

# McLennan C O M M U N I T Y C O L L E G E

WACO, TEXAS

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## **COURSE SYLLABUS**

**AND**

## **INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

### **BEGINNING SPANISH I**

**SPAN\_1411\_88**

**AMBER BRACKEN**

**NOTE: This is a 6-week, online course.**

#### **COVID 19 Notice:**

McLennan Community College is committed to providing you with every resource you need to reach your academic goals including your safety. We will continue to monitor the evolving situation with COVID 19 and adjust our safety guidelines to make sure we offer a safe environment for you and our faculty. Please make sure to consult your faculty and the MCC website at <https://www.mclennan.edu/crisis-management/coronavirus-updates/index.html> on any changes to these guidelines.

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### **Course Description:**

Basic Spanish language skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing within a cultural framework. Students will acquire the vocabulary and grammatical structures necessary to communicate and comprehend at the beginner level. Semester Hours 4 (3 lec/2 lab)

### **Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:**

No prerequisites are required for this course.

### **Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:**

Due to the nature of this online course, students must already possess basic computer skills and Internet skills. To complete this course, you must have consistent access to the Internet and a webcam with microphone. Students are required to utilize their MCC email, Zoom, Lockdown Browser with Monitor, and Brightspace in order to complete this online course.

Please know that technical support is available to you; students having technical difficulties may utilize the MCC I.T. Helpdesk by contacting (254) 299-8077 or sending an email to [helpdesk@mclennan.edu](mailto:helpdesk@mclennan.edu). Please take advantage of these support services when needed and avoid procrastination, as last-minute technical difficulties will not excuse missed deadlines in this course.

### **Instructor Information:**

Instructor Name: Amber Bracken

MCC E-mail: [abracken@mclennan.edu](mailto:abracken@mclennan.edu)

Office Phone Number: (254) 299-8942

Office Location: FOB 118

Office/Teacher Conference Hours: 9:30-11:00 am Monday-Thursday

(Other times available by appointment—just send me an e-mail to ask!)

Zoom Meeting Room ID 254-299-8942

<https://mclennan.zoom.us/my/bracken>

### **Required Text & Materials:**

Waymaker Bundle—Introductory Spanish I

ISBN: 9781640872561

Author: Lumen Learning et al.

Publisher: Lumen, Inc.

Copyright Year: 2019

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\*Note: Waymaker course materials are automatically loaded into Brightspace and will be available to you starting on the first day of class. The cost of all (virtual) materials for the semester is \$25. We will cover 11 modules over the course of the semester, and Waymaker allows you to complete the first two modules before paying the \$25 fee. When you take your first and/or second quiz(zes), you will be prompted to register and pay. You can pay the fee through the MCC bookstore if you are using a scholarship or financial aid, or you can pay directly to Waymaker online if using a personal credit or debit card—the price is the same either way.

**MCC Bookstore Website:** <http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/>

### **Methods of Teaching and Learning:**

Includes video tutorials, video discussion board entries, reading, writing, listening, and speaking activities online, online quizzes, online module tests, and two one-on-one oral interviews with the instructor via Zoom.

### **Course Objectives and/or Competencies:**

This course aims to develop all four aspects of communication in the Spanish language: listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Engage in conversations using level-appropriate grammatical structures including narrating events that take place in the present and producing questions and responses on a variety of topics dealing with everyday life.
2. Demonstrate understanding of level-appropriate spoken Spanish.
3. Write simple sentences and organize them into short paragraphs.
4. Read and comprehend level-appropriate texts.
5. Identify and discuss traditions, customs and values of the Hispanic world.
6. Compare and contrast the traditions, customs and values of the Hispanic world with characteristics of their own culture.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board requires that all courses in the Foundational Component area of Language, Philosophy, and Culture teach these Core Objectives:

- **Critical Thinking Skills (CT):** “to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.”
- **Communication Skills (COMM):** “to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.”
- **Social Responsibility (SR):** “to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.”
- **Personal Responsibility (PR):** “to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.”

