

Course Syllabus
Spanish V (IB)
William Hoffman

General Overview: This is a one-year course that is communicative in nature and is conducted entirely in Spanish. The skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening are developed through a wide range of texts and mediums of different styles. Authentic materials such as magazine and newspaper articles, poems, short stories, films and music are used to give maximum exposure to the language and are incorporated into regular classroom activities such as individual presentations, debates and group discussions. Grammatical structures, acquisition of the four skills and vocabulary are taught and practiced within the study of these themes and texts.

Course Objective: The principle objective in IB Spanish is communication in speech and in writing within a range of contexts. Students will leave the course with a sound linguistic base for further study, work and leisure. Other objectives include enjoyment, creativity, intellectual stimulation, and an insight into cultures of the countries where Spanish is spoken.

Major Topics: The Spanish speaking world; ethnic groups, literature, music, art, history, sites worth seeing, social issues, current events, speech patterns and geography. Grammar topics may include a review of tenses and structures studied in Spanish III and IV.

Text/Materials: Students are responsible for bringing all necessary supplies to each class. It is very important to keep notes, homework, study materials, etc neat and organized.

- 3 Tab folder
- Storage folder or binder

Assessment: During the year students will be graded on class work, homework, chapter tests, quizzes, compositions and oral presentations. All of these will be preparation for the final IB exams in January & May. The 4 skills studied and utilized during the IB class will be paired on the IB exam; i.e. reading & writing / listening & speaking. In the reading/writing portion of the test, students will be asked to paraphrase and answer short questions about the readings. They will also be asked to write a 250 word essay. For the listening –

speaking component, students will have 3-4 minutes to give a presentation based on a topic chosen by the student. This will be followed up by 3-4 minutes of questions and discussion between the teacher and student. To finish, a 3-4 minute conversation on general topics between student and teacher. Students will be well aware of the criterion for each part of the exam well in advance of the exam. It will be in their portfolios.

- Homework Policy:** Homework will be given 3-4 times a week. It is due during the following class unless otherwise specified. The class will review homework assignments together the day it is due. The homework grade for each marking period is based on the percentage of work that was completed. Homework turned in late for reasons other than being absent will lose 25% of weight of the assignment each week assignment is overdue. Students that miss a day of school must turn in their homework the next time they are in class.
- Tests:** Several major tests will be given each marking period. These are normally chapter tests. Students will have one full class period to complete the test. The days and week before each test are crucial as this is the time the instructor will be reviewing the information on the test. These tests are weighted more heavily on the students grade than other assignments. It is the responsibility of the student to set up a day and time to make up any missed test. Students absent during a test must make up the test before the end of the marking period or a grade of zero will be given.
- Participation:** The participation grade is based on the amount of Spanish each student contributes to classroom discussion throughout the marking period. Sí or No will not receive credit. It must be significant and real use of the language. Participation will be tracked.
- Extra Help:** I will be available most days after school. If you have a concern about your grade, classroom performance or up coming test, you should come see me as soon as you feel you are not meeting your potential. I will be happy to help you reach your goal.
- Contact Information:** Students can make an appointment to see me any day during or after class. Parents with concerns can reach me by calling the school and leaving a message or you may e-mail me at whoffman@buffaloschools.org

