HISPANIC STUDIES 111  COURSE DESCRIPTION  SPRING 2010

Course Description: This is a beginner’s level course that introduces students to the fundamentals of the Spanish language. The knowledge and competency achieved in speaking, listening, reading, and writing will serve as the basis for the courses that follow. The task-based (learn-by-doing) and content-based learning approach adopted allows students to learn Spanish in the classroom through interaction and collaborative work; students will develop an ability to express themselves in real contexts and solve communicative problems. Students will also reflect upon how the Spanish language works and upon their language learning process. The textbook Gente also encourages integration of the four skills and development of cultural awareness by providing a rich context in which students learn by doing. This course is conducted in Spanish and emphasizes oral communication skills.

Course Objectives. Upon completion of this semester course, the student will be able to perform with an acceptable degree of accuracy the following tasks by language skill:

**Listening**

1. Describe events and people in present and future time.
2. Talk about concrete topics.
3. Recall a sequence of events or experiences in present and future time.
4. Request, give, and report information using more complex syntactic forms (coordinate clauses).
5. Negotiate for meaning in Spanish using synonyms, opposites, parenthesis, circumlocution, etc.
6. Discuss various issues and state personal opinion.
7. Talk in longer discourse units such as paragraphs rather than sentences.
8. Use vocabulary and idiomatic expressions appropriately.

**Speaking**

1. Recognize dialectal differences in written texts.
2. Recognize main ideas and supporting details from simple and relatively complex written texts.
3. Select specific pieces of information from advanced texts which deal with familiar and unfamiliar topics.
4. Discuss facts presented in the reading (reading the lines).
5. Infer meaning and information from the context of a reading passage (reading between the lines) which involves aspects of the Spanish-speaking culture.
6. Conjecture/hypothesize about unknown information in a reading text (reading beyond the lines).
7. Carry out morphological and syntactic analysis as a reading strategy to gain a better understanding of written text.
8. Recognize distinctive features of Spanish rhetoric as exemplified in various types of literary genres such as poetry, short story, essay, etc.

**Reading**

1. Write to various readers using the proper register and tone.
2. Describe people and events/experiences in present and future time.
3. Organize their writing cohesively and coherently.
4. Summarize, comment, critique, and state personal opinion on specific topics.
5. Utilize vocabulary and idiomatic expressions appropriately.
6. Do descriptive, narrative, and expository writing following the principles of Spanish rhetoric.
7. Use appropriate mechanics of Spanish: orthography, spelling, punctuation, accents marks, capitalization, indentation, diacritics, etc.

**Writing**

1. Discuss and/or write about Spanish and Latin American Culture (history, art, science and technology) and culture (beliefs, habits and customs)
2. Carry out tasks in a socio-culturally appropriate manner (for example, in Hispanic societies, some topics do not come up in casual conversations with acquaintances and are considered rude to discuss).

TEXTBOOKS. The following materials are available at the CSB/SJU bookstores.

2. A Spanish-English dictionary: either the University of Chicago’s Spanish/English-English-Spanish Dictionary or the Larousse dictionary.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS FOR STUDENTS


My Spanish Lab website. www.myLanguageLabs.com is a highly successful online learning and assessment systems for basic language courses. This convenient, easily navigable site offers a wide array of language-learning tools and resources designed for the unique needs of the language instructor and student. You will find here the electronic homework and the tutorials. Please take a tour for the student’s user guide (Use INTERNET EXPLORER):

http://media.pearsongcmg.com/ali myspanishlab/arisba/ user_guides/student_user_guide.html

Course Policies and Guidelines

1. Gente Textbook (TB): You are responsible for the preparation of the assigned materials. It is extremely important that you come well prepared to class. Failure to do so will jeopardize your grade. The study of grammatical concepts is to be done outside of class. Students are to study the material in the textbook and do any assigned exercises. If you have doubts or questions after reviewing the grammar, always remember to consult your instructor during office hours; s/he will be happy to help you! You may also make an appointment with a tutor (http://www.csbsju.edu/hispanicstudies/studentresources/tutors.htm). Note: You must study grammar on your own.

2. My Spanish Lab Preparation (MSLpre): As a complementary workbook, this electronic manual contains activities with an explicit focus on forms that help students practice Spanish vocabulary and grammar. The activities are designed specifically to introduce students to the main concepts in a chapter prior to classroom instruction or to reinforce grammar points after grammar instruction. This electronic workbook IS MANDATORY and your assignments are due at 11:59 p.m. on the date assigned. You will be assigned to work in the electronic workbook almost daily. You must have the work done on the day assigned to receive credit and you must submit the assignment, otherwise it will only count as an attempt. MySpanishLab program will automatically route your work to your instructor’s grade book so that you do not have to e-mail anything. The computer will not give you credit for work not completed by the due date. It is your responsibility to check to see that your results have been recorded after posting them.

3. My Spanish Lab Practice (MSLpra): By completing communication-based, contextualized activities students can continue to practice the concepts developed in the textbook in ways that reflects Gente’s task-based approach. You will be assigned to work in
the MSLpra almost daily. You must have the work done on the day assigned in order to receive credit. The computer will not give you credit for work not completed by the due date nor if you did not submit the assignment. It is your responsibility to check to see that your results have been recorded after posting them. If you have any problem, contact the instructor immediately. MSLpra and MSLpro form part of the homework grade.

