



STUDY GUIDE Nicaragua Spring 2018

Written Expression Development I
Gramática Española I
(Spanish 1)

Written Expression Development 2
Gramática Española 2
(Spanish 2)

Updated 01.12.2017
Changes will occur

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Dates and Deadlines

Changes will occur

Week	Dates	Academic activity	Exams and deadline Papers
1	15 Jan - 11 Feb	Self-studies	Self-study papers Ped and Latam 2 Feb
2		Self-Studies and pre-course Spanish	
3			
4			
1	12 Feb - 25 May	Lecture, seminars, workshops, writing papers	Diagnostic test Spanish
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			Exam Ped1 11 May
14			Spanish writing skills 18 May Paper Latam 18 May
15			Spanish grammar 25 May
16	28 May - 1 June		Oral Spanish Paper PED2 1 June

1. Introduction

This Study Guide is a supplement to the Course Description. It will give information about the courses in Nicaragua and advice on how best to study and carry out the different tasks.

Having sixteen weeks in Nicaragua gives you an excellent opportunity to engage in the country's culture and its people and the courses will help you gain insight into Latin American society with a special focus on Nicaragua.

If you have any academic questions, please contact Camilla Heidum (cheidum@gmail.com).

All other inquiries, please contact our office in Oslo, mail@kulturstudier.no or tel: +47 22358022.

2. Course Content

Part 1 – Self Study Period

(15 Jan – 9 February)

The lectures and seminars take place in Leon, but the learning process will start before that as the program begins with five weeks of self study. It is vital that you use these weeks well in order to follow the program once the classes start in Nicaragua. This is equally important if you are taking the precourse in León. The precourse only starts three weeks before the regular classes and you need to have a basic understanding of Spanish to follow the precourse. You should make yourself well acquainted with the curriculum during this period. You will get more out of the lectures if you have looked at the material beforehand, and a slow start to the semester will make your stay in Nicaragua unnecessary overloaded with work later on.

Self-studies can be a challenge. It requires discipline to spend the time needed to both read and reflect on the course material, but it will also help you develop an individual understanding of your curriculum.

If you have questions, lecturers will be available to answer them via email during these five weeks. For questions regarding Spanish, please contact Camilla Heidum (cheidum@gmail.com) and Olav Eggbø (olav@hbl.no) regarding Latin American Studies.

Self study before the precourse

If you have no previous knowledge of Spanish, and are taking the three-week precourse in León, it is important that you use the weeks of self-study well. You should know how to conjugate the verbs in the present tense before you start the precourse, and we recommend that you study this page for an overview:

www.studyspanish.com

In addition, we advise you to use www.duolingo.com to practice your Spanish. You should have completed “people” on the Spanish course at duolingo before the precourse starts.

Self study Spanish 1

You should already have a good understanding of Spanish when you start your studies in Spanish 1. Whether you have had Spanish in college, you have taken a pre-course or have learned it in another way, it is important that you repeat what you have learned before. You should make sure that you know how to conjugate verbs in the present tense, and are familiar with the regular forms of the past tense. Here is a page that can be of help:

www.studyspanish.com.

In addition, we advise you to use www.duolingo.com to practice your Spanish. You should have completed “past tense” on the Spanish course at duolingo before the course starts.

We expect you to work with the following topics during the self study period (most of the topics are from *Gramática básica del estudiante de español*):

Topic	Chapter in <i>Gramática básica</i>
Presente de indicativo	Chapters 19 - 21
El sustantivo	Chapters 1-3
El artículo (indeterminado, determinado)	Chapter 5
El adjetivo	Chapter 4
Los adverbios	
La comparación	Chapter 41
Las preposiciones	Chapters 38-39

Self study Spanish 2

Students taking Spanish 2 are expected to know Spanish already. However, remember there is a lot of course literature to get through to work your way up to a high level of Spanish comprehension.

There are some key sections from “Gramática didáctica del español” that won’t be taught in Nicaragua, but it is important that you know them for the exam. In addition, we expect you to study the following topics during the self study period:

Topic	Chapter in <i>Gramática didáctica del español</i>
Pretérito indefinido/imperfecto/perfecto	2.5.16 (repetition / learn the forms)
Presente de indicativo; usos y valores	2.5.8.1, 2.5.16 (repetition / learn the forms)
El sustantivo	2.1
El adjetivo	2.2

Part 2 – The study in Nicaragua

The advantage of studying in Leon is that you study and live in the area you read about in the academic texts and where Spanish is being spoken. Thereby you have the opportunity to create an interesting relation between your study and social life. The contact with your neighbours will become easier the more Spanish you learn, and your understanding of the society you live in becomes greater by studying the social fabric in Latin America while simultaneously interacting with Nicaraguans. In addition, your professors will be available throughout the program which will give you a closer academic follow-up. You will also experience that being part of a student body that all study at one Nicaraguan university can make the learning easier and create a common involvement and interest.