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## **Course Outline or Schedule:**

All items listed below are due at or before 11:59pm CST on the day they are assigned. Changes to the schedule will only be made in the case of emergency and will be communicated via “announcements” on Brightspace. Students are strongly encouraged to opt in to receive text and/or e-mail notifications from Brightspace to avoid missing any announcements.

### **Week 1**

5/31	Tues	(Optional) live orientation; “Getting Started” module due; Start Module 1
6/1	Wed	Module 1 Study Plan & Quiz due
6/3	Fri	Module 2 Study Plan & Quiz due
6/6	Sun	Module 3 Study Plan & Quiz due

### **Week 2**

6/6	Mon	Discussion Video #1 due; Module 4 Study Plan & Quiz due
6/8	Wed	Responses to DV #1 due; Module 5 Study Plan & Quiz due
6/10	Fri	Module 6 Study Plan & Quiz due
6/12	Sun	Review for midterms

### **Week 3**

6/13	Mon	Study for Midterm Oral Exams
6/14	Tues	Oral Exams
6/15	Wed	Oral Exams; Discussion Video #2 due
6/16	Thurs	Oral Exams
6/19	Sun	Responses to DV #2 due ; Midterm Written Test due (Covering M. 1-6, on Brightspace)

### **Week 4**

6/20	Mon	Module 7 Study Plan & Quiz due
6/22	Wed	Module 8 Study Plan & Quiz due *Last day for student-initiated withdrawals
6/24	Fri	Module 9 Study Plan & Quiz due

### **Week 5**

6/27	Mon	Discussion Video # 3 due; Module 10 Study Plan & Quiz due
6/29	Wed	Responses to DV #3 due; Module 11 Study Plan & Quiz due
6/30	Thurs	Final oral exams (Covering M. 7-11, on Zoom)
7/1	Fri	Final oral exams cont.

### **Week 6**

7/6	Tues	Final oral exams cont.
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**Course Grading Information:**

The grade for this course will come from the following components:

- *Online Tests:* 2 major tests (midterm and final), taken online via Brightspace, utilizing a webcam monitoring service to ensure academic integrity (Lockdown Browser with Monitor). Please note that due to the comprehensive nature of language learning, each module builds on prior learning. For that reason, it is extremely important to study regularly and to continuously review older material. If you try to wait until the last minute and cram for a test, the material is not likely to make it into long-term memory, which will make it very difficult to be successful as the semester progresses (and even more difficult to do well in Spanish II).
- *Oral Exams:* 2 one-on-one oral interviews with the instructor (one midterm and one final), lasting approximately 5-8 minutes each, conducted via Zoom. Students will be provided with all questions they might be asked in advance. Questions are designed for students to demonstrate mastery of vocabulary and grammar lessons studied, and students will be graded on comprehension, grammatical accuracy, use of complete sentences, fluency, and pronunciation. A detailed grading rubric will be posted in the “Oral Exam Materials” content folder in Brightspace.
- *Discussion Board Video Posts:* Students will respond orally via “videonote” to discussion questions related to the assigned vocabulary lists by posting a video, and then respond in writing to at least two classmates’ posts for each discussion assignment. There will be 3 discussion videos assigned throughout the semester.
- *Online Study Plans & Quizzes:* Students will watch video tutorials and complete a variety of listening, speaking, reading, and writing exercises in Brightspace and then take a quiz for each module. The study plan activities are graded based on completion (not accuracy) and are designed to help students learn prior to taking the quizzes; failure to complete them will result in a loss of points for both the Study Plan and the attendance/participation category. Each module is broken into 4 or 5 sections. As students complete the self-checks at the end of each section, they will see their grade for the Study Plan increase by 20-25%. **YOU MUST COMPLETE THE “SELF CHECK” EXERCISES TO EARN CREDIT FOR EACH SECTION OF THE STUDY PLANS.** The quizzes *are* graded for accuracy. Students will have two attempts per quiz, and the highest grade for each quiz will be recorded. I strongly encourage you to budget enough time in between attempts to be able to go back and study the concepts you miss on your first attempt before making your second attempt. You may refer back to the study plan, use your own notes, consult vocabulary lists, etc. while completing the study plans and quizzes; however, keep in mind **no resources whatsoever may be used when it comes time for the midterm and final written and oral exams.** Therefore, it is

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extremely important to ensure you have actually learned the material and are not dependent on those outside resources.