4. Attendance: **IMPORTANT** It is a department policy that with an accumulation of more than 3 unexcused absences, your grade will be lowered by 3%, each time. It is extremely important that you be in class. Legitimate excuses or excused absences for missing class include the following: participation in a scheduled activity of an official University student organization, a religious holiday, verified confusing illness, serious verifiable family emergencies, subpoenaes, jury duty, and military service. A simple call or an e-mail stating that you will be absent will not automatically excuse the student’s absence. Please provide documentation to support your absences, otherwise consider them unexcused.

5. Oral Participation: You are expected to be an active participant at all times; therefore, you will receive an individual grade based on the quality and quantity of your participation in Spanish, individually, in small (dyads, triads), and/or large group activities in class. Since the ultimate goal of the program is to help you communicate in the foreign language, actual communication in the classroom will be emphasized.

6. Homework: You will have assignments of various sorts on a regular basis. It is important to point out that when the homework involves oral communication you may not read the presentation, assignment, or the oral project to receive a passing grade. If the homework is a written assignment, it is expected that you do spell check and use the appropriate accent marks for Spanish. As a matter of fairness to all students, there will be NO MAKE-UP homework, writing assignments, exams/quizzes, or oral presentations due to unexcused absences or late work. All students should have the same amount of time to prepare and turn in their work.

7. Culture (Cultura): There will be (2) two days for Cultura. These days, cultural information—from the textbook, reading texts, and WWW—will be presented by your instructor, classmates, and/or yourself. The purpose of Cultura day’s activities is to acquaint you with the culture of the Spanish-speaking world and to help you express yourself in Spanish.

8. Reading (Lectura): There will be (2) two specific dates for Lectura. These readings will provide you with a deeper understanding of the Hispanic world, will allow you to learn additional vocabulary and it will be an opportunity to hone your reading skills. You may need to read the selected text in advance to participate and take full advantage of the class or maybe you will have a period to read and answer a quiz that assess your reading comprehension. The approach taken will be your instructor’s decision.

9. Writing: As part of the course work, you may be responsible for turning in writing assignments (based on readings/situations given by your instructor). These written assignments will provide you with additional opportunities to practice the chapter vocabulary and structures while boosting your level of confidence in writing in Spanish. It is expected that the work that you do is your own following the recommendations made by your instructor. It is expected that any written components to be turned in to the instructor will be typewritten.

10. Chapter Exams: The three (3) exams will assess listening-comprehension, vocabulary, grammar, and reading. Since our approach to the teaching of grammar is functional, on each test, we’ll attempt to verify what you can do with the language in specific contexts of real-life. Exam grades WILL NOT BE CURVED.

11. Quizzes: The (3) quizzes will include written questions based on the vocabulary and grammar of the assigned chapter. Chapter quizzes will concentrate primarily on recently learned material, but you are responsible for previously learned items. The quizzes are given the beginning of the class. There are NO MAKE-UPS for this component.

12. Speaking Exams/Oral Interviews: In HISP 111/112 students will be graded individually on oral interviews. Two (2) oral exams will be administered by your instructor during the semester; one mid-semester and the second toward the end of the semester. Your instructor will provide you with additional information regarding the date, format, procedure and evaluation criteria.

13. Grading: Grading criteria are based on straight percentages, not curves.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Component</th>
<th>Grade %</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cultura (2-3)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lectura (2-3)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Escritura (2)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tarea</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exámenes orales (2)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tarea</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discreción del profesor</td>
<td>5 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
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</tbody>
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a. There will not be make-up exams, quizzes, oral interviews, etc.
b. Remember that you are responsible for all the reading, grammar, and homework assigned. It is your responsibility to come well prepared for class and be an active participant in the group. You will be held responsible for the entire content of the syllabus. The instructor is not required to remind you every day of your duties.
c. Any form of PLAGIARIISM, intended or not, will be reported to the student academic advising committee. No exceptions.

Note: Students who want to audit or take HISP 111-112 S/P

In general, students should take HISP 111/112 for a grade. For students completing the language requirement, auditing is not an option and enrolling in language courses S/N is not recommended. Students enrolled as an auditor should contact the Language Coordinator, Dr. Gómez Tania for further advising (Richarda P1, e-mail: tgomez@csbsju.edu or phone 5154). Please note that auditors will be asked to complete homework, quizzes, examinations and peer-work activities assigned to students enrolled for A-F credit. Auditors need to inform their instructors that they have enrolled in the course as an official auditor the first day of class. Classes taken S/N are not allowed for students thinking of pursuing a minor or major in Spanish.

UNIVERSITY Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-92</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>72-76</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>67-71</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>63-66</td>
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<td>D+</td>
<td>59-62</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>54-58</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-53</td>
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14. Additional guidelines will be provided by your professor. If you have questions, complaints, and/or suggestions related to your course content and/or syllabus, FIRST talk with your instructor. If s/he is unable to provide you with a satisfactory response, please contact the Language Coordinator Dr. Tania Gómez at x5154, stop by her office at RICH P-1 or, as final resort and best option, e-mail her tgomez@csbsju.edu.