

VENUSA – Courses & Descriptions Guide

Department of modern Languages

SPANISH LANGUAGE COURSES

(SEMESTER CREDITS)

VENZ 1001 SPAN AND/OR 1002 SPAN-BEGINNING SPANISH, 1st & 2nd

Semesters

5 CREDITS EACH (UM Transcript only)

Prerequisite: 1101=none, 1102=SPAN 1101 or one semester of college-level Spanish

Teaches beginners essential Spanish for real-life, everyday situations. Stresses communicative competency with simultaneous work on reading, speaking, listening and writing. Basic social and cultural themes are also stressed through readings, field assignments and practice.

VENZ

1003 SPAN AND/OR 1004 SPAN-INTERMEDIATE SPANISH, 3rd & 4th

Semesters

5 CREDITS EACH (UM Transcript only)

Prerequisite: 2101=Two semesters of college-level Spanish, 2102=SPAN 2101 or three semesters of college-level Spanish

Broadens and deepens the student's knowledge of Spanish grammar and advances the student's command of conversational Spanish to the intermediate level. The course's approach combines grammatical lessons with composition, reading comprehension and field study.

VENZ 3015 SPAN – SPANISH CONVERSATION AND COMPOSITION

4 CREDITS

Prerequisite: SPAN 2102 or two years of college-level Spanish

Emphasis on the development of communication skills, i.e., the ability to comprehend both written and spoken texts, and to speak, read and write in Spanish, beyond the intermediate level.

VENZ 3016 SPAN– ADVANCED SPANISH CONVERSATION AND COMPOSITION

4 CREDITS

Prerequisite: SPAN 3015 or two years of college-level Spanish, plus beginning Spanish Conversation & Composition

Continued emphasis on the development of communication skills, i.e., the ability to comprehend both written and spoken texts, and to speak, read and write in Spanish, beyond the intermediate level.

VENZ 3015/3016 SPAN - SPANISH CONVERSATION AND COMPOSITION I & II

8 CREDITS

Prerequisite: SPAN 2102 or two full years of college-level Spanish

Emphasis on the development of communication skills, i.e., the ability to comprehend both written and spoken texts, and to speak, read and write in Spanish, beyond the intermediate level. Continued emphasis on the development of communication skills, i.e., the ability to comprehend both written and spoken texts, and to speak, read and write in Spanish, beyond the intermediate level.

VENZ 3021 SPAN - ADVANCED COMMUNICATION SKILLS

4 CREDITS (UM Transcript only)

Prerequisite: SPAN 3016 or two years college-level Spanish plus Spanish Conversation and Composition

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Improves student's level of written and spoken performance through the practical study of the most challenging points of advanced Spanish grammar. Emphasizes written communication of various styles and in various fields.

VENZ 3022 SPAN - BUSINESS SPANISH

4 CREDITS (UM Transcript only)

Prerequisite: SPAN 2102 or two years of college-level Spanish

Includes vocabulary of Spanish business terms, skills in report writing, proper format for business communications and conversational fluency on trade-related topics. Encourages cultural and interpretive study of specific business-related situations using Mérida's business community as a learning resource.

NOTE #1: For the following four courses, it is *strongly suggested* that students have completed Spanish Conversation and Composition (SPAN 3015, 3016) as well as Advanced Spanish Grammar (SPAN 3021) or the equivalent prior to enrolling.

VENZ 3107 SPAN - INTRODUCTION TO LINGUISTICS

3 CREDITS

*Prerequisite: minimum=SPAN 2102 or two years of college-level Spanish, **see note #1 above***

Provides an approach to the basic concepts and operative terms of linguistics as well as the nature and organization of language with special emphasis on phonological and grammatical analysis. Further attention will be devoted to the origin and nature of linguistic transformation.

VENZ 3703 SPAN - PSYCHOLINGUISTICS

3 CREDITS

*Prerequisite: minimum=SPAN 2102 or two years of college-level Spanish, **see note #1 above***

Familiarizes the student with the concept of psycholinguistics as a science, with contemporary theoretical models explaining the development and acquisition of language. Fundamental concepts of language pathology will also be covered.

VENZ 3704 SPAN – SOCIOLINGUISTICS

3 CREDITS

*Prerequisite: minimum=SPAN 2102 or two years of college-level Spanish, **see note #1 above***

The object of this course is to introduce the student to the study of linguistic phenomena which are related to social factors. Taking as a starting point studies made by important linguists of Venezuela, the course is oriented to understanding the language-society relationship in the Venezuelan environment.

VENZ 3705 SPAN - SPANISH PHONETICS

3 CREDITS

*Prerequisite: minimum=SPAN 2102 or two years of college-level Spanish, **see note #1 above***

This course is designed to equip advanced Spanish students with a theoretical background in the study of phonetics and the practice necessary to fine tune the students' oral articulation. Differences between the Spanish spoken in Spain and in Hispanic-America will be examined, with special emphasis on the Spanish spoken in Venezuela.

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VENZ 3500 LING – THE HISTORY OF THE SPANISH LANGUAGES

3 CREDITS

Prerequisite: minimum=SPAN 2102 or two years of college-level Spanish, see note #1 above

The study of the evolution of the Spanish Language starting from the vulgate Latin and viewing its major synchronic states. Languages that influenced the formation of Spanish. Popular vocabulary items as well as educated and semi-educated language features is also studied.

VENZ 3600 LING – SPANISH LINGUISTICS

3 CREDITS

Prerequisite: minimum=SPAN 2102 or two years of college-level Spanish, see note #1 above

The basic knowledge of the present state of the theory, research and application of linguistics to the Spanish-Speaking world with special emphasis on variation and linguistics change and the analysis of Spanish speech and writing modes.

TESOL COURSES (All TESOL courses are taught in English)

***TESL 3402 - CURRICULUM AND MATERIALS DEVELOPMENT**

3 CREDITS

Focuses on applications of the theories, principles and current research related to second language acquisition, as well as instructional techniques and materials relevant to development of TESOL curriculum. There is special emphasis on teaching students whose English proficiency is limited.

***TESL 3403 -APPLIED LINGUISTICS**

3 CREDITS

Analyzes American English through the practical application of current linguistic theory and research. Objectives of the course include the development of TESOL curriculum with a grounding in linguistic research and comparative analysis of the structure of English and other languages.

***TESL 3404-TESTING AND EVALUATION OF TESOL**

3 CREDITS

Assesses discussion, review and critique of available instruments through basic principles of the evaluation of English language acquisition for speakers of other languages. The review includes selection and development of assessment instruments valid for a) placing students at appropriate levels, b) evaluating progress toward goals and c) grading and promoting students.

***TESL 3405 - METHODS OF TEACHING K-12 LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT (LEP) STUDENTS**

3 CREDITS

This class enables participants to identify and apply major TESOL methodologies to the needs of students with various cultural and language backgrounds, ages and learning styles. Special emphasis is placed on the need to differentiate teaching English to native speakers and to speakers of other languages.

***TESL 580 – TESOL INTERNSHIP**

3 CREDITS

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Involves practical experience teaching English to non-native speakers at VENUSA or in other institutions under the supervision of a faculty member. Interns are assigned relevant readings and are required to complete academic coursework including a final analysis paper and an academic journal.

NOTE #2: All courses in the departments of Latin American Studies, International Business, and Science which are taught in Spanish require SPAN 2102 or 2 full years of college level Spanish. In addition, for all courses with a ♣ symbol, it is strongly suggested that students have completed Spanish Conversation and Composition as well as Advanced Spanish Grammar prior to enrolling.

If a course is marked with an asterisk (*), it is also available in English, and thus has no language prerequisite.

DEPARTMENT OF LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

***VENZ 3040 ANTH - CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION**

3 CREDITS

Prerequisite: SPAN 2102 or two years of college-level Spanish, see note #2 above

This course is designed to help the student understand cultural differences when dealing with people from different cultures and to develop sensitivity and curiosity about issues related to cultural diversity and cross-cultural understanding.

VENZ 3410 ANTH – CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

3 CREDITS

Prerequisite: SPAN 2102 or two years of college-level Spanish

The objective of the course is to expose the student to the basic elements needed to understand the diversity and universality of culture from an anthropological point of view. This takes place in discussion and study of the concept of culture through various angles and orientations of the anthropological discipline. Representative cases will be studied, which demonstrate human adaptation in its diverse variations and which appreciate the diversity of values and lifestyles, looking closely at several aspects of pre-Hispanic and contemporary Venezuelan Andean culture.

VENZ 2000 EXPR – EXPERIENTIAL SEMINAR: VENEZUELAN CULTURE IN THE WORKPLACE

3 CREDITS

Prerequisite: SPAN 2102 or two years of college-level Spanish

The object of this course is for the student to learn about Venezuelan culture through observation and analysis of the workplace. Involves guest lecturers, relevant readings, experience in a work environment of the students' interest and related academic coursework.

♣VENZ3108SPAN–THE SPAIN OF CERVANTES' DON QUIXOTE:HISTORY & FICTION

3 CREDITS

Prerequisite: minimum=SPAN 2102 or two years of college-level Spanish, see note #2 above

Consists of an analysis of *Don Quixote* as a crossroads of literary eras and genres, visions of the world, and attitudes towards life, also as a synthesis of styles and an

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encounter of two centuries, its meaning and importance. This course is designed only for students at an advanced level of both written and spoken Spanish.

♣VENZ 3251 SPAN – SPANISH-AMERICAN LITERATURE: ASPECTS OF PROSE & FICTION

3 CREDITS

Prerequisite: minimum=SPAN 2102 or two years of college-level Spanish, see note #2 above

Focuses on the work of several writers whose work has become essential for the understanding of contemporary Spanish American literature. A critical reading of the various works will be reinforced with a body of background knowledge about the authors, their work and historical context.

♣VENZ 3104 SPAN – THE ART OF READING LITERARY TEXTS

3 CREDITS

Prerequisite: minimum=SPAN 2102 or two years of college-level Spanish, see note #2 above

Study of the most important current theoretical approaches to literary texts. Acquaints the student with a variety of contemporary categories of analysis and methodologies including literary sociology, psychological critique, semiology and comparative literature.

♣VENZ SPAN 3106 - LATIN AMERICAN ART

3 CREDITS

Prerequisite: minimum=SPAN 2102 or two years of college-level Spanish, see note #2 above

A panoramic view of Latin American art from pre-Hispanic times to the present day emphasizing Venezuelan art production in its historical political and social context and relating it to other Latin American Countries.

♣VENZ 3480 SPANISH - CARIBBEAN LITERATURE

3 CREDITS

Prerequisite: minimum=SPAN 2102 or two years of college-level Spanish, see note #2 above

Reviews and examines aspects of Caribbean culture related to the development of the literature of the region. Caribbean literature will be placed within the broader context of Latin American literature and the class will be introduced to analytical strategies for grasping the meaning of texts studied.

♣VENZ 3920 SPAN - VENEZUELAN LITERATURE 3 CREDITS

Prerequisite: minimum=SPAN 2102 or two years of college-level Spanish, see note #2 above

Examines contemporary Venezuelan literature from 1950 to the present. Students will learn to identify and appreciate different styles of Venezuelan literary expression as well as principal authors, works and notable literary groups.

VENZ 3590 SPAN – CHILDREN’S LITERATURE

3 CREDITS

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Prerequisite: SPAN 2102 or two years of college-level Spanish

Gives the student a basic critical understanding of children's literature, covering fundamental theoretical aspects from different points of view. Provides the student with a cohesive set of criteria for evaluating a variety of authors and their works.

VENZ 3511 SPAN – COMPARATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

3 CREDITS

Prerequisite: SPAN 2102 or two years of college-level Spanish

Comparative research for a better interpretation and evolution of judicial institutions in national legislation regarding foreigners and improving identification of common principles and differences. Justification the proposal of a possible unification of legislation in view of the general principles proposal by the United Nations.

VENZ 3512 SPAN – SPANISH AMERICAN CIVILIZATION: MODERN LATIN AMER

3 CREDITS

Prerequisite: SPAN 2102 or two years of college-level Spanish

Includes a summary of the history of the countries of Latin America, a description of pre-Hispanic indigenous cultures, and the principal features of colonial society. Continues with an analysis of the socio-cultural situation of Latin American countries in the 20th century. Special emphasis is given to artistic developments.

♣VENZ 3513 SPAN - LATIN AMERICAN CULTURAL DISCOURSE

3 CREDITS

Prerequisite: minimum=SPAN 2102 or two years of college-level Spanish, see note #2 above

Seeks to establish a general view of essential Latin American texts on culture with relation to important works on universal culture. Students will learn to distinguish between various historic and cultural currents, analyze important contributions of major Latin American thinkers and examine the diverse sources of the principal cultural systems of Latin America.

VENZ 3401 HIST – TOPICS IN LATIN AMER HISTORY: HISTORY OF VENEZUELA

3 CREDITS

Prerequisite: SPAN 2102 or two years of college-level Spanish

This course is designed for North American students who want to achieve a panoramic view of the national historical process. The period of study includes the 19th century, highlighting those variables which acquaint the student with fundamental historical problems. The conquest and colonization are also studied in this manner.

VENZ 3510 SPAN - LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS & CIVILIZATION

3 CREDITS

Prerequisite: SPAN 2102 or two years of college-level Spanish

A panoramic study of Latin American culture based on four major themes: 1) the basic elements of global politics, 2) Latin America from a cultural point of view, 3) the process of the civilization of Latin America beginning with the conquest and the colonization and 4) the formation of Latin American political systems.

VENZ 3520 SPAN - GEOGRAPHY OF VENEZUELA

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3 CREDITS

Prerequisite: SPAN 2102 or two years of college-level Spanish

Introduces students to the geographical placement of Venezuela in its international context and provides precise and well-documented information on outstanding physical features. It further establishes correlation between the territory of Venezuela and the most significant socioeconomic features of the country.

VENZ 3521 SPAN - EDUCATION IN VENEZUELA

3 CREDITS

Prerequisite: SPAN 2102 or two years of college-level Spanish

Focuses on the nature and problems of education in Venezuela. Includes coverage of historical precedents and evolution of the system, an examination of the basic philosophical, cultural and pedagogical assumptions of national education in Venezuela and provides a general vision of the system in its current form.

VENZ 3511 SPAN - FILM CRITICISM & APPRECIATION IN LATIN AMERICA

3 CREDITS

Prerequisite: SPAN 2102 or two years of college-level Spanish

Explores Latin American culture through the eyes of outstanding Latin American filmmakers. The student is introduced to the esthetics and language of the cinema. Emphasis is placed on the four most important Latin American film industries: Mexico, Cuba, Argentina and Venezuela, with a brief overview of other productions.

VENZ 3530 SPAN - CRITICAL WRITING: EDITORIALS, REVIEWS IN LATIN AMER

3 CREDITS

Prerequisite: SPAN 2102 or two years of college-level Spanish

Analysis and interpretation of the print media: newspapers, magazines, bulletins, etc. Evaluation of editorials, opinion pieces, articles and a comparative study of the principal dailies of Venezuela.

***VENZ 3540 SPAN - FOLKLORE IN LATIN AMERICA**

3 CREDITS

*Prerequisite: SPAN 2102 or two years of college-level Spanish, **see note #2 above***

Covers the principal manifestations of folklore in the various countries of Spanish America. The process of syncretism receives emphasis; original elements and later influences are related to one another. The development of folklore is analyzed as a historical process. Music and oral tradition also receive special attention.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

***VENZ 3650 MGMT - CROSS-CULTURAL MANAGEMENT**

3 CREDITS

*Prerequisite: SPAN 2102 or two years of college-level Spanish, **see note #2 above***

This course is designed to help the student understand and develop strategies for overcoming cultural differences in a business environment, specifically from the perspective of management. Develops awareness and sensitivity to issues of cultural diversity.

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***VENZ 3661 BUS - INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS**

3 CREDITS

Prerequisite: SPAN 2102 or two years of college-level Spanish, see note #2 above

Involves an overview of the unique problems faced by firms engaging in international activities. Covers major currents and patterns in contemporary international business. Emphasis is on several diverse areas: history, culture, commerce, exchange, markets, corporate strategies and more.

***VENZ 3041 ECON - INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS**

3 CREDITS

Prerequisite: SPAN 2102 or two years of college-level Spanish, see note #2 above

This course deals with the theory of international trade, commercial policy, balance of payments, and international monetary issues. Key topics include comparative advantage, exchange rates, protectionism, open-economy, fiscal and monetary policies, common markets and free-trade areas.

***VENZ 3604 FINA - INTERNATIONAL FINANCE**

3 CREDITS

Prerequisite: SPAN 2102 or two years of college-level Spanish, see note #2 above

Presents an overview of the international financial environment and a detailed analysis of tools and techniques for international financial management. Key topics include the functioning of foreign exchange, capital and money markets, portfolio diversification, multinational capital budgeting, import-export financing, direct investment and banking.

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE

***VENZ 3407 BIOL - TROPICAL ECOLOGY**

4 CREDITS

Prerequisite: SPAN 2102 or two years of college-level Spanish

Acquaints the student with the function of tropical ecosystems, directly related to natural vegetation. Different biological and environmental dynamics of the area between the Tropic of Capricorn and the Tropic of Cancer will be discussed, with emphasis on American and Venezuelan tropical ecosystems. Includes field assignments in sites of ecological interest, for which one laboratory credit is granted.

***VENZ 3200 BIOL - FIELD BOTANY IN THE ANDES**

3 CREDITS

Prerequisite: SPAN 2102 or two years of college-level Spanish

Introduction to basic knowledge of the flora of the Venezuelan Andes, its diversity, ecology and geographical distribution. Includes morphology, identification of plant characteristics, ethno-botany and natural history of Andean vegetation. Fieldwork assignments complement classroom instruction.

***VENZ 3261 NRES - NATURAL RESOURCE ECONOMICS**

3 CREDITS

Prerequisite: SPAN 2102 or two years of college-level Spanish

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Covers the basic economic concepts most relevant to natural resources as well as factors affecting them. Emphasis on property rights, conservation, regulations, government policy and evaluation of resources.

***VENZ 3263 AGRO - SUSTAINABLE TROPICAL AGRICULTURE**

3 CREDITS

Prerequisite: SPAN 2102 or two years of college-level Spanish

Covers economics of tropical agriculture development, potential for developing world trade, potential for improving agricultural economics and standards of living in areas dependent on production of tropical agricultural products.

***VENZ 3262 NRES: - NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

3 CREDITS

Prerequisite: SPAN 2102 or two years of college-level Spanish

Study of the organization and development of agriculture and mining in Latin America from the colonial era to the present. Further analysis of the socio-political and economic ramifications of natural resources and their exploitation covering several countries.

Spanish language courses from SPAN 1101--Beginning Spanish through SPAN 3021--Advanced Communication Skills are offered regardless of enrollment, IF the student requests the course at least one month prior to the program start date via the Course Request Form.

Courses are offered subject to a **minimum enrollment of 3-5 students**, depending on the number of total participants on the study abroad term and/or graduation requirements.