

Syllabus and Expectations
Spanish I Honors 2016-2017 Ms. Foster

Course description: This is an honors level introduction to the Spanish language and the people who speak it. We'll learn to understand, speak, read and write the language as we explore some of the customs in countries where it is spoken. The value of having a cross-cultural understanding in today's global society is an integral part of foreign language learning.

Your focus: To be successful and to enjoy the class your focus must be on **LEARNING**, not on the credit or grade. The reason is that if you don't really *learn* your current material well, you won't be able to understand the next ones, and your grade will begin to drop. So, just try to remember: **It is NOT about the grade; it's about the LEARNING!**

Expectations during class time:

Your current occupation of "student" is a valuable and important investment in your future life. Expectations for classroom behavior should reflect this. Like with any job, you socialize with friends during your own personal time, (between classes and at lunch). Similarly, you take care of personal needs, such as visiting the restroom, during personal, not work, time. (Only those on the nurse's medical list or those whose parents have contacted me about an individual situation should ask to leave class.) So, plan restroom visits ahead of time—before classes begin for the day, during lunch, after school. Teachers have to do the same.

You are expected to have your *own* work materials with you (textbook, workbook, paper, pencil, handouts, etc.). Only your Spanish class materials are allowed on desks (no purses, other work, etc.) Cell phones are not allowed to be brought into the classroom. Students whose actions suggest attempted use of a cell phone (from pocket, purse, behind a book, etc.) will be referred to the Dean of Students.

Class rules: In addition to those procedural rules presented throughout your syllabus, our most important rules of behavior are:

- Treat everyone as if they were Jesus, and be Jesus to others.
- Be considerate, be conscientious, be adult.
- Conduct yourself as if on the job & working for a promotion. (You are.)

Grading (for each quarter)

Notes: * Grades are recorded in %, not points.

- *--Assignment grades are *open book* and assist you in learning
- Test grades are *closed book* and show your actual learning
- So, they do not count the same.

1. Classwork/Assignment average: 50%

Classwork grades can come from daily participation in the learning activities (focus on task, appropriate use of time, having your materials, effort to do your best to learn), from written practices (mainly from our workbook), or from oral responses in French.

When we do have written work, it is often done during class. This allows you to (a) practice while it is fresh in your mind; (b) ask questions or get help if needed; (c) better avoid reinforcing errors; (d) show that you have done your own work. I do not accept work that is messy, illegible, has scratch-outs or

over-writes. You are required to use pencil and eraser to write your answers and make changes. Answers may only be written in pen if you have your own correction fluid/pen/tape with you to use.

If you have used your class time well, but were unable to finish written or other work during class, it can still be submitted at the beginning of the following class day for full credit, provided you have it finished *before you enter the room* the next class day. (That is, you are not allowed to do it at the last minute before the bell rings.) Late work *may* be accepted, only at the teacher's discretion, and only when late by one day. The credit received is reduced by one letter grade, (approximately 8 points). No credit is given past the circumstances described above, and the work is recorded as a 0.

Daily home assignment ("homework"): Since we do the traditional homework (written work) in class, the daily assignment for home is instead to spend a minimum amount of time between each class day practicing and studying, in order to learn whatever we were doing that day in class. This is a requirement, not optional. It is also an important habit for college success! This one simple action will increase your understanding, overall learning, and achievement. I promise.

2. Test/quiz average: 50%

Tests are generally scheduled after each chapter or when deemed appropriate by the teacher. Periodic quizzes may be given in between. Since tests are announced in advance, a student who misses only the class before, but returns on the previously announced test/quiz day is required to take the test. (This is common sense and the same as would be expected of an employee who receives his work schedule in advance.) All students are expected to have studied before coming to class, but it's always a good idea to refresh your memory by looking at it again briefly before the bell rings to start class.

Accessing your grades: This information is available online 24/7 to both students and parents via iNow Parent Portal. (Please understand that due to the time required to provide your grades online, it is up to YOU to take the time to view them. Please do not ask the teacher to do this for you. Media Center computers are available to you both before and after school, if unable to look them up at home.)

