1st Term 2026-2027

Course code & Title:	SPAN1001 - First step in Spanish
Language of instruction: Spanish/English	**Units:** 1

Course description

This online self-directed learning course invites students without prior knowledge of Spanish to explore the basic features of the Spanish language and briefly introduces them to the Hispanic world through a virtual journey. Supported by audio visual aids, students will receive intensive training in spoken and written Spanish through interactive tasks and online exercises. They will learn some basic daily expressions in Spanish, which cover some Hispanic cultural topics. This course serves as a taster for students who might consider taking Spanish courses in CUHK in the future.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Understand and use basic Spanish expressions.
- Introduce themselves.
- Understand very basic phrases when people speak slowly and clearly in Spanish.
- Read and understand familiar words and very simple sentences.
- Ask and answer simple questions on specific topics.
- Create short simple texts and fill in forms with personal details.
- Recognise the Hispanic cultural diversity.

Course syllabus: 4 modules of the online KEEP course			
Units	**Speech acts**	**Grammar**	**Culture**
Module 1. Spanish in the world.	Introducing Spanish speaking countries. Pronouncing and spelling simple words. Repeating expressions of Spanish speaking countries. Saying “yes” and “no”.	The 3rd singular person of the present tense of the verb “ser”. Yes (“sí”) and no (“no”) in Spanish. The Spanish alphabet.	Spanish language facts. Slang Hispanic expressions. Hispanic countries.
Review of Module 1.	Recap video. A summary of what you have learned. Review task.		
Module 2. Introducing yourself.	Greeting people. Introducing yourself with “me llamo”. Saying some personal information (e.g., telephone number, place of origin, etc.).	The first, second and third singular persons of the verb “llamarse”. The first, second and third singular persons of the present tense of “ser”. The numbers from 0 to 10. Interrogative pronouns “cómo”, “cuál”, “qué” and “dónde”.	Famous Hispanic people. Spanish names and surnames.
Review of Module 2.	Recap video. A summary of what you have learned. Review task.		
Module 3. Let's discover Hispanic food!	Ordering food and drinks. Asking for prices. Saying it is expensive or cheap.	Interrogative pronouns “cuanto/-a/-os/-as” and “qué”. The present tense of “ser”.	Typical Hispanic food (paella, tapas, tacos, ceviche, etc.). Tapas bar hopping. Hispanic markets.
Review of Module 3.	Recap video. A summary of what you have learned. Review task.		
Module 4. I like and I don’t like!	Expressing likes and dislikes. Referring to books, arts, movies, music, etc.	Verb “gustar” and the forms “me gusta/-n” and “no me gusta/-n”. Definite articles. Masculine and feminine forms of nouns. Negation in Spanish.	Hispanic music. Hispanic cinema. Famous sports personalities.
Review of Module 4.	Recap video. A summary of what you have learned. Review task.		

Important notes:

- This is a self-directed learning course, and you are expected to go over the tutorials, take notes, make connections, complete the practice activities and internalize all the contents before moving on to the next ones.
- We recommend to move through the course in a linear way following the order of the modules by starting with Module 1 and ending with Module 4.
- We do not recommend taking more than one module per day, as you will need time to process new information.
- We recommend you spend as much time as you need on each module.
- You should spend some time reviewing your notes, practising and applying what you have learned in the four modules before taking the Final Online asynchronous Quiz.

Assessment type		
Task nature	**Description**	**Weight**
Final online Quiz	Online quiz covering grammar, vocabulary, speech acts and cultural contents. The test consists of 50 multiple choice questions. Each question is worth 2 points and the entire test is worth 100% of your course grade. Notes: The final online quiz should be done after you have completed all the Modules. Upon completing all the modules and passing the final quiz, students will earn one unit for the course.	100%

Assessment rubrics	
General grade descriptors	
Pass	**Fail**
Student demonstrates ability to: • understand and use basic Spanish expressions; introduce themselves; • listen and understand very basic phrases when people speak slowly and clearly in the target language; • read and understand familiar words and very simple sentences; • ask and answer simple questions on very familiar topics; • create short simple texts and fill in forms with personal details; • recognise the Hispanic cultural diversity.	Student fails to demonstrate minimally adequate ability to: • understand and use basic Spanish expressions; • introduce themselves; • listen and understand very basic phrases when people speak slowly and clearly in the target language; • read and understand familiar words and very simple sentences; • ask and answer simple questions on very familiar topics; • create short simple texts and fill in forms with personal details; • recognise the Hispanic cultural diversity.

