

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO (UNC)

MEDICAL SPANISH (SPAN 410-001)

Professor: Karla Del Carpio

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Office hour: Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m.

Class time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Class location: Candelaria 0375

Course lessons: Intermediate Medical Spanish (<https://bit.ly/4cgr7PB>)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to teach basic Spanish language to students that plan to work as health care professionals.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

In Medical Spanish (SPAN 410), students will learn to conduct a 5-10 minute basic Medical Interview in Spanish and to work effectively with a professional Medical Interpreter. In addition to learning the basic language skills necessary to conduct a preliminary Medical Interview in Spanish, students gain knowledge and understanding of different cultural perspectives to help them better anticipate and manage patient expectations during the medical encounter.

Spanish 410 is designed to develop the following ACTFL (American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages) standards and sub-standards:

Standard 1.1: Students engage in conversations, provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions, and exchange opinions.

Standard 1.2: Students understand and interpret written and spoken language on a variety of topics.

Standard 1.3: Students present information, concepts, and ideas to an audience of listeners or readers on a variety of topics.

Standard 2.2: Students demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the products and perspectives of the culture studied.

Standard 3.1: Students reinforce and further their knowledge of other disciplines through the foreign language.

Standard 3.2: Students acquire information and recognize the distinctive viewpoints that are only available through the foreign language and its cultures.

Standard 4.1: Students demonstrate understanding of the nature of language through comparisons of the language studied and their own.

Standard 4.2: Students demonstrate understanding of the concept of culture through comparisons of the cultures studied and their own.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. **Intermediate Medical Spanish** Online with Common Ground International (purchase [here](https://commongroundinternational.com/store/online-courses/medical-spanish/unco-medical-spanish/)):
<https://commongroundinternational.com/store/online-courses/medical-spanish/unco-medical-spanish/>

Fee includes:

- a. Online course access during the semester. Course link [here](#)
- b. Binder of course materials for notes and additional practice activities

Please note that if you have any issues with the platform, you can contact David Riveroll at webmaster@commongroundinternational.com

ABOUT THE COURSE:

In this online medical Spanish course, you will learn the Spanish you need from meeting and greeting your patient for the very first time to managing follow-up care.

Specifically, here are the lessons included in this online medical Spanish course:

- Building rapport and trust with patients in Spanish
- Understanding patient symptoms in Spanish
- Present perfect verbs in Spanish
- Anatomy in Spanish
- Patient medical history in Spanish
- Pain & injuries in Spanish
- Preterite past tense verbs in Spanish
- Imperfect past tense verbs in Spanish
- Commands and conditional verbs in Spanish
- Conducting physical exams in Spanish
- Ordering tests and procedures in Spanish
- Direct and indirect object pronouns in Spanish
- Discussing diagnosis, treatment plan and discharge instructions in Spanish
- Giving anticipatory guidance in Spanish
- Scheduling follow-up appointments in Spanish
- Motivational interviewing in Spanish

ADDITIONAL COURSE DETAILS:

Each class session will include a combination of new learning, and lots of practice! The best way to approach it is to be relaxed and not care about making mistakes with the language. So, be ready to relax, experiment, and LEARN SPANISH!

Tips for success in this course:

- Language learning is both academic and experiential. You will need to memorize new vocabulary, think about how it pulls together to form a complete thought, and PRACTICE!
- Study little by little throughout the week in between practice sessions. Don't try and cram the information the day or morning before your scheduled practice session. In order to be successful in this course, you'll want to

study the lesson content, complete the worksheets on each lesson and study the vocabulary before your live class session.

- Give special attention to the vocabulary delivered throughout this course. Study it Span>Eng & Eng>Span before you move on. You may want to use Quizlet or write your own flashcards out.
- ALWAYS attend the live class sessions whether you finished the lesson or not. Academic knowledge of a language is pretty useless if you've never taken the time to practice it.
- Study for your quizzes like any other test you would take – that will allow you to focus on the actual questions and tasks to complete during the quiz instead of being distracted by not knowing certain vocabulary, etc.