Honor Code - The 9th Commandment

NOTHING justifies taking credit for work that is not your own. Copying answers from someone is not "helping each other", it is lying. Like plagiarism, you are cheating by taking what is someone else's and claiming it to be your own. Such action violates what Christ taught us and what we represent at OCHS. Both the person receiving and the person giving answers will receive 0's, no matter how much or how little was copied, along with other disciplinary action as is outlined in the student handbook. In addition, I personally deny recommendation for memberships, scholarships, job references or rewards to those who cheat.

Cheating includes:

- Copying answers from someone else (any amount)
- Use of online or other external translators
- "Working together" (sharing answers) on an assignment to be done on your own
- Communicating in any form during a quiz, test, or other in-class graded activity
- Violating test-taking rules (looking anywhere other than own test sheet; putting hands anywhere other than on desk, including pockets and purses; having anything other than test sheet and writing

tools on desk; talking or other communication; having writing on one's person or desk, offering to or accepting from another student information about what's on a test.)

Absences and Make-up Work

We don't want you to be at school if you are very ill or contagious. However, since you can get behind quickly in foreign language, make sure the absence is truly unavoidable. Do not schedule orthodontist or other appointments during foreign language class! It's not that this class is more important; it's because you can't catch up by just reading it in English. You're allowed to make up missed work, but it's impossible to make up all the missed information and lost learning that comes from class interaction.

What to do if absent:

Absentees are REQUIRED to go to my web page for information on what you missed. This must be done before the day of our next class meeting. You will find my teacher page by either going to <http://fosterochs.weebly.com/> or ochs.owensborocatholic.org (under "Academics").

Sorry, no exceptions. There are simply too many other things going on during class time to address absences. If unable to log on at home, the computers in the Media Center are available to you before or after school, so you can meet this requirement. Asking a classmate is not a substitute, since make-up assignments may be different.

The missed learning activities and make-up work must be done outside of regular class time, and due within a school week of the absence (unless the student makes other arrangements with the teacher beforehand). It's the student's responsibility to remember, not the teacher's to issue reminders about missed work or due dates.

I am very glad to clarify and answer questions on missed lessons, but can only do so *before or after school*, and only after you've first done one or more of the following on your own:

- studied the missed material for understanding, as much as possible
- met with a classmate to help explain what you missed
- requested an NHS student tutor (recommended when additional, individualized assistance is needed or for extended absences)

Students who miss the original quiz or test day should check with the teacher on when the make-up will be given, then remember to make any needed arrangements with parents, drivers, coaches, etc. (Be sure that you have met the absentee's requirement to check my teacher web page before the next class, as the information may be posted there.) It's the student's responsibility to insure that Mom & Dad know, alarms go off, your ride arrives on time, etc., etc. Your teacher has many additional responsibilities and obligations for her time, so be sure you show up as expected since a second chance may not be given.

Study Techniques (How to make an 'A' or 'B' in Spanish)

Imagine a sport or other skill you like, anything from football to softball to videogames or playing a musical instrument. Can you learn to be a good player by just sitting & watching? Will you be successful if you don't make a personal commitment to it? Does it make sense to sign up for an activity and think you'll do well without extra practice, drills and hard work? Foreign language is no different! You have to commit both class and personal time to learning, improving and practicing.

Here are some successful techniques:

1. Practice the vocabulary word or material you're trying to learn as you both speak and write it. Do this several times until it starts to stay in your memory.
2. Try making flash cards or a study sheet of two columns--one with the Spanish words you are responsible for learning and a second column with the English meanings.
Then, cover up the English side as you look at the Spanish word. See if you can correctly pronounce it and remember its meaning. Next, and even more importantly, cover up the French side as you look at the English. See if you can correctly write the Spanish word. Check your spelling! The word is not correct if it's spelled incorrectly.
3. Take advantage of the online practice resources provided with our textbooks.
4. ★★ ★ You'll only learn to *speak* Spanish by using it outside of class. Speak it with friends, in study groups or at home when possible. You'll never learn to speak it if you only do so for 85 minutes a day, just 2-3 days a week.

My promise as your teacher:

You can expect me to be very caring, conscientious and dedicated to you. I want you be successful in your foreign language journey and hope you'll enjoy it along the way! Please do not hesitate to come talk to me if you have concerns or find yourself having difficulty. Together we can find a way to help.

Ms. Foster

KEEP THIS SYLLABUS throughout the year, either with your other class materials or at home in a place where you can easily refer to it. A copy is also posted on my web page.