Spanish

When studying Spanish with Kulturstudier at the University of León you will experience that we have an academic approach to the studies. This does not mean it is not a practical course, on the contrary, we wish to develop your language skills so you can use the language in different settings where modern cultural language is spoken. This means that by completion of the course you should be able to talk, read, write and understand the language well. Students who study Spanish 2 will go deeper into the structure of the language to gain teaching skills.

How to study a language?

Those of us who have not learned Spanish from childhood have to do it the hard way and work actively to learn and understand the language. There are no set answers on how to do this the best way, but there's no doubt that it will take a lot of effort from you. In Kulturstudier we believe we have laid a good foundation for your learning by making sure you are actively engaged in well-organized courses while also living in a country where Spanish is the native language. But this is just a starting point, and it is always your own responsibility to make an effort to master the language inside and outside the classroom. However, we do have some useful tips on how you can get the most out of your studies:

1. Work actively from day one

When you are learning a language you should never postpone the reading till the last few weeks. The lectures will build on what you have previously learned, and if you do not understand what the teachers explain you will quickly be lost and struggle to understand the new concepts being taught. In the beginning there will inevitably be a lot of reading, but if you put in some well-spent time here it won't be long until you can cruise the town practicing your Spanish.

2. Practice what you have learned immediately

The best way to remember what you have studied in the course is to use it immediately. If you, for example, are learning different verbs, think of situations where you can use these verbs and make sentences.

3 Study together

When you are learning a new language you can always talk to the wall, however, it is far more interesting (and efficient!) to find someone to study with. Get together two or three, listen to each other and have small conversations in Spanish.

4. Speak with the other students in Spanish

It is never natural for people with the same mother tongue (i.e. Norwegian, German, English) to talk together in a different language. But it is very useful! Arrange with some of your fellow students to only speak Spanish certain times of the day. For instance, start by only speaking Spanish during breakfast, and then maybe expand to lunch after a while. It takes a bit of discipline, but it works!

5. Look for situations where you can use the language

You are in Nicaragua – a Spanish speaking country. Nicaraguans are easy to get in contact with, but if you only hang around your fellow foreign friends, it is hard for the locals to get in contact with you. Find activities and go to places where you can meet the locals. Make sure you do not let one person in your student group always take the word in Spanish. Try to avoid going to places where you mainly will find tourists, and try to speak Spanish to the foreigners you meet!

Lectures

Both Spanish levels are split into several components (see the course description). One of these components is Spanish grammar. This part will be taught in joint lectures by the professors at the UNAN-León. The lectures will be mainly in Spanish but the teachers will speak English when necessary in the first few weeks. The lecturer will explain the most central topics in the Spanish grammar for the students.

Group courses

The rest of the course will be carried out in smaller groups. Every group consists of four to six students. Here you will be taught by Nicaraguan teachers from UNAN-León who are specialised in teaching Spanish as a foreign language. This teaching will all be in Spanish. You will solve exercises related to the different components and lectures, both oral and written. You will also work both written and orally with the academic texts.

Exams

Spanish writing skills exam

Spanish written exam in Leon – all levels

Date: 18th May

- **Individual written exam**
- **UNSAM uses the following grading:**
 - Nota de 90 – 100. Excelente.
 - Nota de 80 – 90. Muy bien.
 - Nota de 70 - 80. Bueno.
 - Nota de 60 – 70. Suficiente.
 - Nota de 0 – 59. Aplazado.
- **3 hours**

Spanish grammar exam

Spanish written exam in León – all levels

Date: 25th of May

- **Individual written exam**
 - **UNAN-León uses the following grading:**
 - Nota de 90 – 100. Excelente.
 - Nota de 80 – 90. Muy bien.
 - Nota de 70 - 80. Bueno.
 - Nota de 60 – 70. Suficiente.
 - Nota de 0 – 59. Aplazado.
- 3 hours**

Spanish exam

Spanish oral exam in León – all levels

Date: 28th June – 1st June

- **Oral exam**
- **UNAN-León uses the following grading:**
 - Nota de 90 – 100. Excelente.
 - Nota de 80 – 90. Muy bien.
 - Nota de 70 - 80. Bueno.
 - Nota de 60 – 70. Suficiente.
 - Nota de 0 – 59. Aplazado.
- **15–20 minutes**

3. Reading List

Please note that the below grammar books are meant as reference literature. You must also buy some additional literature in Leon and your teacher will let you know when you meet in Leon.