GRADING COMPONENTS:

Vocabulary and grammar quizzes (HW)	20%
Attendance, active participation in class and completion of activities in printed workbook	15%
Reflection in pairs on 2 academic articles on the topic chosen for the oral presentation	25%
Oral presentation video (oral exam)	40%
Total	100%

GRADING SCALE:

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

A+ 97-100 (UNC does not have A+, regardless of what appears on Canvas)

A 93-96

A- 90-93

B+ 87-89

B 83-86

B- 80-82

C+ 77-79

C 73-76

C- 70-72

D+ 67-69 / 63-66

D- 60-62

F 59& below F

ASSIGNMENTS:

Online homework quizzes: Common Ground International

a) Comprehensive vocabulary quizzes: Each lesson has a comprehensive quiz on the vocabulary that is covered. These quizzes can be found at the end of each lesson.

b) Grammar quizzes: Each lesson with grammar tenses has a comprehensive quiz. Each quiz can be found at the end of each grammar topic.

Important notes:

- There are approximately 7 vocabulary quizzes and 11 grammar quizzes
- Your quizzes are a great resource to practice. You have 3 opportunities to take each quiz.
- The ideal date to take each quiz on Common Ground can be found in the course schedule (please see the last pages of this document). However, you have until **Tuesday, December 2nd, 2025** to complete all the quizzes. After December 2nd, 2025, no online quizzes can be submitted for a grade.

Formal and critical reflection assignment in pairs:

- Your reflection paper needs to be written with the classmate you chose to work with for your oral presentation.
- Your reflection should state why the topic was chosen and provide a summary of the 2 academic articles.
For example, your topic is “la diabetes” so you should briefly explain the relevance of the topic and select and summarize 2 articles that discuss the topic in Spanish. Your reflection should show a clear connection between your topic and the content of the 2 articles you chose. Anecdotal pieces are not accepted.
- Your reflection paper must be 2 pages, typed and double-spaced. APA style needs to be used.
- Your reflection should use formal Spanish. **Please pay attention to grammar.**
- Your reflection should have a cover page with your full name as well as your classmate’s name, name of the course, title that reflects the content of your piece and submission date. Please note that the cover page does not count towards the 2 pages for content.
- Your reflection should have a reference list. APA style needs to be used.
- Your reflection should be submitted via Canvas on **November 11th, 2025**.

Oral presentation video:

With a classmate, you need to do a 15-minute YouTube video presentation in Spanish. You and your classmate can choose one of the following options to develop in your video:

- “Enseñar” sobre una condición: síntomas comunes, áreas del cuerpo afectados y cómo se afectan, nombres y descripciones de los análisis, imágenes, etc. para diagnosticar la condición, plan de tratamiento típico, y educación al paciente sobre la prevención y cambios de estilo de vida (para los que ya la tienen y los que quieren evitarla).
- Enseñar sobre un síndrome cultural (el aire, el mal de ojo, etc). ¿Qué es, cómo se contrae, cómo se trata, es una perspectiva/creencia inofensiva o hay algún peligro inherente para el paciente.

You should submit the link to your video to the “oral presentation video” section in Canvas on **November 14th, 2025**. Please note that **no** reading is allowed in the presentation and each person needs to talk for 7 and a half minutes. Also, you may want to use a Power Point presentation or other visuals as creativity will be assessed. APA style needs to be used.

- Rubric for this assignment can be found in Canvas.