- *Attendance & Participation:* To earn full attendance and participation points, students must log in and complete work *at least 4 days per week*, view all digital content assigned, meet all due dates for assignments and assessments, and respond to all discussion boards. Students are also strongly encouraged to take advantage of opportunities to receive formative feedback and to proactively communicate any questions or lack of understanding they might have. I am here to help! However, I can't answer your questions if I don't know what they are, so please don't hesitate to reach out any time.

Grades will be weighted as follows:

Major Tests (2)	25%
Oral Interviews (2)	30%
Discussion Board Video Posts and Responses (3)	20%
Lumen Study Plans & Quizzes (11 each)	15%
Attendance/Participation	10%

Detailed grading rubrics will be provided via Brightspace for oral interviews and discussion board videos. Major tests will be graded objectively for accurate use of Spanish vocabulary and grammar.

Final grades will be distributed according to the following scale:

A = 90 and above      B = 80 to 89.99      C = 70 to 79.99      D = 60 to 69.99  
F = Below 60

### **Late Work, Attendance, and Makeup Work Policies:**

The instructor will follow the official MCC Attendance/Absence policy posted in the Highlander Guide. Students who are forced to miss a deadline or class meeting for reasons beyond their control are expected to communicate with the professor (in advance if possible, and no later than 24 hours after the missed class or deadline if advance notice is not possible) to discuss the consequences and/or possibility of makeup work. Students who fail to complete 25% of all assignments or who miss more than four assignment deadlines prior to the 60% point in the semester will be withdrawn from the class. After the 60% point, students who fail to submit at least 75% of all assigned work will receive a grade of F.

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Note: *It is imperative that students be proactive in communicating with me about their attendance and participation.* Late work will not be accepted without a reasonable excuse and proactive communication.

[Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy](https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html)

(<https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html>)

Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences. Your instructor may have additional guidelines specific to this course.

**Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:**

- Students are expected to communicate with one another and with the instructor in a respectful manner appropriate for a college class.
- When e-mailing the instructor, please include a subject line, appropriate address (ex: Hi, Professor Bracken...), self-identification (ex: This is John Doe...), the class **section** you are in (ex: ...from your SPAN 1411.88 class...), and a clear message that includes proper capitalization, spelling, and punctuation. This is a skill that should be practiced for all scholarly and professional communication--not only for this class! (\*Note: I will have approximately 75 students in 3 different sections this summer, so including your class section number will help me to be able to answer any questions you might have about your grades, due dates, progress in the class, etc. more efficiently.)
- If you have any questions about something that is unclear or any ideas or suggestions for ways that I can improve the course and/or help you to be successful, please don't be shy to let me know. I am happy to accept constructive feedback!
- Students should be aware that successful completion of this course will require a great deal of self-discipline and integrity. **Academic dishonesty (cheating) will not be tolerated.** NO RESOURCES (including, but not limited to, notes, textbooks, dictionaries, cell phones, or any form of translation service or assistance) may be used when taking tests, both written and oral. Beware that if a student is caught cheating on a test, the grade for that test will be a 0, the student will be reported to the Department of Student Conduct, and all prior and future test-taking video footage will be carefully reviewed. If a second offense is observed—whether it was committed before or after the first offense—the student will be dropped from the course with a grade of F.

# McLennan

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## ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES

### **Accommodations/ADA Statement:**

Any student who is a qualified individual with a disability may request reasonable accommodations to assist with providing equal access to educational opportunities. Students should contact the Accommodations Coordinator as soon as possible to provide documentation and make necessary arrangements. Once that process is completed, appropriate verification will be provided to the student and instructor. Please note that instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations to students until appropriate verification has been provided by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit [www.mclennan.edu/disability](http://www.mclennan.edu/disability).

