

## Course Expectations for Spanish Conversation and Culture Through Film 2025 - 2026

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[My schedule](#)

### Course overview

This is a full-year course but can be taken as a semester elective as well. In this class, students will build their proficiency in Spanish conversation while learning about the diverse cultures of the Spanish-speaking world through contemporary films and documentaries. Students will view and discuss films from Latin America and Spain. A wide variety of thematic topics will be covered. These include Democracy and Dictatorship, Sports, Music, Human Rights, Immigration, Fantasy and Reality, Violence and Corruption, Love, Ethnicity and Class Identity, Indigenous Cultures of the Americas, Comedy, and Urban Life. Films will be viewed primarily during the first half of class; the rest of classroom time will be devoted to discussion and analysis of the cultural themes. Evaluation is based on participation and homework, as well as spoken and written assessments. Since the emphasis of the course is on speaking, students are expected to use Spanish for all classroom interactions.

### Materials

We will not be using a textbook in this class. The films we view will form the basis for our curriculum and discussion. The objectives of this class are two-fold: to improve your conversational Spanish and to learn about the cultures of Spain and Latin America. You will receive supplementary vocabulary-building exercises, writing prompts, and comprehension questions regularly. Please bring a 3-ring binder in which to keep your handouts and materials.

### Assignments

If you are out sick, please make arrangements the day you return to make up any missed work, including viewing the film you missed. If you plan to be away from class, please notify me ahead of time. Daily assignments will be posted on our Google classroom webpage.

### Attendance

Students are responsible for reading and following the school's attendance policy as stated in the *Handbook for Students and Parents*. Any unauthorized absence from class will exclude a student from participation in co-curricular activities that school day. More than two tardy arrivals is considered excessive and will result in after school detention. Unexcused absent or tardy students will not be able to make up tests or quizzes.

### Makeup tests and quizzes

If you are absent the day a test or quiz is administered, you will have one week to make up the work you missed. Simply go to the language lab during a free period or study and ask the teacher on duty to administer the test which will be filed under your name in our makeup folder. You do not need to find me in order to make up work during the day. If you do not have any free blocks, arrangements can be made for makeup work after school.

### **Grading \***

Unexcused absent or tardy students will not be able to make up tests or quizzes. Quarter grades will be calculated as follows:

- Written quizzes and tests/oral tests and quizzes/ projects 60%
- Class discussion, participation and homework 40%

OR

- Written quizzes and tests/oral tests and quizzes/ projects 60%
- Class discussion, participation 30%
- Homework 10%

\*These categories could be merged into one or divided into two under teacher's discretion

Here is a simplified rubric on how I grade class discussion:

**A** - Uses Spanish for all classroom interactions. Actively participates in discussions about films with partners, in small groups and with the entire class. Observations are well-informed and insightful. Asks good questions.

**B** - Uses Spanish for most classroom conversation but occasionally uses English with classmates. Frequently contributes to class discussions.

**C** - Uses English in classroom interactions with the teacher and their classmates. May need to be reminded to use Spanish. Does not actively contribute to conversational activities.

### **Retake Policy:**

If you didn't do as well on an in-class assessment as you had hoped, you can make up the assessment. Please make an appointment with me for extra help / practice and I will administer a different assessment on the same material.

- Your midterm is a comprehensive assessment and consists of a five minute one on one interview with the teacher. Generally, students receive the conversational topics ahead of time so they may prepare and practice their responses. Although some spontaneous conversation is expected, the midterm exam and the final project focus on the cultural topics emphasized during each semester. The midterm and final exams count for 10% each in calculating the final grade for the year in C&C.

**Final grade for the 2024-2025 year:**

**quarters 1,2,3,4 = 80%**

**Midterm and final exam = 20%**

### **What to bring**

Everyone must arrive promptly with all the needed materials: notebook, and handouts.

### **Español**

Since the class will be conducted in Spanish, we would like to remind you not to be afraid to make mistakes!

Errors are a part of the learning process. We hope to nurture an environment in which we can all demonstrate respect for one another as we take risks speaking Spanish. In addition, it is preferable for us to use our Spanish outside of class as well when we see each other.

### **Here is what I expect from students:**

- You will use Spanish exclusively in the classroom. Your classroom participation grade is based on both the quantity and quality of your spoken Spanish.
- You will treat everyone in the class, including the teacher, and substitute teachers with the respect due to all human beings.
- You will not plagiarize or otherwise steal the works of others. Likewise, you will not use online translation programs for writing assignments. It will be evident to me if you use google translate! Online dictionaries are fine.

- You will attend every class, give your full attention to the material and conduct yourself in an appropriate manner.
- Your cell phone is on silent and is in your backpack

**Here is what you can expect from the teacher:**

- I will treat you with the respect due to all human beings.
- I will not discriminate against you on the basis of your identity or your viewpoints.
- I will manage the class in a professional manner. That may include educating you in appropriate behavior.
- I will prepare carefully for each class.
- We will begin and end class on time.
- I will return quizzes and tests in a timely fashion (2-3 days for quizzes, within a week for tests, projects and papers)
- I will keep careful records of your attendance, performance and progress.
- I will make myself available for extra help sessions after school or during mutually convenient times during the school day.
- Your grade will reflect the quality of your work and nothing else.

**Extra help:**

Sign up for my flexblock or we can schedule a time that works for both of us.