



UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS  
**PULASKI TECH**

**Course-Level Assessment Report**

**Course: \_\_SPAN 1311\_\_**

**Academic Year: \_\_2020 - 2021\_\_**

**Due to Chair/Program Director and Faculty Assessment Chair by  
September 4**



1. Name of course: Elementary Spanish I
2. Name of individual(s) compiling report: Sherrie Ray-Treviño
3. Date of submission: Sept 23, 2021
4. Academic year: 2020 - 2021

## Course-Level Learning Outcomes

### 1. What are the Course-Level Outcomes (CLOs)?

Type your response here.

Spanish CLO outcomes are based on our national standards (ACTFL) and proficiency scaled based.

- 1) **Speaking:** Express ideas with the covered vocabulary in simple sentences; pronounce all Spanish sounds with enough accuracy to be understood by a native speaker in accordance with the official ACTFL Proficiency Scale. Proficiency Targets shown below.  
a) **SPAN 1311:** Novice Mid – Novice High
- 2) **Listening:** Develop perception of Spanish language sounds and their distinction from one another; comprehend ideas expressed within basic framework of learned vocabulary and grammatical structures in accordance with the official ACTFL Proficiency Scale. Proficiency Targets shown below.  
a) **SPAN 1311:** Novice Mid – Novice High
- 3) **Reading:** Understand simple, nonliterary Spanish prose on non-technical, familiar topics; demonstrate comprehension by answering simple questions on reading passages in accordance with the official ACTFL Proficiency Scale. Proficiency Targets shown below.  
a) **SPAN 1311:** Novice Mid – Novice High
- 4) **Writing:** Write in class and outside of class short compositions in Spanish on familiar topics with enough clarity to be understood without difficulty by a native speaker in accordance with the official ACTFL Proficiency Scale. Proficiency Targets shown below.  
a) **SPAN 1311:** Novice Mid – Novice High
- 5) **Culture:** Demonstrate basic knowledge of different countries and important aspects of their culture in the Spanish-speaking world.

## 2. Which CLOs were addressed for the academic year?

Type your response here.

Elementary Spanish I addressed CLOs Reading and Writing in both the Fall 2020 and the Spring 2021 semesters. The productive skills (speaking and writing) were the primary assessment focus during FY 18-19 using direct assessments, but after a three year cycle with Speaking assessments, reading (a receptive skill) became the focus along with writing. This cycle will continue for three years. CLO Culture was assessed using an indirect assessment.

## 3. Which CLOs are being addressed in your assessment plan in the upcoming academic year?

Type your response here.

Elementary Spanish I will be officially addressing writing and culture in both Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 semesters with proficiency targets corresponding to the national standards set forth in the 2018 ACTFL World Readiness Standards and the 2012 ACTFL Proficiency Scale.

Course	CLO	Type of Assessment
SPAN 1311	Reading	Direct
	Writing	Direct
	Culture	Direct

## 4. Explain the assessment cycle.

Type your response here.

Spanish uses a three-year assessment cycle. Language courses are proficiency-based courses. Students must master elementary-level skills before attempting to acquire more advanced skills. In FY 16-17, FY 17-18 and FY 18-19, faculty only collected official assessment data on the productive skills; however, in FY 19-20, faculty began collecting official assessment data on both the receptive and productive skills measuring what individuals can do with the language in terms of real-world situations in a spontaneous and non-rehearsed context. This decision was made so that faculty members, to determine if a breakdown in the receptive skills (listening and reading), could possibly be causing lower productive skills scores (writing and speaking). Receptive and productive skills will be formally assessed in the new three-year cycle. Faculty planned to implement a new assessment cycle where CLO #5 (Culture) would be examined using a direct assessment in 2022-2023, but given the COVID-19 epidemic and the sheer number of students taking courses online, faculty made the decision to include CLO #5 in on the official

assessment data for the 2020-2021 academic year since this assessment is conducted in English, and it would be easier for students to complete it online and without direct interaction with other students or faculty members.

## 5. What are the assessment methods? Are they direct or indirect?

Type your response here.

**Speaking:** Express ideas with the covered vocabulary in simple sentences; pronounce all Spanish sounds with enough accuracy to be understood by a native speaker in accordance with the official ACTFL Proficiency Scale. Proficiency Targets shown below.

- **SPAN 1311:** Direct – Oral Interview & Common Rubric
- **SPAN 1312:** Direct – Oral Interview & Common Rubric
- **SPAN 2311:** Direct – Oral Interview & Common Rubric

**Listening:** Develop perception of Spanish language sounds and their distinction from one another; comprehend ideas expressed within basic framework of learned vocabulary and grammatical structures in accordance with the official ACTFL Proficiency Scale. Proficiency Targets shown below.

- **SPAN 1311:** Direct – Listening Quiz
- **SPAN 1312:** Direct – Listening Quiz
- **SPAN 2311:** Direct – Listening Quiz

**Reading:** Understand simple, nonliterary Spanish prose on non-technical, familiar topics; demonstrate comprehension by answering simple questions on reading passages in accordance with the official ACTFL Proficiency Scale. Proficiency Targets shown below.

- **SPAN 1311:** Direct – Reading Quiz
- **SPAN 1312:** Direct – Reading Quiz
- **SPAN 2311:** Direct – Reading Quiz

**Writing:** Write in class and outside of class short compositions in Spanish on familiar topics with enough clarity to be understood without difficulty by a native speaker in accordance with the official ACTFL Proficiency Scale. Proficiency Targets shown below.

- **SPAN 1311:** Direct – Composition & Common Rubric
- **SPAN 1312:** Direct – Composition & Common Rubric
- **SPAN 2311:** Direct – Composition & Common Rubric

**Culture:** Demonstrate basic knowledge of different countries and important aspects of their culture in the Spanish-speaking world.

- **SPAN 1311, 1312, 2311:**
  - Direct – Essay with Common Rubric
  - Indirect – Documentary Film or Performance Questionnaire and Reflection

## 6. What are the assessment goal(s), including benchmarks?

Type your response here.

All assessment goals in SPAN 1311, 1312, and 2311 are based on the ACTFL proficiency scales benchmarks. ACTFL describes what students can do with language by breaking it down into 5 major levels of proficiency, that are then further broken down into 11 distinct levels: There's novice low/mid/high, and then intermediate low/mid/high, advanced low/mid/high, and then superior and distinguished.

The levels represent ranges, and describe what a person can do and cannot do with the language at each level: they are simply an instrument used to evaluate the ability of functional language. Function is key. ACTFL has published Proficiency Guidelines for speaking, writing, listening, and reading. Students may be at different levels in each of the skills depending on their experience.

## 7. What were the findings for the academic year?

Type your response here.

1311 Fall 2019 – Spring 20	
CLO: Writing	CLO: Reading
44.3/50 – Proficient	48.2/50 – Proficient

## 8. What is your analysis of the findings?

Type your response here.

CLO Writing: Students met the proficiency threshold in SPAN 1311, 1312 and 2311, but the level of proficiency increased considerably in the 1311 courses from 41.9/50 to 44.3/50. This is still within the “Proficient” category and could be attributed to the pandemic and the switch to fully online in March of 2020 as the composition is the final assignment of the semester besides the final exam. Significant grade inflation and increased pressure to work with students regardless of the reason for not completing work likely contributes to this sharp, unnatural rise in proficiency.

CLO Reading: Students met the proficiency threshold in SPAN 1311, 1312, and 2311.

## 9. What is the action plan for the upcoming academic year?

### Explain.

Type your response here.

In FY 21-22, instructors will continue to assess reading and writing. Faculty will also conduct a direct assessment of CLO #5 Culture using both a direct and indirect assessment methods as indicated question #5 of this report.

Working with student services such as TRIO, Tutoring, and language faculty, tutoring sessions were scheduled, and a part-time tutor was contracted to assist students. Also, in order to get students more involved with Hispanic Heritage Month and community wide events, a movie series was established in the Fall of 2017. In collaboration with the Dean of Student Affairs and the Director of Student Life and Leadership, an official UA-PTC Spanish Club is in the process of being established all in an effort to increase student motivation.