

Denver School of the Arts
School Year 2013-2014
Spanish 4X Syllabus
Instructor: Diego Cerón
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Why learn Spanish in Denver? "The US Census Bureau on August 8, 2007 announced that Denver County has crossed a cultural threshold: Sometime between 2005 and 2006 white non-Spanish/Latino/Hispanic residents became a minority." "Now, 50.01 % of the population of 566.974 is non-white." The fastest growing segment of the non-white population is Latinos.*

*This information was taken from The Denver Post, August 9, 2007

I. Course Description:

This is the fourth course in a five-year sequence that culminates in AP Spanish Language. This two-semester course continues expanding students' proficiency in the four skills (listening, speaking, writing and reading). Students will be able to do the following in Spanish: Extract information from what they listen, carry out an informal dialogue and be able to communicate information in a formal presentation, read and understand stories, articles, poems, and fiction and non fiction books, write stories, book reviews, poems, articles, and essays.

The course reviews all the Spanish grammar in the context of communication. Students will practice how and when they need to use a particular part of grammar to make communication possible.

This course includes reading literature written by authors from Spain, Hispano-America, and United States. The students will also watch some authentic movies in Spanish or with Spanish subtitles, and listen to different singers from the Hispanic world. This course adds to the knowledge of all aspects of Spanish culture. Classes are entirely taught in Spanish and students are encouraged to participate freely in discussions and to communicate, even among themselves, in Spanish.

II. Materials & Supplies

Students are expected to bring the following to class on a daily basis:

-Textbook: *Abriendo paso; Gramática* (Prentice Hall)

-A 3-ring binder with 5 sections as follows:

- Syllabus
- Readings & Vocabulary
- Grammatic Structures
- Homework
- Assessment (grade work, projects, progress report, etc)

-Pens and pencils

-Composition notebook

-Previous handouts

-A Spanish-English dictionary

III. Course Content Outline

Each chapter includes:

Vocabulary – Speaking – Listening – Writing – Reading Exercises (We will read non-fiction and fiction texts from different Spanish speaking countries)

August

Introduction to the Course and General Review

September

How to Narrate and Describe in the Past – Preterite, Imperfect, Present Perfect, and Pluperfect

October

How to Describe and Compare Things, Differences and Similarities – Adjectives, Demonstrative Adjectives, Demonstrative Pronouns, Possessive Adjectives, Possessive Pronouns, and Comparisons

November

How to Describe Things You Do in the Present – Present, and Progressive

December

How to Express Desires and Obligations – Commands, Subjunctive Present, and Perfect Present Subjunctive

January

How to Express Desires, Plans and Ideas about the Future – Future, and Perfect Future

February

How to Narrate and Describe in the Past II – Imperfect Subjunctive, Pluperfect Subjunctive, Conditional, and Perfect Conditional

March

Nouns, Articles, Subject Pronouns, Prepositional Pronouns

April

Object Pronouns, Relative Pronouns, Interrogatives and Exclamations, Numbers

May

Indefinite and Negative Words, Verbs Like Gustar, Adverbs, and Por and Para

This outline may be expanded, reduced, or modified as necessary.

IV. Grading

Grading Criteria

| | |
|--|-----|
| • Academic Participation* | 20% |
| • Class Work (listening, speaking, writing, reading exercises) | 20% |
| • Homework | 10% |
| • Projects | 10% |
| • Quizzes, Tests, and Other Assessments | 30% |
| • Semester Assessment | 10% |

*(For the class participation grade the following will be considered: **speaking Spanish in class**, presence in class, punctuality, and respect for the teaching/learning process.)

Grading Scale

| | |
|----|----------|
| A | 93 – 100 |
| A- | 90 – 92 |
| B+ | 87 – 89 |
| B | 83 – 86 |
| B- | 80 – 82 |
| C+ | 77 – 79 |
| C | 73 – 76 |
| C- | 70 – 72 |
| D | 60 – 69 |
| F | below 60 |

V. Tutoring

For after school help or make up work I will be available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays after school.

VI. Expectations

- **Attendance and Participation:** Absences are detrimental to your learning. Students are expected to come prepared with materials and to be ready to participate and learn in all speaking, listening, reading, and writing activities.
- **Tardy Policy:** If tardiness becomes persistent I will contact home and talk to the Dean of Students.
- **Late Work:** Late work will be accepted for **excused** absences and must be completed within **48 hours**. After that, no work can be made up unless you have contacted me beforehand. **All other work is accepted for 75% off of your grade for that assignment and must be completed within 2 weeks.** It is the student's responsibility to find out what was missed during an absence.
- **Food and Drinks:** Coffee, tea, water, and gum are acceptable. Food is not acceptable.
- **Electronic Devices:** Keep your phone off or set it to "silent". Don't text in class or listen to music on your own device. There is NO individual music during tests. I will take your phone/iPod away if you abuse this policy, and you are welcome to pick it up from me at the end of the day. Repeated violations will result in discussions with parents/administration.
- **Class Rules:** Students are expected to behave properly in the classroom by following these class rules:
 1. **Respect Yourself and Others**
 2. **Speak Spanish**
 3. **Respect the Teaching/Learning Process**

These rules will ensure that we will have a great year! If one or more of the above rules are broken, the following steps will be taken:

1. Verbal warning
2. Conference with student and call home
3. Conference with student, call home or parent/teacher conference
4. Student is referred to the Dean of Students

VII. Signatures

Please go over the 4X Spanish syllabus. When you have read it and discussed it, bring back this page no later than the second week of class signed by both yourself and your parents, or have your parent send me an email acknowledging that you two went over it. Make sure that the student name and class period is on the email confirmation. Don't hesitate if you have any questions. I am looking forward to a successful and fun school year with you.

Student Name _____

Student Signature _____

Date _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____