

Español 1

2017-2018

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Class Description:

This course constitutes an introduction to the Spanish language. Over the next two years, each student will gain the foundation of all essential Spanish grammar. After briefly studying the development of the Spanish language, we will study the language itself and the cultures of those who speak it. The course content includes the vocabulary and grammar skills necessary to communicate in the present and partially in the past tenses.

This class will employ a number of different mediums for learning Spanish, including conversation, listening, reading, and writing. I will expect you to speak Spanish regularly in the classroom to your best ability. Since we are learning a new language, spoken and written grammatical errors are a given for ALL of us. My expectation for you is to continue putting forth effort and learning from each mistake.

Course Aims:

This course is designed for each student to:

- form a basic foundation of speaking, listening, reading, and writing in Spanish;
- acquire an understanding of and appreciation for Spanish and Latino cultures along with the many benefits of learning Spanish;
- enjoy the journey of learning a language.

It is my hope that we will collectively gain an appreciation for the cultural and linguistic diversity of God's creation. I pray that we would each be open to God using our new acquired knowledge in order to bless the nations and obey the great commission (Matt. 28:18-20).

Course Books:

- *Descubre*
- *Cuaderno de Práctica*

Class Materials:

You will keep all assignments, handouts, and quizzes with you. I will keep your tests. It is important that you bring all relevant class materials each day. Such materials include your binder, books, paper, and a writing utensil. We will also use a Spanish/English dictionary that you will need to bring to class everyday.

Grades:

We will aim to spend approximately four weeks on each chapter. For each chapter, there normally will be a variety of homework assignments, 4-5 quizzes, and one test. Quiz/Test days will usually be on WEDNESDAYS. Grades for each assignment are figured approximately as follows:

Tarea (Homework): 3 points
Pruebas (Quizzes): 10-25 points
Participacion: about about 45 points per quarter
Proyecto (Project): 50 points
Exámenes (Tests): 100 points
Exámen Final (*Final Semester Exam*): 10% of final grade

*Note: Each student's preparation for and engagement in class will be considered for a participation grade out around 45 points for every quarter. EVERY day you will receive either a +1, 1 or 0 depending on your engagement in class. This can either help or hurt your average each quarter and I expect you to take advantage of the extra points by coming prepared to do your best work in class each day.

+1 = exceptional effort that stood out, went above & beyond
1 = completed classwork and engaged & participated in class
0 = did not come prepared, did not engage or participate

The best way to succeed in Spanish is by participating in class and doing your daily work consistently. The purpose of *tarea* (homework) is to review and practice what students have learned in class, as well as prepare for a new content that students have seen. Therefore, *tarea is vital to the learning process*. Everything you will learn this year builds upon previous work. If you wait until the last minute to “cram” for tests, you will find it quite difficult to succeed. With that in mind, there are no make-ups for homework and all incomplete homework will result in a zero.

Extra Credit:

1. You will have opportunities to gain extra credit points on each Test by writing out a Bible verse in Spanish. We will look at one verse at the beginning of each Unit. If every word of the verse is written correctly, you will get bonus points.
2. Attend any church service in Spanish for an extra 15 point quiz grade each semester. You must bring me a bulletin from the service with the date/time, main sermon points and a few scripture references that the pastor used, along with 10 words that you heard in Spanish and understood from the service. *Please see me for a list of different Hispanic Church service locations & times.
3. There will be a few other opportunities for extra credit that I will announce throughout the school year. Please take advantage of these times to help your grade if needed.

Late / Make-up Work Policies:

- Absences and Assignment Due Dates: If a student is absent on the day an assignment is due, the student will receive *two days for each day absent* to complete the assignment for full credit. Exceptions can be made if the student has made prior arrangements with Mrs. Perez and exemption from normal policy is approved by an administrator.

- If a student is absent at any point after an assignment is introduced, that student is still responsible for turning in the assignment on time unless he/she has made prior arrangements with Mrs. Perez.

- Absences and Assessments: If a student misses a test or quiz due to absence, it is up to the student to make arrangements with Mrs. Perez within 2 days of returning to class. After doing so, it is up to the student to be present and on time for the make-up test.

- If a student is absent at any point prior to an assessment, that student is still required to take the assessment with the rest of the class, unless he/she has made prior arrangements with Mrs. Perez.

- Retaking a test: Students may not retake assessments unless absent on the day of the assessment and prior arrangements have been made to make up the assessment.

*Late work policy: 11% of assignment points will be deducted per day, unless the student has made prior arrangements with Mrs. Perez.

Classroom Behavior:

The guiding principle in the classroom is the love of neighbor (Lev. 19:18; Matt. 19:37-40), which I take to be dependent on one's love of God. We will encourage and support one another in the process of learning Spanish together. Any disrespectful behavior (toward your fellow students or the teacher) or class disruptions will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action. I expect students to arrive on time to class. A tardy without a note from a faculty member will result in a referral. Three referrals will result in a detention.

***Electronic Devices:** Cell phones are completely prohibited. Unauthorized possession and/or use of a device will result in a disciplinary referral and the device will be taken and given to Mrs. Messer.

Honesty:

The work that a student turns in is to be a reflection of his or her own work, and not one else's. Misrepresentation of someone else's work as your own will carry serious consequences, which may include a zero on the assignment, a detention, or any response deemed appropriate by the administration.

Study Habits:

As mentioned above, *you should spend time studying Spanish each school day*. Daily preparation, not last minute studying, is essential to learning the language. Daily assessments are graded more on completion than accuracy.

Take careful note of the errors that you have made on daily assignments and quizzes. If you work diligently on your daily assignments, you will not be surprised as to the content of the quizzes and tests. My goal is never to trick you on these evaluations; rather, the purpose of grades is to make sure that you are learning!

***Read the syllabus and show you have done so by giving your signature. Tear off this page and return it to Mrs. Perez.

Student Signature:

Date:
