# Spanish I

## Course Description

This course will expose beginning Spanish students to the Spanish language and culture. The goal is to inspire the student to learn more about the richness of language and culture in the Spanish-speaking world. Students will learn foundational grammar and vocabulary, develop listening skills, and look at some of the culture associated with the language, especially in Latin America.

## Required Text

The text that accompanies this course is *Caminos*. (Renjilian-Burgy, 2007)

## Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

## Learning Outcomes

* Identify noun gender and use appropriate articles and modify adjectives to match noun gender.
* Pronounce words correctly and use accent marks when necessary in written Spanish.
* Use subject pronouns, knowing when to use “usted” instead of “tú”.
* Speak in the present tense and correctly conjugate regular verbs, irregular verbs, and stem-changing verbs.
* Tell time and talk about time.
* Discuss ownership using “de,” possessive adjectives, and “tener,” and many special uses of the verb “tener”.
* Talk about the future using the verb “ir” to say they are “going to” do something.
* Use cognates to quickly increase their vocabulary.
* Ask questions using interrogative words such as who, what, when, where, why, and how.
* Talk about days and months, academic subjects, places in a city, fun activities, chores and items around the house and classroom, and the weather and seasons.
* Describe people’s physical characteristics as well as their personality
* Count to one hundred.
* Differentiate between the use of “saber” and the use of “conocer”
* Correctly use “ser” and “estar” when translating the English verb “to be.”

## Course Topics

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| Category/Topics | Learning Content |
| Noun Gender | Introduces the concept of gender in Spanish nouns. Teaches the definite and indefinite articles. Provides guidelines for identifying gender of nouns and covers common exceptions and special cases. Covers common nouns for objects found in a classroom or dorm room, and also nouns related to profession or identity. Discusses the Latin American custom of the “kiss greeting.” Teaches some common expressions for greeting and saying good-bye. |
| Pluralizing Nouns and Adjective-Noun Agreement | Teaches how to pluralize nouns. Introduces the student to cognates along with a list of commonly-used adjective cognates. Presents the rules for adjective-noun agreement. Reviews common descriptive adjectives. |
| Pronunciation and Accent Placement | Explains pronunciation of Spanish words and the rules for accent placement in written Spanish. Lists the main interrogative words. Covers common colors. |
| Subject Pronouns | Teaches the subject pronouns. Explains the proper usage of “usted” versus “tú”. Teaches how to count from zero to one hundred. Reviews vocabulary for academic subjects and days of the week. |
| Speaking in the Present Indicative Tense | Explains the infinitive form and how to conjugate regular verbs in the present indicative tense. Describes common situations in which the present indicative tense is used. Reviews commonly used verbs. |
| The Verb “Ser” | Introduces the two “To Be” verbs, “ser” and “estar”, with an emphasis on “ser” – how to conjugate it and some common situations in which it is used. Discusses college life in Latin America. Teaches how to say “and” and how to negate sentences. Lists commonly used adjectives for describing personality. Reviews the months of the year. |
| Telling Time | Teaches the use of “ser” to tell time including minutes and time of day. Covers vocabulary for describing a home. Lists some phrases and vocabulary related to leisure activities. |
| The Verb “Estar” | Teaches the conjugation of “estar” and common situations in which it is used. Reviews in greater depth the guidelines for choosing between “ser” and “estar”. Discusses the importance of soccer in Latin-American culture. Lists adjectives for describing emotions and common nationalities in Spanish. |
| Discussing Possession | Teaches possessive adjectives and how to translate the “apostrophe s” construct used in English. Teaches the conjugations for the verb “tener” and a variety of ways in which “tener” can be used. Covers vocabulary for items around the house and household chores. Describes the famous South American city of Caracas and covers local slang. |
| Verbs that are Irregular in the First Person | Explains the conjugation of -go and -zco verbs. Teaches the conjugation of “dar,” “ver,” and “saber.” Expounds on the distinction between “saber” and “conocer”. Teaches the use of the “Personal A”. Reviews words and phrases related to the weather. |
| Talking about the Future and Adjective Placement | Reviews the conjugations for “ir” and “venir”. Teaches the use of “ir” to talk about future actions. Explains the rules for adjective placement relative to the noun. Discusses the popular South American custom of drinking Mate. Reviews vocabulary related to the seasons and items of clothing. Covers some nouns for places in a city. |
| Stem-changing Verbs | Teaches the conjugations for ‘e’ to ‘ie’, ‘e’ to ‘i’, and ‘o’ to ‘ue’ stem-changing verbs. Introduces a list of verbs that a stem change. Discusses verbs that are both irregular and have a stem change. Reviews vocabulary for additional places in a city. |

## Vocabulary and Grammar Questions

Vocabulary and grammar questions are similar to homework assignments for reviewing and supplementing what you have learned in a lesson. You can repeat the questions as preferred, but will need to achieve a score of 80% or higher on all of the vocabulary and grammar questions associated with a lesson before that lesson is marked as complete. You will then receive the appropriate proportion of the total number of points available for vocabulary and grammar questions based on your overall average score for all of those questions in the course.

