



Spanish I (03601)

2016–2017 Syllabus

Teacher: Martha Garcés (Profe Garcés) | Room 331

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I aim to respond to phone calls and emails from students' family members within 24 hours.

I look forward to working with you and your family this year!

Course Description

This course is an introduction to Spanish. We will be focusing on the following:

- *Listening:* This is known as the “natural approach.” The theory is that students can learn a second language the way they learned their first, by listening to it modeled for them. You’ll also enjoy the chance to see and/or listen to videos, movies, and music in Spanish.
- *Reading:* You will read daily. We’ll read aloud as a class and practice silent reading. Short stories, authentic texts (*e.g. news articles and other writing written for Spanish-speaking audiences*), and understandable and interesting novels will provide you with daily language practice.
- *Speaking:* We learn to speak Spanish by speaking Spanish. In the first quarter you mostly will be speaking short answers to questions and learning to introduce yourself. As the year progresses you will be asked to read aloud and speak in full sentences.
- *Storytelling:* Humans love to hear and share stories. I will tell you stories, we will develop stories as a class, and you will even create, write, and illustrate your own stories.
- *Writing:* Spelling will not be my main concern. Communication is our aim.

During this course, you will use Spanish to...

- Engage in interactive oral activities (Socratic Seminar, class/partner discussion, role-play, etc.)
- Explore & study diverse texts from Spanish-speaking culture(s)
- Make connections to past and current learning in other courses
- Connect with Spanish-speaking people, places, & cultures in the community and beyond

Keys to Success

- Be brave, be a risk-taker: You will make many, many mistakes along the road to language proficiency. That is OK *and* it’s expected. The student who is willing to be brave and try will progress quickly.
- Stay engaged: In this class you will be an active participant in our learning circle as a whole class, in small groups, and during partner exercises. Show me you are listening.
- Respond: You will be expected to provide suggestions and answers EVERY class period. If you don’t understand the question, ask for clarification... or guess! My role is to help you understand.
- Be honest: If you don’t understand, say so.
- Be open-minded: Your brain is hardwired to learn languages. You’ve done it before. Keep this in mind. We’ll practice the discomfort of not understanding together. Much like exercise, we improve when the task is a little difficult. If you can understand and say everything perfectly from day one, you may be in the wrong class!

Required Materials

Bring these items to class every day:

- Something to write with (pencil preferred)
- Notebook
- Folder or binder
- Reading materials (when in use). *Note that students are responsible to come up with a full reimbursement plan in the event of a lost textbook, including paperbacks read in class.*

Academic Dishonesty (Cheating/Plagiarism)

You are expected to complete your own work at all times. Cheating or plagiarism of any sort will NOT be tolerated. If you copy or supply answers to others, you will not receive credit. This includes cutting and pasting information from websites and other online sources. Where appropriate, students must cite sources even when paraphrasing from a given text. See your RHS handbook for more information.

☞ *The use of online translators for written assignments is also strictly prohibited and will be subject to the consequences of the cheating/plagiarism policy outlined above. The use of any online site, including but not limited to Google Translate, to complete class work will be considered cheating/plagiarism. I will not grade any work that I suspect has been translated online or by another person.*

NOTE: You are allowed and *encouraged* to use online dictionaries such as **wordreference.com** to assist you in your learning. Word Reference can be visited via your web browser or through a free app.

Course Units & Summative Assessments

Quarter 1: New Perspectives	Quarter 2: Heroism	Quarter 3: Human/Civil Rights	Quarter 4: Adventure
Texts read: <i>Las aventuras de Isabela</i> by Karen Rowan Short stories & News articles	Texts read: <i>Agentes secretos y el mural secreto de Picasso</i> by Mira Canion Short stories & News articles	Texts read: <i>Esperanza</i> by Carol Gaab Short stories & News articles	Texts read: <i>Piratas del Caribe y el mapa secreto</i> by Mira Canion & Carol Gaab Short stories & News articles
Summative Assessments: Interpersonal Speaking & Listening Presentational Writing Interpretive Listening	Summative Assessments: Interpersonal Speaking & Listening Presentational Writing Presentational Speaking	Summative Assessments: Presentational Speaking Presentational Writing Interpretive Viewing	Summative Assessments: Interpersonal Speaking & Listening Presentational Writing Interpretive Reading

+90% SPANISH

I will speak Spanish 90–100% of the class period. Students will attempt the same. Research supports that this is the best way to learn. It will be difficult, but we'll do it together. As your teacher, it is my role to provide comprehensible language: Yes, we are communicating 90-100% in Spanish. The materials and language used, however, are appropriate for Spanish I learners. I will regularly pause for one-on-one and whole group checks for understanding. Please use these moments to communicate with me if you need me to slow down, re-phrase, or clarify.

Standards-Based Grading

Your grade each quarter will be based on your ability to meet specific Spanish objectives related to speaking & comprehension, reading, and writing graded on a set of rubrics. This class uses an 8-point rubric system for all summative assessments. These will be shared with the class early in the school year. The rubric grades will then be transferred into a numerical grade on a 100% grading scale.

