

Spanish language

STUDY GUIDE – SPRING 2023

Changes may occur

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Evaluation dates and submission deadlines

Changes may occur. When a Spanish group is participating in the Longo Mai overnight field trip, the respective evaluation(s) will be postponed to next week.

Week	Spanish Grammar and writing	Spanish reading comprehension	Pronunciation and oral expression
1	Diagnostic test on Monday 16th of January		
2			QUIZ 1 (5%)
3	QUIZ 1 (5%)	QUIZ 1 (5%)	
4			QUIZ 2 (5%)
5	QUIZ 2 (5%)	QUIZ 2 (5%)	
6			GROUP PROJECT 1 (10%)
7	GROUP PROJECT 1 (15%)	GROUP PROJECT 1 (15%)	
8		QUIZ 3(5%)	QUIZ 3 (5%)
9	QUIZ 3 (5%)		PRESENTATION 1 (10%)
10		QUIZ 4 and 5 (10%)	
11	QUIZ 4 and 5 (10%)		PRESENTATION 2 (10%)
12			
13	GROUP PROJECT 2 (15%)	GROUP PROJECT 2 (15%)	
14			GROUP PROJECT 2 (10%)
15			ORAL EXAM 30%
16	FINAL EXAM 30%	FINAL EXAM 30%	

1. Introduction

This Study Guide is a supplement to the Course Description of the three Spanish courses: Spanish Grammar and writing, Spanish reading comprehension, and Pronunciation and oral expression. It will give information about the courses and advice on how best to study and carry out the different tasks.

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2. Course Content

This section provides information about the different sections of the three Spanish subjects taught: Spanish Grammar and writing, Spanish reading comprehension, and Pronunciation and oral expression. Each of these courses are taught in three levels of Spanish, that is why the first week of classes students should take a Spanish placement test to be assigned in the right level of Spanish.

Part 1: Studies in Costa Rica

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 and navigate through a new culture?

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. 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 and experience the local culture

You are in a Spanish speaking country. Persons 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 in the classroom

All classes will be taught in Spanish language. Particularly the first weeks could be very challenging. Teachers do not expect that you understand **absolutely everything** 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 the phonetics and help your brain to always try to understand Spanish when you hear it.

G. Live some periods with a Costa Rican family or do some volunteer work

Evidently, real and direct contact with local society is the most effective way of learning a language, but there are also other benefits. Through real life interaction you will get aware of differences and similarities between your own culture and the Costa Rican culture. When you are living on your own or with other foreign students you will only be able to scratch the surface of the Costa Rican culture. Having to live or work and communicate with Costa Ricans will definitively help you to discover the fabric of the local society: their way of being and their daily rituals and habits. You will get a deeper understanding of the worldview and lifestyle of the people in this country. This will help to broaden your vision of modern multicultural societies and increase your understanding and sensibility when meeting new people later-on in life, as you will acquire a new set of interpersonal skills. These kinds of experiences also build confidence: The challenges you face when trying to live and communicate with a host family member or a local will build your sense of self-confidence and independence. Most students who travel abroad and stay with a host family or do volunteer work will find themselves at some point in a situation that challenges them. Being outside your comfort zone can help you learn a lot not just about the language but about yourself too.

Part 2: Course organization

The Spanish classes occur each week between 08:00 am - 15:30 pm from Monday to Wednesday and between 08:30 am - 12:00 am on Thursdays. Occasionally could be some academic activity on Fridays (a couple of times during the whole program) The detailed schedule and the Spanish group distribution with the name of the students will be published on the Facebook group and shared by email no later than Tuesday 17th of January. Each student will course 12 Spanish lessons per week with obligatory attendance. In addition, there will be two day-excursions and one overnight field trip where students will practice the language in real life situations.

All three Spanish courses will be organized in four different kinds of weekly lessons:

Intro (Introductory lesson): Explanation of the contents to learn during the respective week .

Práctica (Practice lessons): Lessons where students solve different exercises and tasks in order to master the specific academic goals for that week.

