

0914 Spanish I Course Information Sheet

Instructor: McElaney

Textbook: Realidades

Prerequisites: None

What Students Can Expect from this Course

Course Description:

Upon successful completion of this course the student will:

- Be able to converse on a variety of subjects, e.g. family, school, sports, food and leisure activities.
- Be able to ask and answer basic questions.
- Become familiar with customs of the different Spanish-speaking countries.
- Be able to read simple texts and write short paragraphs.

Expected School-wide Learning Results:

1. ***Knowing How to Learn Skills:*** You will maintain an organized binder. You will learn to employ a variety of study techniques (e.g. flash cards, tapes, etc.)
2. ***Communication Skills:*** You will be able to speak, write, effectively. You will be able to understand and respond to basic questions and situations at a novice level.
3. ***Creative Skills:*** You will be creating original works both to demonstrate language proficiency and knowledge of culture. These works may be written and/or oral.
4. ***Critical Thinking:*** You will be able to understand the function and structure of a new language. You will be able to recognize patterns in Spanish and compare them to the other language(s) you know. You also will compare the Spanish cultures with other cultures and be able to discuss the similarities and differences among them. You will be able to recognize and analyze various grammar points.

Assessment and Grading:

(Percentages are approximate – see individual teacher for specifics)

- Tests and quizzes (60%): Frequent quizzes and exams at the end of each chapter. Exams and quizzes will be both written and oral.
- Homework (20%): Expect homework every night. Spend at least a half-hour doing written homework and reviewing, studying, and practicing orally.
- Participation (20%): This includes individual, paired, group and whole class activities. Everyone is expected to participate orally every day (remember you must be present to participate).
- The semester grade is weighted: 1st quarter 40% + 2nd quarter 45% + semester final exam 15% = Semester I grade. Spring semester is weighted the same as Fall semester.

Grade Scale:

90% - 100%	A
80%-89.99%	B
70%-79.99%	C
65%-69.99%	D
Below 65%	F

Length: Year

Credits: 10 Units

UC/CSU-Yes/Yes

What Is Expected from the Student

Daily Assignments:

Expect homework every night. You should spend approximately a half-hour of concentrated study doing written assignments as well as reviewing, studying, doing listening exercises and oral practice. Homework is worth ten points per assignment.

Participation:

Participation is worth two points per day, one for behavior and one for participation. Points may be deducted for any combination of the following situations: late for class; no materials (books, paper, etc.); speaking in English; not on task while doing class activities; doing homework during class, either Spanish or from another class; cell phone/iPod use in class. See separate handout for more information regarding participation.

Attendance:

We will follow District policy. Due to the nature of language learning, regular attendance is **essential** for success. You are considered tardy if you are not in your seat when the bell stops ringing. Attendance will affect your grade for participation. 7 **unexcused** tardies and/or absences at the end of each quarter will lower the academic grade by one letter grade (A becomes a B, B becomes a C, etc.).

Late Work/Make-up Work:

- Late work is NOT accepted unless you have a signed excuse slip verifying your excused absence.
- Tests and quizzes may be made up in the case of an excused absence only (bring your slip!). You have one more day than the number of days absent to make up any missed assignments and/or exams.
- If you miss class due to a meeting, field trip, appointment, etc., you are responsible for all work covered that day in class as well as homework due the following day. See separate handout regarding information about the homework policy.

Classroom Rules:

- Copying/cheating: **DON'T!** We will follow the district policy. You should consider all written assignments to be individual (i.e. do your own work!) unless otherwise stated by your teacher. All cheating will result in a "0" for that assignment.
- Preparedness: Students are expected to come to work for the entire period. You should always bring your textbook, binder, workbook, writing instruments and paper. If you are doing work for another class, it will be confiscated and destroyed.
- No gum, food or drink!

Help:

Please see me if you need help. Generally you can find me in my room 523 or the Foreign Language Resource Center.

Phone: 650-941-2427 Prep Periods: 4 & 6

Participation Guidelines for Spanish I

- Participation is worth 20% of the total grade.
- 2 points per day: 1 point for participation; 1 point for behavior.
- Points may be deducted for the following situations:

- Not bringing materials to class
- Chewing gum
- Talking in English
- Cell phone/Ipod use during class
- Late for class
- Talking excessively
- Not on-task during classroom activities
- Doing homework during class
- Doing work from other classes
- Eating food or drinking beverages (water is ok)

Homework Guidelines for Spanish I

- Late homework will not be accepted unless accompanied by a note from the office excusing the absence.
- Homework will not be accepted if you are late to class and I have already checked it.
- Homework will not be accepted if the teacher cannot read it.
- Homework is worth the following points:
 - 100% complete = 10
 - 50% complete = 6-7
 - 0% complete = 5
- Homework is worth 20% of your grade.

Grading System

- Tests = 60%

- Participation = 20%
- Homework = 20 %