Grades will be based on the following:

SUMMATIVE — 80%

Mastery of objectives in each quarter related to speaking, reading, writing, and listening

FORMATIVE — 20%

Class work, homework, quizzes, participation, and use of Spanish

Letter grades will be decided based upon these percentage points:

A — 85–100%

B — 65–84%

C — 45–64%

D — 30–44%

Students are required to complete EVERY summative assignment given. If the student does not complete an assignment, they will receive a (F) on their transcripts. If the student does not complete the work in 30 days, the quarter grade will remain an F. In short, students will fail the entire quarter if they do not complete every summative assignment.

Appropriate accommodations and/or modifications will be made for students with IEP and 504 plans.

Homework

You are encouraged to spend at least 20 minutes a day reviewing skills learned in class. This can be done reviewing notes, reading novels (you can borrow one!), practicing with Duolingo, Quizlet, or other online programs. Students will be expected to complete homework assignments and/or finish work not completed in class as assigned.

Extra credit: Due to classes being graded on ability, no extra credit is given.

Re-Dos and Retakes: Re-Dos and retakes are not available for summative assessments.

Missing & Late Work: Any late assignments will receive a grade reduction and will receive a score of 0 three days after the assigned due date.

Excused absences/makeup work: When you are absent it is your job to find and complete the work you missed. Talk to Profe after school (NOT right before or during class) to go over missed classwork.

- If you are gone because of an excused absence the day something is assigned, you will have **3 days** to make it up.
- If you are absent on the day of a quiz or assessment, you will also have **3 days** to make-up that quiz or assessment before or after school.
- Make-up quizzes and assessments will not be administered during class.

Classroom Conduct: *RULES (REGLAS)... Respect. Engage. Grow. Listen. Achieve. Smile.*

As a high school student, you should be self-aware and self-disciplined when it comes to your conduct in the classroom. All school rules and policies apply (food, attire, electronics, and behavior). No food, drinks other than water, or gum is allowed in the classroom.

Learning Spanish happens best when you are engaged in Spanish. Each class is designed so that you will listen, speak, read, and write in Spanish. To ensure you are engaged, you are required to arrive to class on time and be here daily. *See your RHS handbook and postings around the building for our school's complete attendance and tardy policy.*

Each student will be required to use their planner to leave the room. Students are expected to use the bathroom, get a drink, refill water bottles, and visit their locker during the 5-minute passing time. Students will be not allowed to leave during the first or last ten minutes of class time and may only leave during work time. Students should not ask for passes during instruction time.

Students are not allowed to use personal electronic devices such as cell phones, headphones, MP3 players during class time. They must be in silent mode or turned off and stored unless students are specifically directed otherwise by their teacher. *Students who violate this policy will be subject to confiscation of their devices and further disciplinary action.* See the RHS handbook for details.

Positive behavior will be reinforced through:

- Positive phone calls/e-mails home
- Rewards
- High fives
- Greater chances for success in Spanish!

Students who repeatedly struggle to meet expectations should expect one or more of the following interventions:

- Teacher/student conference
- Conference with dean
- Time after school
- Contact with parent/guardian

Safer Spaces

With all of the pressures of being a young adult, it's easy to sometimes feel uncomfortable or left out. Things like racial, ethnic, homophobic or transphobic "jokes" and language, disrespect for an individual's identity, negative comments on someone's clothing or abilities, or excluding people based on gender/race/ethnicity/ability/orientation, etc. can make our school's spaces feel hostile, stressful, dangerous, and UNSAFE. **A Safer Space** is a space that is safe, inclusive, and welcoming for EVERY BODY, regardless of gender/race/ethnicity/ability/orientation, etc. As your teacher, I cannot guarantee safety — we are all responsible for making safer spaces. Through community building, co-construction of classroom expectations, and a consistent approach to classroom engagement, I will work alongside you to provide a physically & emotionally safe environment: Please come to me if you ever feel unsafe or disrespected in our shared space and do not feel comfortable saying so in front of the class. Know that name calling, inappropriate language, and nonverbal disrespect will not be tolerated.

Please fill out the following and return to Profe Garcés

DUE Tuesday, Sept. 6, 2016

For Students:

I, (print name) _____, have read the syllabus and understand what is expected of me in Spanish class and how my grade will be determined.

Student signature: _____ Date: _____

For Students & Families:

Parent(s)/Guardian name(s), please print: _____

Please sign below to verify that you have read and understood the policies of Spanish I.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Best phone number(s) to be reached from 8am–5pm:

Email address(es), optional:

Please check the form of communication that works best for you:

_____ Phone _____ Email

Additional:

I give permission for my student to be photographed in class:

_____ Yes _____ No

I give permission for my student to watch an R-rated movie that is linked to the curriculum we are studying. (This may not happen but just in case).

_____ Yes _____ No

I give permission for my student to go on a “walking field trip” in which we walk to somewhere in the community for a cultural experience.

_____ Yes _____ No

I am interested in the following opportunity for my student:

_____ Concordia Language Villages Weekend (language camp)

_____ International travel on a future RHS guided trip to a Spanish-speaking country

Additional comments that you would like me to know about your student:

