Syllabus listo con fechas actualizadas
La hora de la clase y aula también están actualizadas
Fall 2026

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO (UNC)

MEDICAL SPANISH (SPAN 410-001)

Professor: Karla Del Carpio
Office: Candelaria 0008
Office Phone Number: (970) 351-2452
E-mail address: karla.delcarpioovand@unco.edu
Office hour: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2:00 p.m.
Class time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m.
Class location: Candelaria 0375
Course lessons: Intermediate Medical Spanish
(https://commongroundinternational.com/courses/mastering-medical-spanish/)

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/

   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 a condition or a disease based on 2 academic articles	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 1st, 2026,** to complete all the quizzes. After December 1st, 2026, no online quizzes can be submitted for a grade.
- **All quizzes need to be taken so a total grade can be given. If only a few quizzes are taken, a grade of zero will be assigned.**

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.
- You and your classmate should choose a condition or an illness/disease you are both interested in, for example, diabetes, cholesterol, dengue fever, hypertension, osteoporosis, arthritis, mental issues, etc.
- Your reflection should state why the topic was chosen and provide a summary of the 2 serious academic articles that explain the topic. *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.* ***Anectodal 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 printed out and turned in to your professor on October 13th, 2026.**

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 o una enfermedad: 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 19th, 2026.** 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 the assignment can be found in Canvas.
- **Please note that the topic for the oral presentation video must be different from the topic chosen for the written reflection/essay.**

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 25	Course Introduction 5 Patient Profiles (p. 1)
Thur Aug 27	Foundations: - Patient Introductions (p. 7) - 45 Medical Professions and the verb SER (p. 12)
Tue Sept 1	Foundations: - Estar, Sentirse, 27 Emotions and 9 Conditions in Spanish (p. 17) - Question words and Chit Chat Topics to build rapport (p. 23)
Thur Sept 3	Foundations: - Regular & Irregular Present Tense Verbs in Spanish (p. 29) - Common Questions to understand symptoms (p. 35)
Fri Sept 4	Quiz: Present Perfect Quiz: Int Foundations
Tue Sept 8	Lesson 1: Symptom Vocabulary in Spanish with the verb Tener (p. 41) **Vamos a hablar sobre el ensayo escrito en parejas en el cual debemos usar 2 artículos académicos para explicar el tema. Vamos a entregar el trabajo impreso a la hora de la clase del martes, 13 de octubre.**
Thur Sept 10	Lesson 1: - Symptom Vocabulary with the verb Estar (p. 46) - Symptoms best described in phrases (p. 50)
Fri Sept 11	Quiz: Lesson 1 Cumulative Quiz: Los síntomas
Tue Sept 15	Lesson 2: - General Anatomy Terms & Specific Body Parts (p. 56) - 14 Organs and their functions (p. 60)
Thur Sept 17	Lesson 2: - More Anatomy (p. 65) Lesson 3: - Using Tener & Doler to describe what hurts (p. 69)

Fri Sept 18	Quiz: Lesson 2 Cumulative Quiz: Anatomía
Tue Sept 22	Lesson 3: - Pain scale & intensity of pain (p. 72) - Describing different types of pain (p. 74)
Thur Sept 24	Lesson 3: - Additional questions about pain (p. 76) - Using Tener and Estar to describe injuries and wounds (p. 79)
Fri Sept 25	Quiz: Lesson 3 Cumulative Quiz: El dolor y las heridas
Tue Sept 29	Lesson 4: - General medical history (p. 84) - Surgical history (p. 90)
Thur Oct 1	Lesson 4: - OPQRST History of the problem (p. 94) - Review of systems (p. 100)
Fri Oct 2	Quiz: Lesson 4 Cumulative Quiz: La historia médica
Tue Oct 6	Lesson 5: Regular preterite verbs and preterite stem-changing verbs (p. 107) Irregular preterite tense verbs (p. 117)
Thur Oct 8	Lesson 5: -car, -gar, -zar verbs in the preterite (p. 124)
Fri Oct 9	Quizzes: Regular Preterite Tense Verbs, Preterite Stem Changing Verbs Irregular Preterite Tense Verbs and -car, -gar, -zar Verbs in Preterite
Tue Oct 13	Lesson 6: Regular and irregular imperfect past tense verbs (p.128/p. 134) **Entrega <u>impresa</u> del ensayo escrito en parejas**
Thur Oct 15	Lesson 6: Verbs that change meaning between preterite and imperfect (p. 137)
Fri Oct 16	Quizzes: Imperfect Past Tense Verbs, Irregular Imperfect Past Tense Verbs and Verbs That Change Meaning Between Preterite & Imperfect

Tue Oct 20	Lesson 7: Choosing between preterite and imperfect tenses (p. 142) Past tenses and HPI (p. 148)
Wed Oct 21	Quiz: Preterite and Imperfect Quiz Quiz: Preterite and Imperfect Quiz 2
Thur Oct 22	Lesson 8: Usted y tú commands (p.151/p. 156) **Discusión del artículo**: **Remedios y rituales de la medicina tradicional hispana en Nuevo México (Canvas)* **Recordatorio sobre el video a entregar el 19 de noviembre por Canvas**
Fri Oct 23	Quiz: El Imperativo: Mandatos formales e informales
Tue Oct 27	Lesson 8: Conditional verbs (p. 161) Lesson 9: Physical exams and explaining additional tests and procedures (p.169)
Thur Oct 29	Lesson 9: Physical exams and explaining additional tests and procedures (p. 173)
Fri Oct 30	Quiz: Exámenes físicos, pruebas y procedimientos
Tue Nov 3	Lesson 10: Communicating diagnoses and 6 simple instructions to communicate treatment plans (p. 177)
Thur Nov 5	Medication forms & frequencies and communicating discharge instructions (p. 187/p. 191)
Fri Nov 6	Quiz Instrucciones de alta, medicamentos y diagnósticos
Tue Nov 10	Discusión sobre la salud mental (artículo)
Thur Nov 12	Discusión sobre la salud mental (artículo)
Tue Nov 17	Clase dedicada a la preparación de la presentación oral
Thur Nov 19	Clase dedicada a la preparación de la presentación oral **Entrega por Canvas del video de la presentación oral**
Tue Nov 24	Quizzes en Common Ground

Thanksgiving Holiday Wednesday, November 25th- Sunday, November 29th, 2025	**Thanksgiving Holiday**
Tue Dec 1	Último día para entregar los quizzes del semestre
Thur Dec 3	Sesión de preguntas y respuestas
Dec 7-11, 2026 **Finals week**	December 7-11, 2026: Finals week **Participation form should be submitted to Canvas.** *Time and date to be announced.*