

Spanish 1

Course Syllabus 2009 - 2010

Sra. Roche Room 302

Course Description

This course is designed for students beginning to learn about the Spanish language and culture and encourages students to discover the language both inside and outside of the classroom. Students will focus on the four language skills (reading, writing, speaking, and listening) in order to be able to communicate clearly in Spanish. We will be studying vocabulary, verbs, idiomatic expressions, and other key grammar topics in addition to learning about Hispanic culture. We will compare and contrast our daily lives with those of people living in Europe, South America, and the Caribbean.

Course Objectives

Students should aim not only to pass the NYS Proficiency Examination at the end of the school year, but to look ahead to their future studies in Spanish. Students will practice each of the four skills daily so that by the end of the year they are fully prepared for Spanish II.

Textbook *Buen Viaje 1* – Glencoe Spanish 1

Each student will receive a new textbook that needs to be covered must remain covered for the entire year. Each student is required to bring their own textbook to class each day as there is not an extra set of textbooks that stay in the classroom.

Materials

Students must have and bring to class everyday:

- 1 3-ring binder (preferably 2-inches)
- 5 dividers
- loose-leaf paper
- pens / pencils
- hi-liters

* It is recommended that students have a Spanish – English dictionary to use at home as well.

Content to be covered

During the course of the year, all topics in each of the 14 chapters of the textbook will be covered in detail. Certain chapters will require more time and careful practice than others. It is important to understand that when learning a language, each new piece builds on a previous concept learned. Therefore if a certain concept is difficult to master, it's best to slow down and focus on that concept so that the next building block will be accessible. An outline of the chapters that will be covered with *approximate* dates of when they will be studied can be found at the end of this syllabus.

Classroom Expectations

Students are expected to:

- arrive on time or arrive with a pass from a teacher
- arrive prepared with materials and all assignments due
- be respectful to their classmates, myself, and any visitors
- be responsible for their work and their behavior
- participate appropriately
- participate to the best of their ability

Homework

Students will have homework every night. If there is no written homework, students are expected to STUDY – their current vocabulary words, verbs, and notes.

Students will be told if their homework assignment is going to be collected / graded, or checked / reviewed.

LATE HOMEWORK IS NOT ACCEPTED FOR CREDIT.

a) Collected / Graded HW will be turned in at the beginning of the class period and returned the following day.

b) Checked / Reviewed HW will be checked by me and reviewed in class.

Absences

When a student is absent, I will put aside a copy of the day's classwork and homework. I will give the student these materials at the beginning of the period. It is the student's responsibility to submit work collected the day of their absence. They must also take the initiative to come before or after school to ask any questions necessary to complete the work that they missed.

If a student is absent the day of a test or quiz, they will have the number of days that they were absent to make up the test or quiz – if a student is absent for 3 days, they have 3 days to make up all work. It is best to make up work as quickly as possible so as not to fall behind in class and not to forget about the missed work.

Grading Policy

Tests / Quizzes	30%
Conversations / Projects / Essays	30%
Graded Homework	15%
Checked Homework	15%
Classwork / Participation	10%

Extra Help

Whether students have one question or are confused about an entire assignment, they are able to come before or after school for extra help. I arrive early and leave late; if before or after school times are still not ideal, I can usually answer questions by email. In the morning, anyone is welcome to come in and get a jump start on their homework. If you do have specific questions about an assignment or would like me to check your work / proof read an essay, please let me know that you are coming to my room before or after school.

Communication

Email (nnroche@buffaloschools.org) is the easiest and fastest way to communicate with me. I check my email at least once per day and do my best to respond as quickly as possible. If you would prefer to speak on the phone, my extension is 1302.

If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me!