



Spanish

SPANISH 7

Instructor: Señor M. Posey
Academic Year: 2007-2008

Contact Information:

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Course description:

This year-long Spanish class focuses on developing students' listening, speaking and writing skills. The course centers around *Conversaciones contigo*, a comprehensive beginning text that gives special emphasis to speaking Spanish while allowing students to experience the cultural diversity of the Spanish-speaking world within the context of current Hispanic culture.

In addition to the adopted textbook, an ancillary Spanish revista (magazine), *¿Qué tal?* and supplementary technology and multimedia resources will provide students with focused understanding of how to respond and engage Spanish-speakers in everyday, contemporary situations.

Course objectives:

- ❖ Understand most Spanish spoken slower than normal pace, understand some Spanish spoken at a normal pace, and develop skills and coping strategies for filling in the gaps of imperfect comprehension;
- ❖ Speak well enough to be able to ask and answer questions on everyday topics, describe people and places, narrate recurring (present) events and achieve some ability in narrating past events;
- ❖ Perform many daily routines in Spanish such as making phone calls;
- ❖ Read simple material, as well as some materials written for the native-speaking reader;
- ❖ Write with the same proficiency with which they speak.

Required Textbooks:

Conversaciones contigo, Amsco School Publications, New York: 2007. ISBN: 978-1-56765-807-1

Required Materials:

Three-ring binder with pockets: A **separate three-ring binder with pockets** is *required* for the class. There should also be sufficient amounts of regular lined paper in each section.

The notebook should be divided into five sections: **(1) Clase** (which will include class notes) **(2) Hojas**, **(3) Historia/Cultura**, **(4) Los deberes** and **(5) Pruebas/Exámenes**.

Optional materials (but highly recommended):

- 3x5 index cards (for vocabulary)
- Red pen or brightly colored highlighter
- Index card box and/or metal ring
- dry-erase marker (for whiteboards)
- Flat notebook three-hole puncher
- Spanish aid: [Quick Study Academic: Spanish Grammar](#)
- USB keyring (jumpdrive)

Classroom Rules and Expectations:

Students are expected to be in their seats within five minutes of the previous bell with **all** their materials (pen/pencil, notebook, and texts). Students will be discouraged from leaving class to retrieve materials from their lockers.

Students are responsible for their work even if they miss class! Students may check current assignments by writing down homework assignments from the board and/or contacting a classmate or checking on-line and printed resources. I suggest that each student keep the e-mail address and/or telephone number handy of two classmates so that he/she can contact them in case of an emergency.

Students are **expected** to make up all graded assignments as soon as they return to school following an absence. Students will be given **one week** from their absence to make up graded material.

I would like to call your attention to the school's policy against **plagiarism** and other forms of cheating including copying homework from other students. Have confidence that you can do the class work on your own. Please refer to the Student Handbook for details and consequences.

Respect yourself, your classmates, your teacher and your classroom.

- ❖ Do not throw any objects in the classroom.
- ❖ Expect attention and silence when you speak and observe the same attention and silence when another student is speaking.
- ❖ Please keep your desk and the area around it neat and free of litter. Please help to maintain the overall quality of the classroom by policing your own area. Do not write or lean on desks.
- ❖ The study of another subject will not be permitted during this class.

- ❖ The class will be dismissed by the instructor, not the bell. Do not put away items until told to do so.
- ❖ Students are not to use teacher's laptop, write on the whiteboard, nor touch anything on the teacher's desk unless given specific directions from the teacher to do so. Students will be penalized with participation points for failing to abide by these instructions.

The following pledge in Spanish will be written on each major assignment, test and quiz with the student's signature.

Juro que no he dado ni recibido ayuda en este trabajo ni he notado ninguna infracción del Código de Honor.

Workload and Grading:

There will be a **weekly** quiz, regular **daily** homework assignments and **three** section tests each marking period, all of which will test a student's grammatical, aural and oral understanding and comprehension of the subject matter.

Progress Reports will be sent to parents/guardians periodically to indicate a student's progress and performance in class. Such reports are not limited to those students with poor grades. Positive reports will be sent as well.

Marking period grades will be computed as follows (*subject to change*):

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Tests | 35% |
| Homework | 20% |
| Quizzes | 25% |
| Project and presentation | 15-20% |
| Participation | 10% |
| Total | 100% |

Homework Policy:

The timely completion of homework assignments is crucial for learning the Spanish language. Homework is necessary to reinforce what is presented in class, identify problem-learning areas, and facilitate student competency in Spanish. Regular preparation guarantees that students will recognize what they have learned and what they still do not understand. It gives the students and the teacher an opportunity to decide whether to review material or to go ahead. If students have not done the work, they are unaware of their own knowledge base.

Homework will be given almost every night, although usually in small, manageable doses (15-20 minutes). Homework assignments taken from your textbook or supplementary materials will be checked everyday, then reviewed in class. I would urge you to please make corrections to your assignments because much of the material reviewed in class will be reflected in the tests and quizzes.

Each quarter, the student will start out with 100 homework points. For each homework assignment not completed, the student will lose 5 points (half-completed homework assignments are worth 2.5 points).

Tests and Quizzes:

At the end of almost every chapter, students will take a culminating chapter test. In most cases, review sheets will be given to students prior to the test's date. Tests will **ALWAYS** be announced and posted well in advance. At least one quiz will be taken every week on chapter/section vocabulary. I encourage students to make vocabulary flash cards and/or utilize on-line resources in order to review vocabulary.

Reports and Projects:

Several written and visual projects will be assigned throughout the year and will be graded. These will be announced far in advance of their due dates and students will receive direction regarding requirements. Projects will focus on grammar and/or Spanish culture and oftentimes will involve some technological component. Much of the work will be done outside of the classroom. The class will utilize resources such as the computer lab and the library as needed.

Participation:

Students are given participation grades based on their effort during oral, aural, grammatical and reading exercises in the classroom. This grade is based on being on-task (paying attention), bringing necessary materials to class, volunteering to answer questions in class and following rules and directions.

Each student begins each quarter with 100 class participation points. Failure to come to class prepared to learn and work will result in a loss of 5 points.

Technology:

Lastly, technology will play a large role in this class. Computers are provided for use by all students and many times throughout the year class will be held in the computer lab. Students are encouraged to check the class' web page often for supplementary materials.

Also it is important that students write down/remember their user name and password for class activities. The school also provides each student with a networked folder. In order to transport work from home and back to school, I would recommend that students invest in a USB keyring (jumpdrive) or e-mail. Lastly, I encourage students to save all work on their networked folder. Most importantly, misbehavior in the computer lab will not be tolerated.