



KULTURSTUDIER

STUDY GUIDE

Spanish language

Autumn 2021

Pronunciation and Oral Expression in Spanish

Spanish Reading Comprehension

Spanish Grammar and Writing

1. Introduction

This Study Guide is a supplement to Course Descriptions. It will give information about the Spanish courses organization, schedules and advice on how best to study and carry out the different tasks. If you have any questions on Spanish courses organization, please contact Mauricio Sánchez, mauricio@kulturstudier.org or Tel. +4745801266. All other inquiries, please contact our office in Oslo, mail@kulturstudier.no

● Recommendations

When studying Spanish with Kulturstudier / UISIL you will experience that we have an academic approach to the studies. This will by no means say it is not a practical course, on the contrary, we wish to develop your language skills so you can use the language in different settings. What it means is that by completion of the course you should be able to talk, read, write and understand the language satisfactorily. Spanish grammar students will go deeper into the structure of the language to gain teaching skills.

● How to study a language?

Those of us who have not learned Spanish from childhood have to take the longer way and work actively to learn and understand the language. There are no set answers on how to do this the best way, but regardless it will take a lot of effort from you. In Kulturstudier / UISIL we think we have laid a good foundation for your learning by giving you guidance and instructions in the language at the same time as you live in a country where it is the mother tongue. Nevertheless it is just a starting point, and it is your responsibility to participate actively in classes and discussions. However, we do have some useful tips on how you can get the most out of your studies:

A. Work actively from day 1

It is not a good idea to postpone reading and practicing, something that is more doable with typical reading subjects. What you learn each new lesson will build on what you have learned previously, and if you do not have control on course progression you will quickly reach a point where you do not understand what is being explained. In the beginning there will inevitably be a lot of studying and practicing, but if you put in some well-spent time here it won't be long until you can cruise the town practicing your Spanish. In addition, we advise you to continue using www.duolingo.com to practice your Spanish.

B. Practice what you have learned immediately

The best way to remember what you have studied is to use it immediately. For instance, if you are learning the different verbs, make sentences where you get use of the things you have learned.

C. Find a study buddy

When you are learning a new language, you can always talk to the wall, however, far more interesting (and educational!) is to find someone to study with. Get together two or three, listen to each other and make conversation in Spanish.

D. Talk to the other students

It is never natural for people with the same mother tongue (i.e. Norwegian, German, English) to talk together in a different language. But: it is very useful! Arrange with some of your fellow students to only speak Spanish at certain times of the day. For instance, start by only speaking Spanish during breakfast, and then maybe expand to lunch after a while. It takes a bit of discipline, but it works!

E. Look for situations where you can use the language

You are in a Spanish speaking country. Persons in Spain and in Latin-America are easy to get in contact with, but if you only hang around your fellow foreign friends, it is hard for the locals to get in contact with you. Find activities and go to places where you can meet the locals. Make sure you do not let one person in your student group always take the word in Spanish. That person will learn a lot, but you should be practicing your Spanish too!

F. Be perseverant, engaged and strategic when it comes to online studies

All online lectures will be taught in Spanish language. Particularly the first weeks could be very challenging. Teachers do not expect that you understand **absolutely all** they explain in Spanish. They will use a language level and vocabulary which is correspondent with your own level and their goal is that you understand most of the contents. This methodology will help you to get used to listening and trying to understand Spanish. You can always write in the chat-function in *Zoom* to ask questions. Many online lectures will count with two teachers, whereas one of them will answer your questions or doubts quickly. If you have further questions, lecturers will be available to answer by email or by scheduling a video call during those hours called "disponible".

It is important that you download *Zoom* in app format on your computer. We recommend you set Spanish as your account language. In this way it will be easier to communicate with your teachers about the Zoom interface and Zoom controls you will be using during online Spanish lessons.

2. Course Content

This section provides information about the different sections of the course and guidance on how the students should work in collaboration with each other and the teachers.

● Course book and online resources

Students in Spanish level 0 will use *Aula América 1* as the course book, whilst students in Spanish level 1 will use *Vía Rápida*. You must have the course book with you every lesson. Especially during the San Isidro on-campus period, it will be also necessary to take with you the dictionary and the Spanish grammar book.

