

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE

FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 7715S
Date of Senate Approval 04/30/15

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 59: **Change course description and grade mode of SPAN 110**

Effective Date: Fall 2015

1. Delete: On page 272, the entry for SPAN 110:

110 Spanish I (4)

An introduction to the study of Spanish language and culture through classroom instruction and web-based homework. The main focus of this course is on oral proficiency practice and exposure to Spanish speaking countries and cultures. Students will use classroom time and engage in web-based assignments to practice listening, speaking, reading, writing, and grammar skills. For beginners who have not previously studied Spanish. Students who completed two units of high school Spanish with grades of C or higher may not enroll in SPAN 110. Fall and Spring.

Add: On page 272, in place of deleted entry:

110 Beginning Spanish (4)

Introduction to the study of Spanish language and culture through classroom instruction and web-based homework. The main focus of this course is on oral proficiency practice and exposure to Spanish speaking countries and cultures. Students will use classroom time and engage in web-based assignments to practice listening, speaking, reading, writing, and grammar skills. This course is for beginner students who have not previously studied Spanish. Students who completed two units of high school Spanish with grades of C or higher may not enroll in SPAN 110. Grading is S/U. Fall and Spring.

Impact: The proposed changes will have no negative impact on staffing or other departmental resources. The department anticipates reducing the overall number of 100-level course sections offered as we move toward a more sustainable 4-credit-hour model for all Spanish courses. This will free faculty from teaching 100-level courses filled with students who can fulfill their language requirement in a more efficient and appropriate manner. Changing the grade mode for SPAN 110 will remove the incentive for students to enroll in the course as a means to improve their grade-point-average. We believe this will reduce the need to offer multiple sections of SPAN 110 each semester.

Rationale: Changing the SPAN 110 grading from a letter grade to a satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade will help us ensure that the SPAN 110 sections fill with true beginners who want to learn a new language for their graduation requirement, rather than those duplicating the language they took in high school. We also anticipate a marked decrease in the number of SPAN 120 sections we will offer in the future. Motivated students from the SPAN 110 course, as well as those with some experience in Spanish, will continue their language study in SPAN 130 rather than SPAN 120. Students who want to complete Spanish for their foreign language requirement, and those who want to learn the language for other reasons, will be more motivated, and transitioning into SPAN 130 (Spanish for Advanced Beginners) will be quite doable. In the past we had a number of students take 130, rather than 120, after completing 110 for reasons such as scheduling conflicts, and they completed their language requirement successfully in that manner.