

Syllabus and Expectations  
Spanish I CP 2016-17 Ms. Foster

Course description: This is an college preparatory introduction to the Spanish language and some customs in countries where it is spoken. A strong work ethic, a good understanding of English grammar, and an open mind for cultural differences are needed. We cover much of the same material as the honors class, but in less depth. It is still a rigorous course which demands the student accept individual responsibility for his/her own learning, both in and outside of class.

Your focus: It's important that you focus on doing your best to LEARN Spanish, rather than just getting a grade or credit. If your main focus is just getting by enough to get a credit, , you'll find yourself unable to do new material because the past ones weren't really *learned*. So try to remember: "It's 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: Details are in this syllabus, but can be summarized as:

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

Grading: Classwork/Assignments = 35%; Quizzes/Tests = 35%; Participation = 30%

1. Classwork/Assignments: 35%

Classwork and assignment grades may come from listening, speaking or writing activities in Spanish. When work is written, we try to do, or at least start, it in class. This allows you to (a) practice while it is fresh in your mind; (b) ask questions or get help if needed; (c) avoid reinforcing errors; and (d) show that you've done your own work.

Written work must be done in pencil, so that you can neatly erase anything you need to change. Pen is accepted ONLY if you've brought your own "white-out" for making corrections. Writing must be legible and correctly spelled, in order to count. (Over-writes and scratch-outs are messy or illegible and are not accepted.)

If you have used your class time well, but were still unable to finish written or other work during class, it can still be turned in for on-time credit if finished *before you enter the room*, next class. (That is, you may not be still working on it at the last minute before the bell rings.)

A limited number of late assignments will be accepted but only when 1 class day late and with the deduction of one letter grade.

*Daily home assignment (homework):* Since your traditional written homework is typically done in class, your home assignment is to spend a minimum amount of time between each class practicing and studying the the most recent class material. This is a requirement and is not optional! It's also a basic skill for college success.

## 2. Tests/Quizzes: 35%

Tests and quizzes are scheduled in advance, so you're expected to have studied before coming to class. To refresh your memory, it's a good idea to look over it in the time before the bell rings and while attendance is being taken.

Students who misses only the class before, but return on the previously announced test/quiz day is required to take the test. (This is no different than a paid employee who receives his work schedule in advance.)

## 3. Participation: 30%

Participation may include those mental and physical actions conducive to learning, such as: focus on task, appropriate use of time, having your materials, evidence of attention and effort, cooperation with classmates and teacher, etc.

Students will begin each week with a 100% participation grade from which points may be lost for such things as lack of attention, working on other things, distracting others from learning and teacher from teaching, being tardy, not having materials, etc. Participation grade will be entered on a weekly basis and detailed reports may be mailed home at the teacher's discretion.

*Accessing your grades:* This information is available online 24/7 to both students and parents via iNow Parent Portal. (Due to the time required to post grades online, the student's own time and effort should be made to view them. Please do not ask the teacher to do this for you.)

## Honor Code - The 9th Commandment

NOTHING justifies taking credit for work that is not your own. Copying homework or getting answers from others is deceit—you are 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 answer(s) will receive 0's for the quiz, test or assignment, in addition to other disciplinary action as outlined in the student handbook. (Personally, I also deny recommendation for memberships, scholarships, job references or rewards to those who cheat.)

Cheating includes:

- Copying answers from someone else (any amount)
- "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, asking for or giving out test questions in advance).

### 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 learning that comes from class interaction.

#### *What to do if absent:*

Before returning to class, absentees are REQUIRED to go to my web page for information on missed learning and work: <http://fosterochs.weebly.com/> or [ochs.owensborocatholic.org](http://ochs.owensborocatholic.org) (under "Academics"). If unable to log on at home, you can use computers in the Media Center before or after school to meet this requirement. Asking a classmate is not a substitute, since make-up assignments may be different.

Missed learning activities and assignments must be done outside of regular class time and due within a school week of the absence (unless a request for other arrangements is made beforehand). It's the student's responsibility to remember, not the teacher's to issue reminders.

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

- 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. Make sure that Mom & Dad know, alarms go off, your ride arrives on time, 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 videogame 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? Of course not. Foreign language is no different. You have to be committed to learning, improving and practicing it.

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 Spanish 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 even at home alone. 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.