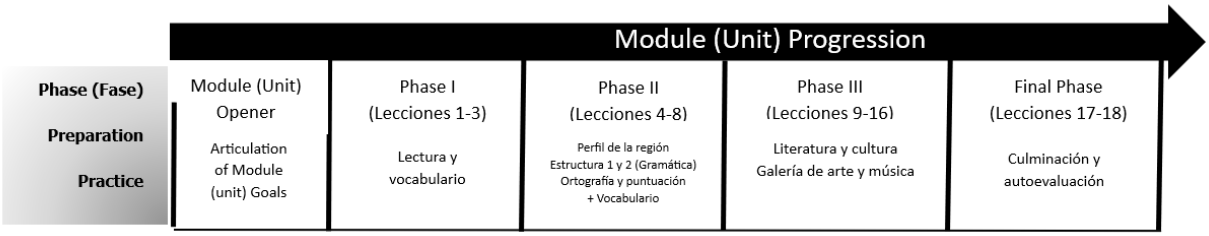
Total……..……..100%

About *Galería 2*:

Structure and sequence of Assessment and Learning activities:

- You will be assigned a variety of activities from the VHL Supersite, consisting of literary and informational texts, authentic audios, regional videos, music, and art presentations, etc. You are responsible for completing the entire assigned activities computer graded (three attempts).
- Your work in Galería 2 will comprise most of your homework. Specific learning tracks have been designed to optimize your language learning experience and to help you

appreciate and communicate with all parts of the Spanish-speaking world including your own. Below is an overview of the structure of each module (unit). **Each module is organized the same way!**



Module (Unit) Opener: Students learn the geographical and thematic focus of the unit, review objectives, essential questions, and maps.

Phase I: Focus on Reading- Students make connections to the theme and develop vocabulary before reading an informational or literary text that expands on the theme.

Phase II: Focus on Language and Content- Students share information and build background knowledge on the region they are exploring and watch a video presentation. Then they learn and practice language structures and vocabulary that was presented in the regional video and in the reading in Phase I.

Phase III: Focus on Literature and Culture-Students learn about authors from the Spanish-speaking world and explore authentic texts and literary pieces as they develop their vocabulary, learn reading strategies, and analyze the genre and its literary elements. Cultural connections are expanded through regional art and music.

Final Phase: Culmination and Self Assessment- Students work on a culminating writing project with an oral presentation, watch a general review video with activities, and complete a self assessment.

Grading in *Galería 2*:

The Vista Higher Learning Supersite (VHL) is an automated program and not a human being. Therefore, if you have questions about any activities or believe there have been any errors in the grading, please make use of the **Ask your instructor"**button and or bring it to your instructor's attention as soon as possible.

The **Ask your Instructor"**button allows you to highlight/flag the exact activity that is giving you trouble and allows you to type in your question on any phase exercise. Your instructor will try to respond to you as soon as possible and or incorporate your question(s) in class.

Every week you will complete various portions of your learning tracks on Galería 2. Deadlines are marked within the calendar in VHL. It is highly recommended that complete the assigned by the indicated dates & order. However, every student has until **Sunday at 11:59 PM MT** to submit any

missed assignments. Do not leave your homework until the last minute, as it will only hinder your learning and grade. Keep in mind that lack of effort can result in a course drop.

Compositions :

You are expected to write four compositions during the semester. All compositions must be typed and must be turned in by the scheduled date on the course calendar.

Compositions must be at least two full pages long, double-spaced with 12-point font and 1" margins. All compositions must follow these guidelines. Late compositions will receive partial credit if the instructor has authorized the submission.

Your instructor will make annotations and corrections, please attend to these, and make necessary revisions. To avoid typos and misspellings, please configure the language in Microsoft Word to Spanish (and turn on the spell-check function).

Module (Unit) Assessments:

Throughout the course, it is important to do assessments to measure your overall proficiency in Spanish. These assessments may include listening comprehension, vocabulary, grammar, reading comprehension and writing. Students are not permitted to make up a lesson test that they miss unless they have a university sanctioned reason for doing so and have spoken ahead of time with their instructor to arrange an accommodation.

Discussions/Social Learning:

You must participate in four **discussions** during the semester. All discussions are to be in Spanish and must be completed by the scheduled date in and thru your Blackboard shell. Late submissions receive partial credit if authorized by the instructor. Be sure to reply to at least two of your classmates in a timely manner and follow proper netiquette.

About Netiquette:

1. Online etiquette is extremely important. We must always show respect to one another. Rudeness and disrespect are not tolerated in this course. Please recognize that communication is rather "flat" online where we cannot see and hear each other. So be cautious when using sarcasm or negative statements. Familiarize yourself with "smileys," online icons that show emotion, so that you lessen the risk of offending the person you are trying to communicate with. Whenever possible, give constructive criticism and treat others the way you would like to be treated.
2. Always consider the audience. Remember that members of the class and the instructor will be reading any postings.
3. Respect and courtesy are always necessary to classmates and to the instructor. No harassment, flaming, or inappropriate postings are tolerated.
4. Do not use inappropriate language, all capital letters, or language shortcuts. Online entries are written in Standard Spanish with edited spelling, grammar, and punctuation.
5. When reacting to someone else's message, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a face-to-face situation.
6. Be sure to read everyone's responses before posting. Avoid repetition of what someone else has already said. Add something new to the discussion!

7. You will not receive credit for yes/no answers. Students must demonstrate that they have read the assignment and their classmates' comments carefully and thoughtfully.
8. Be sure to post in a timely fashion to receive credit for attendance and for the discussion. Pay close attention to the posted deadlines.
9. Be sure to look over the *Acceptable content guidelines* before posting on Blackboard.

About Late Work:

Due dates for every assignment are provided on the course calendar located in VHL. Unless otherwise stated, assignments are due on those days. Be sure to record the dates on your own calendar and make it a top priority to adhere to them as no late work is accepted.

Note: If you experience extenuating circumstances (e.g., you are hospitalized) that prohibit you from submitting your work on time, please let me know as soon as possible. I will evaluate these instances on a case-by-case basis.

About How I Provide Feedback to You:

As I mentioned earlier, I encourage you to go into the VHL Supersite or Blackboard and *view my updated grades and written and/or oral feedback*. Since this is an online class, this is one of the few ways to receive instructor feedback. You do not have the advantage of being in class with me 5 hours a week to receive constant and immediate feedback. **The best way to learn is from your own mistakes.** I will provide feedback on Blackboard in the comments sections. Blackboard will notify you that there is feedback awaiting your review under "notifications" on your dashboard.

You can also e-mail me at any time asking for feedback on any activity and or requesting a virtual meeting.

Communication with the Instructor:

Communication between you and your instructor is crucial. You must check your UTEP e-mail, VHL and the Blackboard announcements regularly. All communication from your instructor will go to your UTEP e-mail address/BB messages. I strongly recommend that you use your Blackboard account for all e-mails regarding the course. If you use another email service or non-UTEP account, there is a risk that your email will be blocked or end up in a spam filter and not be received by your instructor.

You should also save copies of any messages you send to your instructor via e-mail (or cc yourself). If your instructor does not receive your message, you must have a copy of the e-mail (with any attached file), indicating the date sent, to prove that you sent the message.

About the Course Policies:

1. Only work submitted by the deadlines will receive credit. **No late work of any kind is accepted.** You must complete all the assignments for each module on time. The best way to prepare yourself for the next level of Spanish study is to complete all assignments in a timely manner. Using unauthorized help or methods in completing the activities is not a good idea. Not only is it unethical, but you will also be putting yourself at a great disadvantage in upper-level courses if you have not mastered the material in SPAN 2303.

2. No extra credit assignments.
3. No make-up assessments are given without a prompt, valid excuse. If approved, the make-up assessment must be submitted immediately.
4. Due to the nature of the course, communication between you and your instructor is crucial. You must check your e-mail, *VHL* and the Blackboard announcements regularly.
5. If you have special circumstances, bring them to the attention of your instructor immediately.

Individual Performance Components:

Here are some of the activities you must do during the semester in order to learn the language. You must do this consistently:

- Log in regularly on both platforms Blackboard and VHL
- Complete the homework from the VHL Supersite or any other assignments given by your instructor.
- Use Galería and the online exercises to review material covered and prepare for the next class.
- Complete all assignments, module assessments, etc. on time.
- Make good use of writing assignments (in compositions and online exercises)—these are opportunities when you can challenge yourself to express complex ideas, write complex sentences, and utilize a diverse range of vocabulary.
- Have a good knowledge of the vocabulary studied in the course; review past vocabulary as much as necessary to master it.
- When in class, do your best to work effectively and productively with other students.
- When outside of class, look for opportunities to speak, listen and write the language every day, including with family or friends.
- Have confidence in your ability to use the language to express your ideas on a subject.

Keep in mind that as your instructor, I am here to help. If you have questions or feel like you might need extra help with any material or skills, talk to me first about the best thing to do.

About Academic Honesty:

Engaging in any behavior that involves taking credit for work that is not your own will be penalized. There is zero tolerance for cheating and/or allowing others to copy your work on assessments and/or homework. Penalties for academic dishonesty range from an "F" on an assignment to dismissal from the course and/or the college.

Course Policies: Cheating, Plagiarism, Scholastic Dishonesty, and Student Discipline:

Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another `person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

Cheating:

Copying from the test paper of another student, engaging in written, oral, or any other means of communication with another student during a test, or giving aid to or seeking aid from another student during a test; possession and/or use during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes, books, or specifically designed "crib notes"; using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program; using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters but which will be used again either in whole or in part without permission of the instructor; or accessing a test bank without instructor permission; collaborating with or seeking aid from another student for an assignment without authority; substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one's self, to take a test; and falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit.

Plagiarism:

Means the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of it in one's own academic work offered for credit, or using work in a paper or assignment for which the student had received credit in another course without direct permission of all involved instructors.

Collusion:

Means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.

Center for Accommodations and Support Services:

The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) is committed to providing for the needs of enrolled or admitted students who have disabilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). Therefore, it is the policy of UTEP that the campus makes services available for any student who, through a recent assessment, can document a disability. If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu, or visit the office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106.

About the Drop Policy:

Regular participation and engagement are essential for developing language proficiency. Students are expected to remain active in the course by accessing **Blackboard and VHL**, completing assigned activities, submitting coursework, and communicating with the instructor when necessary.

Students who remain inactive for an entire week, with **no course activity, assignment submissions, or communication with the instructor**, may be dropped from the course in accordance with university and course policies. Therefore, it is important to contact me if circumstances prevent you from participating in the course.
¡OJO! First Week Participation: During the first week of class, I will verify that students have accessed both **Blackboard and VHL**. If you have not accessed either platform by the **end of the first Friday of the semester**, I will contact you by UTEP email to notify you that you are at risk of being dropped from the course. Failure to access the course or respond to the instructor may result in being dropped from the course.

If you fail to complete the exercises, assessments, assignments, or discussions for a period longer than two days per week you will be immediately dropped from the class.

Exceptions to the above-stated policies are made under these circumstances: (1) a medical emergency requiring hospitalization, (2) jury duty or (3) official UTEP business such as athletics, debating team, or band. Documentary proof of official UTEP business or jury duty must be provided ten calendar days before the fact; documentary proof of hospitalization must be provided on the day you return to class.

About Important Dates:

See calendar at VHL every day for your assignments in *Galería 2*.

Also look at the learning modules (*Módulos de aprendizaje*) in Blackboard where Compositions and Discussions will be made available.

You are responsible for work assigned on both platforms. Be sure to keep an eye on BB announcements as your instructor will communicate important information/material through them.