Attendance, active participation and completion of activities in physical workbook:

Class attendance is required since this is an in-person course, not an online one. Anyone having more than three absences will have his/her grade lowered. **Anyone with 10 or more absences receives an F for the class. Participation means being prepared, listening attentively, willingly and actively participating in class activities.** Complete all readings, homework and other activities in a timely manner and before the class session to which they correspond. Come to class prepared to participate in listening, reading, speaking, and writing activities. Frequency and quality of your contributions will determine the points you will receive for participation. A percentage of the final grade is based upon class attendance, preparation, and participation. All assignments are due on the date assigned, whether or not you are in class. **NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS ARE ACCEPTED/ NO MAKE-UPS FOR MISSED TESTS OR QUIZZES.** Participants will complete the assigned activities and exercises in a timely manner, to be discussed in class and/or submitted for grades.

Please remember that in order to be successful in this course, you need to study the lesson content, complete the worksheets on each lesson in advance and study the vocabulary before your live class session.

- Participation form should be submitted to Canvas during finals week. TBD.
- Rubric can be found in Canvas.

Important information

UNC honor code and academic misconduct

All members of the University of Northern Colorado community are entrusted with responsibility to uphold and promote five fundamental values: Honesty, Trust, Respect, Fairness, and Responsibility. These core elements foster an atmosphere, inside and outside of the classroom, which serves as a foundation and guides the UNC community's academic, professional, and personal growth. Endorsement of these core elements by students, faculty, staff, and administration, and trustees strengthens the integrity of our academic climate. Additional information regarding students' academic rights and responsibilities and community standards for conduct are available on the Dean of Students website at www.unco.edu/dos.

UNC'S Policies

UNC's policies and recommendations for academic misconduct will be followed. For additional information, please see the Student Code of Conduct.

Course policies and expectations

Taking this course confirms acceptance of the terms and conditions stated in this syllabus.

[Instructor policies for attendance/absence/late work/makeup work, etc.]

Students with Disabilities

Any student requesting disability accommodation for this class must inform the instructor, giving appropriate notice. Students are encouraged to contact Disability Support Services at (970) 351-2289 to certify documentation of disability and to ensure appropriate accommodations are implemented in a timely manner.

Class Schedule: Please be aware that the schedule is subject to change as needed. Dates for assignments might be modified if deemed pedagogically by the professor.

DATE	TOPIC
Tue Aug 26	Course Introduction 5 Patient Profiles
Thur Aug 28	Foundations: <input type="checkbox"/> Patient Introductions <input type="checkbox"/> 45 Medical Professions and the verb SER
Tue Sept 2	Foundations: <input type="checkbox"/> Estar, Sentirse, 27 Emotions and 9 Conditions in Spanish <input type="checkbox"/> Question words and Chit Chat Topics to build rapport
Thur Sept 4	Foundations: <input type="checkbox"/> Regular & Irregular Present Tense Verbs in Spanish
Fri Sept 5	Quiz: Present Perfect Quiz: Int Foundations
Tue Sept 9	Lesson 1: <input type="checkbox"/> Common Questions to understand symptoms <input type="checkbox"/> Symptom Vocabulary in Spanish with the verb Tener
Thur Sept 11	Lesson 1: <input type="checkbox"/> Symptom Vocabulary with the verb Estar <input type="checkbox"/> Symptoms best described in phrases
Fri Sept 12	Quiz: Lesson 1 Cumulative Quiz: Los síntomas
Tue Sept 16	Lesson 2: <input type="checkbox"/> General Anatomy Terms & Specific Body Parts <input type="checkbox"/> 14 Organs and their functions
Thur Sept 18	Lesson 2: <input type="checkbox"/> More Anatomy Lesson 3: <input type="checkbox"/> Using Tener & Doler to describe what hurts
Fri Sept 19	Quiz: Lesson 2 Cumulative Quiz: Anatomía
Tue Sept 23	Lesson 3: <input type="checkbox"/> Pain scale & intensity of pain <input type="checkbox"/> Describing different types of pain

Thur Sept 25	Lesson 3: <input type="checkbox"/> Additional questions about pain <input type="checkbox"/> Using Tener and Estar to describe injuries and wounds
Fri Sept 26	Quiz: Lesson 3 Cumulative Quiz: El dolor y las heridas
Tue Sept 30	Lesson 4: <input type="checkbox"/> General medical history <input type="checkbox"/> Surgical history
Thur Oct 2	Lesson 4: <input type="checkbox"/> OPQRST History of the problem <input type="checkbox"/> Review of systems
Fri Oct 3	Quiz: Lesson 4 Cumulative Quiz: La historia médica
Tue Oct 7	Lesson 5: Regular preterite verbs and preterite stem-changing verbs
Thur Oct 9	Lesson 5: Irregular preterite tense verbs Introduction to Final Project
Fri Oct 10	Quiz: Regular Preterite Tense Verbs Quiz: Preterite Stem Changing Verbs
Tue Oct 14	Lesson 5: -car, -gar, -zar verbs in the preterite
Wed Oct 15	Quiz: Irregular Preterite Tense Verbs Quiz: -car, -gar, -zar Verbs in Preterite
Thur Oct 16	Lesson 6: Regular and irregular imperfect past tense verbs
Fri 17	Quiz: Imperfect Past Tense Verbs Quiz: Irregular Imperfect Past Tense Verbs
Tue Oct 21	Lesson 6: <input type="checkbox"/> Verbs that change meaning between preterite and imperfect
Wed Oct 22	Quiz: Verbs That Change Meaning Between Preterite & Imperfect
Thur Oct 23	Lesson 7: Choosing between preterite and imperfect tenses

Fri Oct 24	Quiz: Preterite and Imperfect Quiz Quiz: Preterite and Imperfect Quiz 2
Tue Oct 28	Lesson 7: Past tenses and HPI
Thur Oct 30	Lesson 8: Usted y tú commands Discusión del artículo: <i>*Remedios y rituales de la medicina tradicional hispana en Nuevo México (Canvas)</i> Atención: En las próximas clases hablaremos sobre la presentación oral. Por tal motivo, se les agradecería venir preparados/as con 2 artículos académicos sobre el tema que van a desarrollar en la presentación. Muchas gracias =) *Favor de traer sus 2 artículos académicos la próxima clase.
Fri Oct 31	Quiz: El Imperativo: Mandatos formales e informales
Tue Nov 4	Artículo 1 sobre el tema del video y discusión sobre la presentación oral (video). Escribir reflexión.
Thur Nov 6	Artículo 2 sobre el tema del video y discusión sobre la presentación oral (video). Escribir reflexión.
Tue Nov 11	Terminar y entregar reflexión <i>Reflection piece needs to be submitted today Thursday, Nov. 11th, 2025 via Canvas.</i>
Thur Nov 13	Discutir los últimos detalles para la presentación oral
Fri Nov 14	Oral presentation video submission via Canvas
Tue Nov 18	Lesson 8: Conditional verbs Lesson 9: Physical exams and explaining additional tests and procedures
Weds Nov 19	Quiz: Conditional Tense Quiz
Thur Nov 20	Lesson 9: Physical exams and explaining additional tests and procedures
Fri Nov 21	Lesson 9 Cumulative Quiz: Exámenes físicos, pruebas y procedimientos
Tue Nov 25	Lesson 10: Communicating diagnoses and 6 simple instructions to communicate treatment plans Medication forms & frequencies and communicating discharge instructions

	Before midnight: Take quiz: Lesson 10 Cumulative Quiz: Instrucciones de alta, medicamentos y diagnósticos
Thanksgiving Holiday Wednesday, November 26 th - Sunday, November 30 th , 2025	Thanksgiving Holiday
Tue Dec 2	Último día para entregar los quizzes del semestre Sesión de preguntas y respuestas
Thur Dec 4	Sesión de preguntas y respuestas
Dec 8-11/12, 2025 Finals week	December 8-11, 2025: Finals week December 12, 2025: Make up day Participation form should be submitted to Canvas. <i>Time and date to be announced.</i>