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

● **Course organization table**

	Pronunciation and Oral Expression	Spanish grammar and writing	Spanish Reading Comprehension
Intro	1 lesson per week	1 lessons per week	1 lesson per week
Práctica	2 lessons per week	2 lesson per week	2 lessons per week
Evaluación	1 lesson per week	1 lesson per week	1 lesson per week

● **Visit to Costa Rican organisations:**

All students are attending different visits to Costa Rican organisations as a part of the group project 1 in the Oral Expression course. The students will work in groups in preparations for the visits and each student will have a presentation of maximum five minutes explaining the visit.

● **Group projects based on academic overnight field trip and day excursions:**

The sites to visit on these excursions are surrounding San Isidro. Kulturstudier/UISIL will organize two day-excursions and two overnight field trips this semester, in addition to the overnight field trip to Longo Mai. Experiences acquired during these excursions will function as background knowledge in order to present a group project. 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 excursion, students acquire knowledge and develop various skills through specific tasks assigned by their teachers.

● **Host family stay in Longo Mai (four nights) and ASOFEQUE (five weeks)**

The host family stay in Longo Mai and ASOFEQUE will offer you the opportunity to internalize Spanish language by using the most effective method: it is much easier to learn and understand a language if you spend time immersed in the culture of the country. Your Spanish level will get accelerate learning as you are forced to practice and challenge your language skills every day. Kulturstudier staff will be available in Longo Mai rural community during your stay. ASOFEQUE families lives in Quebradas, just a couple og kilometers from UISIL university. The ASOFEQUE stay also features one night stay in FUDEBIOL forest.

Part 3: Evaluations and exams in Costa Rica

UISIL uses the following grading for all the subjects.

Grading Scale

90 - 100%	A	Excellent
80 - 89 %	B	Good
70 - 79%	C	Fair
Less than 70%		Failed

Spanish reading comprehension (Evaluation)

· Final exam (90 minutes written exam at university): Week 16. Tuesday 2nd of May. Exact time to be announced

· Evaluation summary:

Evaluation activities	Quantity	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 (Evaluation)

· Final exam (90 minutes written exam at university): Week 16. Tuesday 2nd of May. Exact time to be announced

· Evaluation summary:

Evaluation activities	Quantity	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 (Evaluation)

- **Oral exam: 15–20 minutes presentation and conversation with two sensors.**
- **Week 15: Either Wednesday 26th of April or Thursday 27th of April**
- **Evaluation summary:**

Evaluation activities	Quantity	Value	Total
Quizzes	3	5 %	15 %
Presentations	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 %

3. Courses books and internet resources

● Course books

Students in Spanish level 0 will use [Aula América 1](#) as the course book, students in Spanish level 1 will use [Campus Sur A1- B1](#) and students in Spanish level 2 will use [Gramática. Nivel Avanzado B2](#). You must have the course book with you every lesson. It will be also necessary to take with you the dictionary and the Spanish grammar book many times.

● Internet resources

It is important to register and activate a student account in [Campus Difusión \(difusion.com\)](#). In this website you will be able to download / use relevant audios, videos, interactive exercises and other online resources associated with *Aula América 1 and Campus Sur*. During the first weeks in San Isidro you will get guidance on how to find / download these online resources.

In addition to preparing for the studies in Costa Rica we suggest that you become familiar with the country and the continent before you travel. There are many good internet pages that will give you good introductions to what the country has to offer. Some of the pages are:

Facts on Costa Rica

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-19414068>

Newspapers:

An overview of different newspapers with their own website:

<https://www.prensaescrita.com/america/costarica.php>

Latin America groups (in Norwegian):

<http://www.latin-amerikagruppene.no/Medieklipp/index.html>

The Economist (Political magazine with focus on economic news, there is a section of news about Latin America): <http://www.economist.com/world/la/>

Tourist websites:

Official website side: <https://www.visitcostarica.com/en>

Dictionaries:

Tritrans (Norwegian-Spanish-English): <http://www.tritrans.net/>

Word reference (English-Spanish): www.wordreference.com

Lexin (Norwegian-English): <http://decentius.hit.uib.no/lexin.html>

Jergas de habla hispana (local slang from the different Spanish speaking countries, check out the site for Argentina): <http://www.jergasdehablahispana.org>

Grammatical exercises:

Spanish home (has everything regarding grammatical exercises and explanations): <http://www.spanishhome.com/>

Spanish Language and Culture: <http://www.colby.edu/~bknelson/SLC/index.php>

GREI – grammatical interactive game: <http://www.tekstlab.uio.no/grei/>