

Madrid Summer Program
Intermediate Level Course Descriptions
Universidad Complutense de Madrid

► Intermediate Level students take a set curriculum of Spanish language, consisting of four parts: Spanish Grammar, Practice of Communicative Skills, Written Comprehension and Expression, and Oral Comprehension and Expression. Total number of contact hours = 80.

Course Title: Spanish Grammar
20 contact hours

The overall objective of this course is substantial vocabulary expansion and improving communicative competency in describing, giving directions, getting information, narrating and describing in the past, reacting to events through the use of the subjunctive, comparing, narrating in the future, and hypothesizing.

This course has a double emphasis. The first focus is on active mastery of the following proficiency skills. The second focus is on the following grammar skills studied from a linguistic perspective, practiced in context, and recycled throughout the semester.

COMMUNICATIVE OBJECTIVES

Reacting to situations

Expressing likes and dislikes

Talking about the past: narrating and describing

Talking about the future

Talking about doubt, surprise, and complaints

Making judgments and defending opinions

Expressing agreement and disagreement

Indirect discourse

Impersonal expressions

Giving advice and suggestions

Expressing emotion

Persuading and provoking

Colloquial expressions

Vocabulary topics include but are not limited to: human body, house, city, country, painting, sculpture, architecture, weather, personal relationships, leisure, shows, emotions, food

GRAMMATICAL OBJECTIVES

Ser and Estar + adjective

Superlative adjectives and review of comparatives

Relative pronouns (que, quien, cual)

Adverbs

Para + infinitive

Exclamatory sentences with ¡Qué!

Future: simple, compound, and probability

Ordinal numbers

Hace + time

Present subjunctive after certain triggers: quizá, a lo mejor; noun expressions (me parece que, veo que); decir que; cuando; expressions of contingency (de modo que, a fin de que); expressions with emotion

Si clauses + subjunctive/ indicative

Gustar and similar verbs

Sentences with porque and para que

Justifications (es que..)

Formation and derivation of words

Syntax of oral speech

Present and past perfect tenses (había hecho)

Soler/ acostumbrar + infinitive

Gerund periphrases: llevar + time + gerund, llevar + gerund + desde, estar + gerund + desde (de)

GRADING

The student will be evaluated on daily oral and written exercises, classroom participation, a mid-term exam, and a final exam.

Course Title: Practice of Communicative Skills

20 contact hours

The overall objective of this course is substantial vocabulary expansion and the improvement of communicative competency in describing, giving directions, getting information, narrating and describing in the past, reacting to events through the use of the subjunctive, comparing, narrating in the future, and hypothesizing.

This course has a double emphasis. The first focus is on active mastery of the following proficiency skills. The second focus is on the following grammar skills studied from a linguistic perspective, practiced in context, and recycled throughout the semester.

COMMUNICATIVE OBJECTIVES

1. Daily life for a student of Spanish
2. Vocabulary of the city and the country
3. Ways of life in the past
4. Talking about the body and physical aspects
5. Ecology
6. Geography and the countryside
7. Spanish customs
8. Discuss movies, newspaper and magazine articles
9. Sports and hobbies
10. Social and cultural aspects of different countries
11. Personality and the use of gestures
12. Read texts by Cela, Delibes, Machado, García Lorca

GRAMMATICAL OBJECTIVES

1. The verb "ser", interrogatives, negation, adjectives, Roman numerals
2. Demonstrative adjectives and pronouns. The noun and number agreement: plurals. The verbs "ser" and "estar"
3. Present indicative of "tener" and "hacer". Possessive adjectives. "Hay" and "está". Difference between "mucho" and "muy"
4. Conjugation of verbs in the present indicative. Irregular verbs. Subject and complement pronouns.
5. Second conjugation of the present indicative. Irregular verbs. Reflexive pronouns. Possessive pronouns.
6. Infinitives. Indefinite adjectives and pronouns. Use of prepositions for location.
7. Adjectives and adverbs. Verbs of obligation. Use of prepositions for time.
8. The imperfect tense. Relative pronouns.
9. Indefinite past. Irregular verbs,
10. Ser and Estar + adjective
11. Superlative adjectives and review of comparatives
12. Relative pronouns (que, quien, cual)
13. Adverbs
14. Para + infinitive
15. Exclamatory sentences with ¡Qué...
16. Future: simple, compound, and probability
17. Ordinal numbers
18. Hace + time
19. Present subjunctive after certain triggers: Quizá, a lo mejor; noun expressions (me parece que, veo que); decir que; cuando; expressions of contingency (de modo que, a fin de que); expressions with emotion
20. Si clauses + subjunctive/ indicative
21. Gustar and similar verbs
22. Sentences with porque and para que
23. Justifications (es que..)
24. Formation and derivation of words
25. Syntax of oral speech
26. Present and past perfect tenses (había hecho)
27. Soler/ acostumbrar + infinitive
28. Gerund periphrases: llevar + time + gerund, llevar + gerund + desde, estar + gerund + desde (de)
29. Passive voice

GRADING

The student will be evaluated on daily oral and written exercises, classroom participation, a mid-term exam, and a final exam.

Course Title: Written Comprehension and Expression 20 contact hours

Daily class work will consist of the following exercises that measure specific skills:

READING

This exercise will measure the capacity for:

Pronunciation

Intonation

Fluidity and speed of oral expression

COMPREHENSION OF TEXTS

This exercise will involve:

Substitution: saying it using different words or a different verb tense

Synonyms and antonyms

Explanation of semantic fields, of unknown/key words, etc.

Correct grammatical construction: explaining the significance of the paragraph

DISCUSSION

Establishment of an individual and collective debate about the content of the text.

Suggestions for parallel and related ideas dealing with the text. This debate about the content could include questions related to:

Style

Ideology

Opinion

Personal judgments concerning morals, aesthetics, etc.

Course Title: Oral Comprehension and Expression

20 contact hours

Course Objectives

1. Listening Comprehension

At the end of this course, the student should be able to comprehend stated information that refers to the following:

- material needs and social relations of everyday life
- information over personal experiences
- physical sensations and feelings
- personal opinions

2. Oral Expression

At the end of this course, the student should be able to express themselves regarding the following topics:

- needs, social relations, everyday life and daily routines
- personal experiences
- physical sensations and state of well-being
- opinions and feelings

Topics to be discussed:

1. Spanish and Latin American society: familial relations, neighbors, professional relationships, friendship, actions toward strangers.

Greet and say good-by. Present someone and be able to respond when oneself is

presented. Ask for forgiveness. Give thanks. Compare Spanish customs with those of Latin America and other countries.

2. Living environment: home, neighborhood, city.

Express and ask for opinions over something. Justify and argue an opinion. Express value.

3. Rural and Urban spaces. The climate.

Compare life in a rural setting with that of city life. Express understanding and ignorance of. Express and ask for preferences. Talk about weather.

4. Means of transportation. Public transportation in Spain.

Describe places and objects. Compare Spanish transportation systems with those of other Spanish-speaking countries. Express and ask for opinions over something.

5. Everyday life: Public and family schedules

Refer to daily actions in the present and past. Compare Spanish customs with those of other countries. Discuss future plans.

6. Shopping and business.

Express and ask for likes, preferences, and needs. Give instructions to others.

7. Leisure time: Distractions and entertainment.

Compare leisure in Spain and Latin America with other countries. Invite someone to something. Accept and decline invitations.

8. Sports.

Compare sports popular in Spain with those of other countries.

9. Health and illness. Traditional and alternative medicine.

Express and ask about physical sensations and pain. Express worry and preoccupation. Express and ask for opinions over different types of medicine.

10. Holidays and celebrations in Spain and in other countries.

11. Political and administrative organization of Spain and other countries.

Political parties. Discuss information that is known and ask for clarification or more information.

12. Public and private health.

Compare public and private healthcare in Spain with that of other countries.

13. The education system in Spain and Latin America.

Express permission, obligation, and possibility. "Be able to ask and research for information regarding the education system.

14. Modern arts. Film, literature and music in Spain and Latin America.

Ask for and express opinions over subjects. Compare the artistic production of Spain with Latin America and other countries.

15. Ecology and the environment

Speak in favor of or disagreement to ideas generated by peers. Express values.