

Spanish Reading Comprehension

Level 0

LE-402

Updated January 2024

80 hours /4 credits

I. Course description

This is a theoretical-practical course. Its purpose is the development of reading comprehension with a communicative and contextual approach. Level 0 coincides with Level A2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) and the Cervantes Curriculum Plan, therefore those who opt for this course are assumed to have a zero or A1 level of the Spanish language. Students will be provided with linguistic tools and reading strategies so that they understand and interpret different types of short and simple written texts. Intercultural competition will be developed transversally along the course, and it will be reinforced with cultural excursions to surrounding areas. Classes will be attended at UISIL campus.

II. Objectives: At the end of the course students will be able to:

- Understand short and simple texts with everyday topics such as family, studies, description of places, etc.
- Understand basic texts such as chats, emails, etc.
- Find specific information in simple and everyday texts such as menus, schedules, etc.
- Understand signs found in public places such as train stations, airports, etc.
- Understand simple instructions.
- Understand and produce words and sentences from a text.
- Understand texts and descriptions of local sustainable projects in San Isidro del general.

III. Topics: They may be related to local excursions and visits, written Expression course topics, Reading Comprehension course, or to those in the textbook.

Topics may include, but will not be limited to, for example the following:

1. Costa Rica ¡Pura vida!
2. Ecology and nature conservation in Costa Rica
3. Indigenous cultures
4. Gender
5. Local sustainability and agroecological food systems in Costa Rica
6. Migration
7. Religion

IV. **Academic field trips:** The sites to visit on these excursions are surrounding San Isidro in southern Costa Rica. Each semester UISIL Spanish courses feature several academic field trips. After having visited these places, students must submit an assignment based on the experiential learning gained through these visits. Some field trip examples from past semesters are:

1. Longo Maï: Agricultural and ecological community (ecovillage) focused on sustainable production for self-consumption and inhabited mostly by Salvadoran immigrants who fled the war in their country in the 80s.
2. Local farms in rural communities: We visit some local farmers in rural communities with innovative and sustainable ideas who are producing traditional crops such as cocoa, coffee or sugarcane.
3. Terraba: One of the most important indigenous communities in Costa Rica. They still preserve and practice some rituals, handcrafts, building house techniques, traditional ecological knowledge and everyday customs.

V. **Language**

This course is taught in the Spanish language

VI. **Schedule:** 4 classroom hours per week (60 classroom hours) plus compulsory participation in academic field trips (20 hours).

VII. **Literature.**

Course book: Molina Guillermo, Jaime Corpas et al. (2018) *Aula America 1: Libro del alumno*. Editorial Difusion .

VIII. **Method and evaluation criteria.**

- Attendance: Students must attend 80% of the classes to be evaluated.
- Evaluation methodology: Techniques described in the CEFR will be used for the evaluation of this course.
- Summary:

Evaluation activities	Number	Value	Total
Comprehension tests	3	10%	30 %

Assignment based on academic field trips	1	20%	20 %
Final exam	1	35 %	35 %
Class participation			15 %
Total			100 %

- Scale:

90 – 100 %	A	Excellent
80 – 89 %	B	Good
70 – 79 %	C	Fair
Less than 70%		Fail