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## Course Time Limit

This course is self-paced, which means you can complete the course requirements at a pace that is comfortable for you. However, there is an overall time limit of 180 days to complete each course, starting from the date on which you registered. This time limit is indicated on your Courses screen as “Course Period.”

Once the time limit has passed, you will no longer be able to attempt any further activities or assessments. Assuming you have not yet attempted the Final Exam, you can immediately unregister and reregister for the course to start over. Otherwise, you will be required to wait to reregister per our Course Retake Policy.

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## Course Retake Policy

There is a one-week waiting period before this course can be re-taken, starting from the date of the last Final Exam attempt.

To retake the course, first unregister from the course on your Courses screen. If it has been over a week since your last attempt, you will then be able to register for this course again.

Your highest final score for the course will be used for the transcript.

## Exams

There are a total of four exams for this course as described below. Exams 1 – 3 include some simple listening comprehension questions in addition to vocabulary and grammar questions. The Final Exam adds longer listening comprehension prompts in addition to the question types present in the first three exams.

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| **Exam** | **Coverage** | **Number of Multiple-Choice Questions** | **Time Limit, Minutes** |
| **First** | Lessons 1-11 | 35 | 60 |
| **Second** | Lessons 12-20 | 35 | 60 |
| **Third** | Lessons 38-49 | 35 | 60 |
| **Final** | Cumulative; everything taught in the course with an emphasis on content from the last quarter. | 50 | 90 |

## Grading

To determine your level of mastery for this course, you will earn points by successfully completing the learning and evaluation activities below in sequence.

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| --- | --- |
| Source | Points Available |
| Vocabulary and Grammar | 300 |
| Graded Exam #1 | 100 |
| Graded Exam #2 | 100 |
| Graded Exam #2 | 100 |
| Final Exam | 400 |

Upon completion of the course and the grading source activities, InstantCert will provide you with a percentage score. The minimum passing score is 700 points, or an overall course grade of 70%.

**Important! Only a passing score on a course marked 100% complete (including the proctored final exam) is eligible for college credit.**

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## Proctoring of the Final Exam

A proctor is a person who monitors the work of another person who is taking an examination. Online proctoring services allow you to take the working remotely and in the same way as if you were sitting in an exam room. Proctoring ensures that the test you take complies with current college level examination policies.

Proctoring is used only for the final exam. It is offered through the online proctoring service RPNow at the Software Secure web site. You will pay a separate fee to RPNow for each final exam attempt.

RPNow requires that students download and install proprietary software. They will need to use a PC or a Mac with a webcam. Students can review the full system requirements for RPNow at:

<http://clientportal.softwaresecure.com/support/index.php?/Knowledgebase/Article/View/252/0/system-requirements-remote-proctor-now>

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## Exam Retake Policy

All three graded exams and the final exam can be retaken ONCE. There is a 3-day waiting period before you will be allowed to retake an exam. If you retake an exam, the higher result of your two attempts will be used to calculate your final score.

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## Academic Integrity

You are required to comply with the InstantCert full Student Code of Conduct, which specifically prohibits cheating or any other academically dishonest behavior. Violation of any part of the Student Code of Conduct can result in a grade reduction or even suspension from the course.

## Software Requirements

The operating system, browser, internet access and speed are provided below for use with courses from the InstantCert web site.

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| **Operating Systems** | * Windows XP and above * Mac OS X |
| **Browsers** | * The latest version of Chrome, Firefox of Safari * IE9 or higher |
| **Internet and Speed** | Broadband Internet; 1Mbps or higher |

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## Accessibility and Disability Accommodations

InstantCert strives to make online education accessible to people everywhere in the following ways:

* All course content is available online, accessible from anywhere through an Internet connection.
* All video lessons include a transcript for use by those who are hearing impaired and/or by students that wish to have written copies of the lessons.
* All video lessons have close captioning.
* Lesson pages can be navigated by screen readers.
* Videos may be replayed an unlimited amount of times. Video speed can be increased or slowed.
* Lesson transcripts and quizzes can be printed for offline use.
* The proctoring software RPNow works with screen readers.