For the online period it is very important to register and activate a student account in [Campus Difusión \(difusion.com\)](https://www.difusion.com). In this website you will be able to download / use relevant audios, videos, interactive exercises and other online resources associated with *Aula América 1* or with *Vía Rápida*. During week 1 you will get guidance on how to find / download these online resources.

Part 1 – Online Period

Before on-campus teaching in San Isidro, the program starts with an eighth week online period (30th august -22nd october). Each Spanish course will consist of three weekly lessons (each lesson takes 45 minutes), and a supplementary office hour each week whereas the teacher is available to schedule a video call with you or to answer your questions by email.

● Course schedule (online period)

On Monday 30th august we will have an Online introduction meeting (15:00 - 16:00 Norwegian time / 07:00-08:00 am Costa Rican time) [\(Zoom link\)](#) During this online meeting you will get a link to complete a Spanish diagnostic test which will allow us to find out your Spanish proficiency level and place you in a group correspondent with your level. It is obligatory to attend this online information meeting and to complete the diagnostic test. You will find your detailed schedule, with all weekly lessons you must attend, [at this link](#) (information available only after Monday 30th august at 19:00, Norwegian time). You must wait until you have been placed in a group, either 0A, 0B, 1A, 1B, 1C or 1D, in order to be able to find out your specific schedule. Monday 30th august at 19:00 we will send you an email with information about group organization.

● Course organization table (10 Spanish lessons per week with obligatory attendance)

	Pronunciation and Oral Expression	Spanish grammar and writing	Spanish Reading Comprehension
Teoría	1 online lesson per week	2 online lessons per week	1 online lesson per week
Práctica	1 online lesson per week	1 lesson per week (Spain or online)	1 online lesson per week
Evaluación	1 online lesson per week	1 lesson per week (Spain or online)	1 online lesson per week
Disponible (virtual office hour)	1 hour per week (not obligatory)	1 hour per week (not obligatory)	1 hour per week (not obligatory)

As you see in course organization table, all three Spanish courses will be organized in three different kind of weekly lessons:

Teoría (Theory lessons): Explanation of contents by lecturer.

Práctica (Practice lessons): Explanation of those exercises and tasks you have to complete.

Evaluación (Evaluation lessons): Feedback, evaluation and assessment of expected and achieved individual progression. Quizzes and other submissions will be conducted during these lessons.

Disponibile (Virtual office hours): Teacher is available to schedule a video call with students or to answer student's questions by email.

● Academic staff

Every course has a course leader besides other assistants/teachers who will assist the course leader in some lessons. For instance, during the online period, there will be two teachers online during every *Teoría* and *Práctica* lesson. All *Evaluación* lessons are organized in smaller groups in order to enable a real active participation of each student and facilitate individual feedback comments.

In San Isidro you will have the same professors as in the online period but you will meet other teachers. The whole program will be organised with a different schedule and lessons will be organised in smaller groups in San Isidro. You will get the detailed information during week 6.

Academic coordinator for all Spanish courses

Mauricio Sánchez mauricio@kulturstudier.org

Pronunciation and Oral Expression in Spanish:

Yilliam Valverde (course leader) yil.valverde@hotmail.com and other assistants.

Spanish Reading Comprehension:

Adriana Calvo (course leader) adry15_calvo@hotmail.com and other assistants.

Spanish Grammar and Writing:

María Soledad Lorío del Castillo (course leader) msloriodelc@yahoo.es and other assistants.

Mauricio Sánchez and Carianne Gregersen carianne.gre90@gmail.com will teach *Práctica* and *Evaluación* lessons in the Spanish Grammar and writing course. Mauricio will be imparting his lessons in Villajoyosa, Spain, while Carianne will impart the same lessons in online modality for those students who are not in Spain at the respective time. In other words you will take *Gramática práctica* y *Gramática Evaluación* with Mauricio when you are in Spain. In any other cases, you will attend Carianne's online lesson .

Part 2 – Studies at UISIL campus

NB: During week 6 you will get a detailed schedule for the on-campus period in Costa Rica. Some changes may occur.

