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James Madison Preparatory School

Spanish Syllabus, 2022-2023

Office Hours: During Study Hall and by Appointment

Spanish Syllabus

1. Course Description

In this class, students will develop their Spanish skills. This will be done using topic presentations, extensive homework, videos, research, reading of books, writing, audio recordings and more. Students will enrich their skills, vocabulary and general knowledge. These activities help build competency in each of the four language skills—listening, speaking, reading, and writing. We will also look into the cultural aspects of the Spanish speaking world and the differences between cultures.

2. Students will be able to

- Practice their Spanish pronunciation skills.
- Listen to native Spanish speakers in an array of different settings.
- Practice listening, speaking, reading, and writing.
- Gain cultural knowledge of the Spanish speaking world.
- Develop their ability to communicate and express themselves with confidence.
- Appreciate the diversity present in the Spanish speaking world.
- Set up appointments for office hours contacting the teacher via email at msolimo@jamesmadisonprep.net if they are in need of help. This is their responsibility and they must take control of their learning process.
 - Office hours won't be a place to complete homework, but to ask for help when confused or in doubt.

3. Requirements and Grading

- a. With every lecture will come review homework that will be graded.
 - i. We will have presentations almost every day.
 - ii. For the most difficult topics we'll get a second review day instead of a new topic presentation.
- b. Exams can be expected every two weeks, both written and oral.

- i. Before every exam, the day before (or Friday if the exam is on a Monday) we'll have a review quiz for you to practice beforehand and to know what to expect on the day of the exam.
- c. Some in-class work days will be given for long-term assignments or projects.
- d. Late or incomplete work will receive partial credit.
 - i. Late work turned up to 24hs after the due date will count as 50% of total credit. Late work turned more than 24hs after the due date will receive zero points and marked as missed.
 - ii. The partial credit for incomplete work will represent the missing percentage.
 - 1. E.g. If your assignment is missing 25% of answers, partial credit will be 75%.
- e. Each trimester will have its own final exam.
 - i. This final exam will cover all seen to date in a given trimester.
- f. Some exams might have a bonus question that will count as extra credit if answered correctly, but it will deduct points from the exam if answered incorrectly. If left blank it would count as if the question was never there.
 - i. This is the only extra credit this class will have.
- g. Your final grade will be composed as
 - i. Exams will represent 25% of your final grade.
 - ii. Final exam for each trimester will represent 30% of your final grade.
 - iii. Homework will represent 15% of your final grade.
 - iv. Student presentations will represent 20% of your final grade.
 - v. Participation in class will represent 10% of your final grade.

4. Proficiency Levels

Our class will be divided into three different levels.

- Novice
- Intermediate/Advanced
 - Heritage Speaker
 - Those who already speak Spanish but never had formal training, usually as it's spoken at home.

5. Can Do Statements

As part of the skill development each student will be asked to fill a Can Do Statement provided by the teacher. This is a great tool for students to gauge their own knowledge in an honest manner and defend their skills if required. Each trimester, the students and the teacher will meet, at least once, 1-on-1 to discuss their skills. This tool will be explained on the first day of class.

6. Glossary

Students will build vocabulary as the class progresses, so it is important that you build your own Glossary using the new vocabulary that is relevant to you. This is your learning process, so you will be in charge of deciding if the new vocabulary is relevant enough for you to add to your glossary. It's best to have a separate notebook for this with space for you to add notes next to each new word as well as their English translation.

7. Workbook and Reading books

- All students will receive the “**No Nonsense Spanish Workbook, the better way to learn grammar**”, by *Caitlin H. Cuneo*.
- Students in the Novice level will also get “**Short & Easy Spanish Novels for Beginners**”, by *Joe Arenas*.
- Students in the Intermediate/Advanced level will also get “**Short Stories in Spanish**” by *Olly Richards*.
- Students in the Heritage Speaker level will also get “**El Libro de los Americanos Desconocidos, una novela**” by *Cristina Henríquez*.

8. Google Classroom

In case of necessity, a Google Classroom will be created for online classes.

9. Cheating

Remember our code of conduct. Cheating not only dampens your personality and who you are as an individual, it also dampens the chances you are given to better yourself and your skills. You were given the opportunity to choose between two options and you chose this, so act accordingly, stay truthful to yourself and trust your skills.

Cheating will **not** help you “get good grades”, it will only leave you empty of knowledge that will come handy in life after school. This is true for all your classes and everyday life.