Students with questions or who require assistance with disabilities involving physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact:

[disabilities@mclennan.edu](mailto:disabilities@mclennan.edu)

254-299-8122

Room 319, Student Services Center

### **Title IX:**

We care about your safety, and value an environment where students and instructors can successfully teach and learn together. If you or someone you know experiences unwelcomed behavior, we are here to help. Individuals who would like to report an incident of sexual misconduct are encouraged to immediately contact the Title IX Coordinator at [titleix@mclennan.edu](mailto:titleix@mclennan.edu) or by calling Dr. Drew Canham (Chief of Staff for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion/Title IX) at (254) 299-8645. Individuals also may contact the MCC Police Department at 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at MCC at (254) 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student or employee may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/>.

Go to McLennan's Title IX webpage at [www.mclennan.edu/titleix/](http://www.mclennan.edu/titleix/). It contains more information about definitions, reporting, confidentiality, resources, and what to do if you or someone you know is a victim of sexual misconduct, gender-based violence or the crimes of rape, acquaintance rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence, or domestic violence.



**Student Support/Resources:**

MCC provides a variety of services to support student success in the classroom and in your academic pursuits to include counseling, tutors, technology help desk, advising, financial aid, etc. A listing of these and the many other services available to our students is available at <http://www.mclennan.edu/campus-resource-guide/>

College personnel recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources or want to explore strategies for balancing life and school, we encourage you to contact a Success Coach by calling (254) 299-8226 or emailing [SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu](mailto:SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu). Students may visit the Completion Center Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. to schedule a meeting with a Success Coach and receive additional resources and support to help reach academic and personal goals. Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff based on household size. Text (254) 870-7573 to schedule a pantry appointment. The Completion Center and pantry are located on the Second Floor of the Student Services Center (SSC).

**MCC Foundation Emergency Grant Fund:**

Unanticipated expenses, such as car repairs, medical bills, housing, or job loss can affect us all. Should an unexpected expense arise, the MCC Foundation has an emergency grant fund that may be able to assist you. Please go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html> to find out more about the emergency grant. The application can be found at [https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency\\_Grant\\_Application.pdf](https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency_Grant_Application.pdf).

**MCC Academic Integrity Statement:**

Go to [www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity](http://www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity) for information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

**Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace:**

Go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty-and-Staff-Commons/requirements.html> for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

**Minimum Technical Skills:**

Students should have basic computer skills, knowledge of word processing software, and a basic understanding of how to use search engines and common web browsers.

**Backup Plan for Technology:**

In the event MCC's technology systems are down, you will be notified via your MCC student email address. Please note that all assignments and activities will be due on the date specified in the Instructor Plan, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

**Email Policy:**

McLennan Community College would like to remind you of the policy (<http://www.mclennan.edu/employees/policy-manual/docs/E-XXXI-B.pdf>) regarding college email. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to use their McLennan email addresses when conducting college business.

A student's McLennan email address is the preferred email address that college employees should use for official college information or business. Students are expected to read and, if needed, respond in a timely manner to college emails.

**Instructional Uses of Email:**

Faculty members can determine classroom use of email or electronic communications. Faculty should expect and encourage students to check the college email on a regular basis. Faculty should inform students in the course syllabus if another communication method is to be used and of any special or unusual expectations for electronic communications.

If a faculty member prefers not to communicate by email with their students, it should be reflected in the course syllabus and information should be provided for the preferred form of communication.

**Email on Mobile Devices:**

The College recommends that you set up your mobile device to receive McLennan emails. If you need assistance with set-up, you may email [Helpdesk@mclennan.edu](mailto:Helpdesk@mclennan.edu) for help.

**Forwarding Emails:**

You may forward emails that come to your McLennan address to alternate email addresses; however, the College will not be held responsible for emails forwarded to an alternate address that may be lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

**Disclaimer:**

The resources and policies listed above are merely for informational purposes and are subject to change without notice or obligation. The College reserves the right to change policies and other requirements in compliance with State and Federal laws. The provisions of this document do not constitute a contract.