Pre course:

Concha Moreno, Victoria Moreno y Piedad Zurita: Nuevo Avance Básico alumno + CD. www.akademika.no ISBN-13: [978-8497785952](https://www.isbn-international.org/product/978-8497785952)

+ the books for Spanish 1

Spanish I:

Buy one of the grammar books below:

Norwegian: Chiquito, Ana Beatriz: *Spansk referansegrammatikk*. Forlag: Fagbokforlaget, ISBN: [9788245001266](https://www.isbn-international.org/product/9788245001266)

Swedish: Falk, Johan; Sjölin, Kerstin; Lerate, Luis: *Modern spansk grammatik*. Förlag: Liber. ISBN: [9789147092154](https://www.isbn-international.org/product/9789147092154)

Danish: Halvor Søbørg, Einar Krog-Meyer: *Spansk grammatik*. Forlag: Schønberg. ISBN: [9788757013191](https://www.isbn-international.org/product/9788757013191)

English: Butt, John; Benjamin, Carmen: *A New Reference Grammar of Modern Spanish*. Publisher: Hodder Education. ISBN13: [9781444137699](https://www.isbn-international.org/product/9781444137699)

And these two Spanish books:

Rosario Alonso Raya: *Gramática básica del estudiante de español*, 2009 ISBN: [9788484437260](https://www.isbn-international.org/product/9788484437260)

Marta Baralo Ottonello, Marta Genís Pedra y M. Eugenia Santana Rollán: *Vocabulario - Nivel Medio* ISBN-13: [978-8467815368](https://www.isbn-international.org/product/978-8467815368)

Buy a Spanish/Spanish dictionary. We recommend:

Diccionario Larousse del español moderno, ISBN-978-0-451-16809-2

Buy a bilingual dictionary: Choose one in your own language

Norsk/spansk/norsk; svenska/spanska/svenska; Dansk/spansk/dansk;

English/Spanish/English

Spanish II:

Buy these grammar books :

Gómez Torrego, Leonardo: Gramática didáctica del español. Madrid: Ediciones SM, [ISBN: 9788467541359](#)

Moreno, Concha: Temas de gramática con ejercicios prácticos, [ISBN: 8497784294](#), www.akademika.no

Buy a Spanish/Spanish dictionary. We recommend:

Diccionario Larousse del español moderno, [ISBN-978-0-451-16809-2](#)

Buy a bilingual dictionary: Choose one in your own language

Norsk/spansk; Svenska/spanska; Dansk/spansk; English/Spanish...

4. Internet resources

Facts about Nicaragua (more or less apolitical):

CIA Factbook: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/nu.html>

Globalis: <http://www.globalis.no/Land/Nicaragua/%28show%29/indicators>

Newspapers:

La Prensa (Nicaragua's biggest newspaper): <http://www.laprensa.com.ni>

El Nuevo Diario (much the same format as La Prensa, more to the left in the political landscape): <http://www.elnuevodiario.com.ni/>

Confidencial (Weekly Nicaraguan newspaper with many political articles, politically it's in between La Prensa and El Nuevo Diario): <http://www.confidencial.com.ni/>

Envío (Nicaraguan social science magazine about current affairs in the Nicaragua, there are articles in both Spanish and English): <http://www.envio.org.ni/>

The Nicaraguan Dispatch (Nicaraguan newspaper in English): <http://nicaraguadispatch.com/>

Norlarnet (Norwegian Latin-American Research Network) <http://www.norlarnet.uio.no/>

Latinamerikagruppene (website with a collection of Latin American news): <http://www.latin-amerikagruppene.no/Medieklipp/index.html>

The Economist (Political magazine with focus on economic news, has overview of "America south of USA"): <http://www.economist.com/world/la/>

Tourist websites:

Official site: <http://www.intur.gob.ni/>

Private side: <http://www.nicaragua.com/>

Lonely Planet: http://www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations/central_america/nicaragua/

Norwegian organisations in Nicaragua:

NORAD: <http://www.norad.no/>

Redd Barna: <http://www.cedocsavethechildren.org.ni/>

Norsk Folkehjelp: <http://folkehjelp.no/>

LAG: <http://www.latin-amerikagruppene.no/>

SAIH: <http://www.saih.no>

Dictionaries:

Word Reference (English–Spanish): www.wordreference.com

Lexin (Norwegian–English): <http://decentius.hit.uib.no/lexin.html>

Lexin (Swedish–English):

Grammar exercises:

Study Spanish: www.studyspanish.com

Aprender Español: www.aprenderespanol.org

Others:

UNAN-León (the university we collaborate with in León): <http://www.unanleon.edu.ni/>

Sergio Ramírez: (Website for Ramírez; lots of interesting articles about society and literature): <http://www.sergioramirez.org.ni>