Most likely, students will experience a faster progression in Costa Rica, due to several reasons. The largest advantage of studying Spanish in San Isidro is that you study and live in the area where the language is spoken and there are not many tourists there. Besides, we have the possibility to gain a positive influence from the social arena. The contact with your neighbours will become easier the more Spanish you learn. In addition, your lecturers will be physically with you in a classroom in smaller groups. Furthermore, we will arrange many social activities, many visits to Costa Rican organizations and three academic field trips.

●Visit to Costa Rican organisations:

All students are attending different visits to Costa Rican organisations. The students will work in groups in preparations for the visits and each student will have a presentation of maximum ten minutes explaining the visit.

●Academic field trips:

The sites to visit on these excursions are surrounding San Isidro. Kulturstudier/UISIL will organize three excursions this autumn. Experiences acquired during these excursions will function as background knowledge in order to present a group project. During week 6 you will get more details about group projects and academic field trips in November and December in Costa Rica. The criteria taken into account for the selection of these sites are their historical, cultural, ecological and social value for Costa Rican society. It is intended that in every trip, students acquire knowledge and develop various skills through specific tasks assigned by their Spanish and History teachers.

1. Longo Maï: Agricultural and ecological community (ecovillage) focused on sustainable production for self-consumption and inhabited mostly by Salvadoran immigrants who fled the war in their country in the 80s.
2. Local farms in rural communities: We visit some local farmers in a rural community with innovative and sustainable ideas. They produce non-traditional products such as apples, mushrooms, wine, or honey.

3. Las Nubes reserve and Alexander Skutch biological corridor. A conservation project owned and directed by York University. The Faculty of Environmental Studies of this Canadian university operates an eco-campus on the reserve that hosts classes and research projects focused on sustainability, conservation and socio-ecological development of rural and indigenous communities.

3. Evaluation

During week 1 students will get instruction and guidance on all submissions / quizzes you have to present in the online period.

- **Evaluation scale (all courses)**

90 – 100 %	A	Excellent
80 – 89 %	B	Good
70 – 79 %	C	Fair
Less than 70%		Fail

Spanish reading comprehension

- **Final exam (3 hours): Week 16, exact date to be announced**
- **Evaluation summary:**

Evaluation activities	Number	Value	Total
Quizzes	5	5 %	25 %
Group projects based on academic field trips	2	15 %	30 %
Final exam	1	30 %	30 %
Class participation			15 %
Total			100 %

Spanish Grammar and writing

- **Final exam (3 hours): Week 16, exact date to be announced**
- **Evaluation summary:**

Evaluation activities	Number	Value	Total
Quizzes	5	5 %	25 %
Group projects based on academic field trips	2	15 %	30 %
Final exam	1	30 %	30 %
Class participation			15 %
Total			100 %

Pronunciation and oral expression

- **Oral exam: 15–20 minutes presentation with to sensors.**
- **Week 15, exact date to be announced.**
- **Evaluation summary:**

Evaluation activities	Number	Value	Total
Digital presentations	3	5 %	15 %
Quizzes	2	10%	20%
Group projects based on academic field trips	2	10 %	20 %
Final exam (Oral exam)	1	30 %	30%
Class participation			15 %
Total			100%

4. Evaluation dates and deadlines

Week	Spanish Grammar and writing	Spanish reading comprehension	Pronunciation and oral expression
1			
2			
3	Quizz 1 (5%)	Quizz 1 (5%)	
4			Digital presentation 1(5%)
5	Quizz 2 (5%)	Quizz 2 (5%)	
6			Digital presentation 2(5%)
7	Quizz 3 (5%)	Quizz 3 (5%)	
8	Study week: On-campus teaching in San Isidro starts 25th october		
9			Digital presentation 3(5%)
10	Quizz 4 (5%)	Quizz 4 (5%)	Quizz 1 (10%)
11			

12	Group project 1 (15%)	Group project 1 (15%)	Group Project 1 (10%)
13	Quizz 5 (5%)	Quizz 5 (5%)	Quizz 2 (10%)
14	Group project 2 (15%)	Group project 2 (15%)	Group project 2 (10%)
15			Final oral exam (30%)
16	Final exam (30%)	Final exam (30%)	