Oral Spanish Proficiency Microcredential

The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) has partnered with Language Testing International (LTI) to offer students the opportunity to earn a microcredential recognizing their oral language proficiency. This credential is awarded based on performance on the Oral Proficiency Interview–Computer (OPIc), administered by LTI and proctored by the UTEP Student Testing Center. The OPIc provides an official, nationally recognized measure of speaking ability that can be shared on résumés, LinkedIn profiles, and other professional platforms. There is a testing fee, and students must register for the exam through the UTEP Student Testing Center: https://www.registerblast.com/utep/Exam/List.

Course Calendar

*Please note that your instructor may make minor changes to the calendar below. Your instructor will notify you of changes, but it is your responsibility to make note of them on your own calendar so that you do not miss any assignments or assessments.

SEMANA 1	(08/24-08/30)
	Course introduction (Prontuario) VHL Registration (Calendar) **Módulo 1: ¿Quiénes somos?** Fase I: Enfoque en la lectura (ebook - páginas 2-16) Fase II: Enfoque en el lenguaje y contenido (ebook – páginas 17-25) Fase II: Enfoque en el lenguaje y contenido (ebook – páginas 226-32) **Discusión #1**
SEMANA 2	(08/31-09/06)—Due 9/10
	Módulo 1: ¿Quiénes somos? Fase III: Enfoque en la literatura y la cultura (ebook - páginas 33-44) Fase III: Enfoque en la literatura y la cultura (ebook - páginas 45-49) Fase III: Enfoque en la literatura y la cultura (ebook - páginas 50-53) Fase Final: Culminación y autoevaluación (ebook – páginas 54-57) **Assessment #1** **Primera composición**
SEMANA 3	(09/07-09/13)
	Módulo 2: ¿Cómo nos relacionamos? Fase I: Enfoque en la lectura (ebook - páginas 58-72) Fase II: Enfoque en el lenguaje y contenido (ebook – páginas 73-81) Fase II: Enfoque en el lenguaje y contenido (ebook – páginas 82-88) Fase III: Enfoque en la literatura y la cultura (ebook - páginas 89-102) **Discusión #2**
SEMANA 4	(09/14-09/20)
	Módulo 2: ¿Cómo nos relacionamos? Fase III: Enfoque en la literatura y la cultura (ebook - páginas 103-105) Fase III: Enfoque en la literatura y la cultura (ebook - páginas 106-107) Fase III: Enfoque en la literatura y la cultura (ebook - páginas 108-111) Fase Final: Culminación y autoevaluación (ebook – páginas 112-115) **Assessment #2** **Segunda composición**
SEMANA 5	(09/21-09/27)
	Módulo 3: Nuestros sentimientos y emociones Fase I: Enfoque en la lectura (ebook - páginas 116-130)

	Fase II: Enfoque en el lenguaje y contenido (ebook – páginas 131-139) Fase II: Enfoque en el lenguaje y contenido (ebook – páginas 140-146) Fase III: Enfoque en la literatura y la cultura (ebook - páginas 147-146) **Discusión #3**
SEMANA 6	(09/28-10/04)
	Módulo 3: Nuestros sentimientos y emociones Fase III: Enfoque en la literatura y la cultura (ebook - páginas 161-163) Fase III: Enfoque en la literatura y la cultura (ebook - páginas 164-165) Fase III: Enfoque en la literatura y la cultura (ebook - páginas 166-169) Fase Final: Culminación y autoevaluación (ebook – páginas 170-173) **Assessment #3** **Tercera composición**
SEMANA 7	(10/05-10/11)
	Módulo 4: La geografía humana y la emigración Fase I: Enfoque en la lectura (ebook - páginas 174-188) Fase II: Enfoque en el lenguaje y contenido (ebook – páginas 189-197) Fase II: Enfoque en el lenguaje y contenido (ebook – páginas 198-204) Fase III: Enfoque en la literatura y la cultura (ebook - páginas 205-219) Fase III: Enfoque en la literatura y la cultura (ebook - páginas 220-225) Fase Final: Culminación y autoevaluación (ebook – páginas 226-229) **Cuarta composición**
SEMANA 8	Last Week-Due 10/11
	Assessment #4 **Discusión #4**