Learning resources
Required reading and course materials
Course website “First Step in Spanish” in KEEP Moodle: **https://moodle.cuhk.keep.edu.hk/course/view.php?id=12**
IT resources
• ***Centro Virtual Cervantes (CVC). Recursos para estudiantes de español.*** It is dedicated to students on the ***Instituto Cervantes*** website, the Spanish Government public institution that promotes the teaching and learning of Spanish around the world: https://cvc.cervantes.es/estudiantes.htm • ***Páginas de ayuda para estudiantes de español*** of the Bowdoin College (Brunswick, Maine, USA). It is a concise outline for the grammar structures taught at the intermediate and advanced levels: https://learn.bowdoin.edu/spanish-grammar/newgr/index.html • ***ProfedeEle.*** It is a webpage with Spanish self-learning resources -vocabulary, grammar, orthographics, culture, and more- offering graded content under the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR): https://www.profedeele.es/ • **CU eLearning System:** https://www.edtech.cuhk.edu.hk/
Recommended readings & Library resources
• **Complete Spanish grammar (2004)** [electronic resource AVAILABLE AT CUHK ULS] / Gilda Nissenberg. New York: McGraw-Hill. • **Modern Spanish grammar (2003)** [electronic resource AVAILABLE AT CUHK ULS] a practical guide / Juan Kattán-Ibarra and Christopher J. Pountain. London: Routledge • **Graded readings.** CU libraries have little books in Spanish that are adjusted to your reading levels (in Spanish we call them "lecturas graduadas"). Some e-books, downloadable via Internet that you can print or read comfortably in your computer, PDA, etc. The level varies from collection to collection, but initially you can try "nivel 1" (level 1) and progressively upgrade to another reading level if you feel you can manage it. To do a library search in ULS, type "lecturas graduadas" + "nivel 1" or "nivel 2" (+ "electronic"), etc.].

For further information and inquiries			
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LIN General Office	3943 9836	lin@cuhk.edu.hk	Room G17, Leung Kau Kui Building. Office hours: Mon to Thu: 8:45 am - 1:00 pm & 2:00 - 5:30 pm Fri: 8:45 am - 1:00 pm & 2:00 - 5:45 pm.

Details of course website
CUHK Moodle: **https://moodle.cuhk.keep.edu.hk/**

Feedback for evaluation
Our language programme highly values students' feedback and comments and is happy to use them for reflection on our teaching and improvement. Students are very welcome to provide comments and feedback on the course any time to their course teacher or the course level coordinator through email or in personal conversation. In addition, students' feedback will be collected in the middle of the term through an open-end questionnaire and the teacher will discuss the feedback in class and make improvements if necessary. The course will also follow the university's course evaluation exercise at the end of the term, and students' feedback will be used for future course planning and teaching.

Academic honesty and plagiarism
Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/. With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. In the case of group projects, all members of the group should be asked to sign the declaration, each of whom is responsible and liable to disciplinary actions, irrespective of whether he/she has signed the declaration and whether he/she has contributed, directly or indirectly, to the problematic contents. For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Students are fully aware that their work may be investigated by AI content detection software to determine originality. Students are fully aware of the AI approach(es) adopted in the course. In the case where some AI tools are allowed, students have made proper acknowledgment and citations as suggested by the course teacher. Assignments without a properly signed declaration will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide. The submission of a piece of work, or a part of a piece of work, for more than one purpose (e.g. to satisfy the requirements in two different courses) without declaration to this effect shall be regarded as having committed undeclared multiple submissions. It is common and acceptable to reuse a turn of phrase or a sentence or two from one's own work; but wholesale reuse is problematic. In any case, agreement from the course teacher(s) concerned should be obtained prior to the submission of the piece of work. The copyright of the teaching materials, including lecture notes, assignments and examination questions, etc., produced by staff members/ teachers of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) belongs to CUHK. Students may download the teaching materials produced by the staff members/ teachers from the Learning Management Systems, e.g. Blackboard, adopted by CUHK for their own educational use, but shall not distribute/ share/ copy the materials to a third-party without seeking prior permission from the staff members/ teachers concerned.

Use of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools in teaching, learning and assessment
All use of AI tools is prohibited. In any kind of learning activity or assessment that will be counted towards the final course grades (or used for evaluating attainment of the desired learning outcomes), students are not allowed to submit work which is produced with the collaboration of or supported by the use of any AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT). Improper/unauthorized use of AI tools in learning activities and assessments will constitute acts of academic dishonesty and will be handled according to the University's Procedures for Handling Cases of Academic Dishonesty. In case of queries, students should seek advice from the course teacher.

For more non-academic information about our Spanish Programme at CUHK, please join us on Instagram:

@ELECAFELITO