**Spanish I Honors-9th Grade Syllabus with Señor Mann  
Oakland High School 2018-19**



You will be acquiring Spanish this year in some fun yet very effective ways. Our central goal is **COMMUNICATION** in the Spanish language. We will also explore Spanish-speaking and other world **cultures** and make cultural and linguistic **comparisons** with our own. **Connections** with other subjects (English, social studies, etc.) will be made through the language throughout the year. We will also explore opportunities to use the Spanish language outside the classroom in a larger **community**.   
  
**How will we learn in this class?**We will use many fun and interesting strategies to acquire the Spanish language. In the beginning, I will often give you commands and you will respond by physically doing something. It’s a lot like how you learned your native language when your parents told you what to do when you were very little: “Come here. Sit down. Eat your peas.”  
  
Research on how we learn has proven that we remember better and longer what we have actually experienced physically. Gesturing and acting out commands will help you acquire the language more quickly. Another very powerful way to acquire language (also supported by research) is through singing songs and/or through story telling. Vocabulary and grammar skills will also be acquired throughout the year by various means of presentational, interpretive, and interpersonal modes. Through utilizing rote memorization, project creation, Google Voice recordings, dialogues, debates, essays, writing assignments, etc. students will learn and demonstrate acquisition of the target language in multiple ways. Upon completion of the course, students will cover 13 chapters of grammar and vocabulary as well as limitless other outside resources and material. They will be ready to move forward into Spanish II Honors.   
  
**Songs**Who doesn’t remember singing the “ABC song” or counting along with your favorite cartoon characters like Elmo or Big Bird on “Sesame Street.” Well much like many learned English in this fashion, the same can be said for learning to speak Spanish. Songs are a great resource to utilize, and students will do so throughout the entire school year this year as they embark in their Spanish studies. Songs to teach colors, question words, adjective agreement, pronouns, verb conjugations, vocabulary words and phrases will be used as a valuable resource in their Spanish acquisition this year. Not only songs related specifically to teaching grammar and vocabulary structures, but by also incorporating authentic songs students will continue to learn about the culture and community that encompass the Spanish speaking world. Simultaneously these songs will reinforce previously learned information and allow for discussions dealing with comparisons between the native and the target language—thus ultimately helping to perfect communication skills.   
  
**Stories**Research has also proven that stories help language learners to acquire the target language. This year we will create and even act out situations or stories in class to work with new vocabulary. Often the stories will be silly, improbable, crazy, or bizarre. This serves two purposes: 1) to maintain focus while communicating in the language & 2) to aid in long-term memory. We use props and movement to make it easy for you to understand the curriculum. I prefer to laugh a lot in class and I hope that you do as well because we tend to have a lot of fun in class.   
  
**When will we learn the content from this course?**The essential learning for our class has been broken down by each nine weeks. Many of the concepts correlate with our textbook *Avancemos Level 1* We will master the following:

***1st Nine Weeks***

* Make Introductions of Self and Others (formality vs. familiarity, etc.)
* Use Subject Pronouns (point of view, singular, and plural, etc.)
* Utilize Agreement in Various Contexts   
  (gender, number, adjectives, nouns, definite and indefinite articles, etc.)
* Recognize Infinitives (usage with gustar, comparison with English infinitives,   
  3 types in Spanish: -AR,-ER,-IR, etc.)

***2nd Nine Weeks***

* Use Numbers in Context (time, date, ordinal, counting, age)
* Utilize Idiomatic Expressions (ser, estar, time, ir, hacer, weather expressions, tener, tener expressions: años, que + infinitive, hambre, sed, razón, ganas de, celos, calor, frío, miedo, suerte, sueño, prisa, vergüenza )
* Discuss Likes/Dislikes (verb gustar, gustar with verbs, gustar with nouns)
* Recognize and Conjugate Present Indicative of Regular Verbs

***3rd Nine Weeks***

* Conjugate Present Indicative in its Entirety   
  (regular, irregular, stem-changing verbs)
* Express Possession (no apostrophes, the word *de*, possessive adjectives, etc.)
* Make Comparisons with Comparatives

***4th Nine Weeks***

* Form Affirmative Tú Commands (3rd person singular or 8 irregular ones)
* Write and Speak Using Direct Object Pronouns (formation, usage, add to affirmative commands, etc.)
* Recognize and Conjugate Preterite Indicative of Regular Verbs   
  (including –CAR, -GAR, and -ZAR Verbs)

**Why isn’t Spanish like some of my other high school classes?**Spanish, like any language, is a skill. This is not a class where you can learn material for a test and then forget it. Acquiring a language is like learning how to ride a bike or learning how to swim. It’s a skill you build gradually, use, and remember a long time. Because in order to communicate successfully in Spanish you will need to continually know vocabulary, you may be tested over any vocabulary acquired in class at any time during the year. Sometimes this class will resemble an elementary classroom. This is desirable since we are working on acquiring a new language. How did you ACQUIRE your first language? In a level I Honors class it’s as though you are a “baby” in the new language but your vocabulary will grow quickly throughout the school year.  
  
**What do I need for Spanish class?**You will not need to bring your textbook *Avancemos* to class each day. The textbook is a great resource for vocabulary and grammar questions that you may have when studying or doing homework so you might choose to keep your book at home. There will be times during the year that I may ask you to bring your books to class so that we can work together on readings and other activities.   
  
The most important thing you need this year is not something that you will go out and purchase. It’s participation in class—**every day that class meets**. You need to be in class!!! If you miss class, you will also miss HUGE amounts of input in the language and practice.   
  
You will also need a three-ring binder that you will keep organized. It will include vocabulary lists, songs, in-class notes, class activities, and a language/culture log (a journal documenting how you are using the language outside the class). You will need your binder by the next class period. Don’t forget loose-leaf notebook paper, pencil, and blue/black ink pens. Every so often there will be a notebook check. Keep it organized! We will also sing authentic songs this year and read authentic articles as well as culturally themed articles related to Spanish study. These will allow you the opportunity to explore other communities by simultaneously making comparisons with your own community. Your literacy skills will strengthen, too.  
 **Positive Column**Work on the items in the positive column to help ensure your successful acquisition this school year…  
Use the Spanish language to communicate whenever possible  
Have, organize, and use binder/notebook effectively  
Pay attention to notifications sent to you via the REMIND APP (text @mannspan1h to 81010)  
Utilize my webpage ( [www.mrmannspanclass.weebly.com](http://www.mrmannspanclass.weebly.com) )  
Pay attention/follow directions  
Listen when others talk  
Do all the gestures  
Act in the stories (and this means showing emotions)  
Sing enthusiastically (even if off key 😊)  
Contribute new ideas or vocabulary to a story/presentation  
Volunteer for retells of stories or to sing songs  
Ask and answer questions  
Help other students learn (during class or even during PAT time)  
Contribute ideas for mnemonic (memory) devices  
Demonstrate good sportsmanship (especially during review games like *Los Cuatro* and *Bluff* )  
Put forth extra effort  
Make flashcards when appropriate (you will need index cards throughout the entire year)  
Allow yourself to have fun and enjoy yourself in class!  
  
**Negative Column**Try not to do these things listed below…  
Not pay attention/follow directions  
Write or read something for another class  
Not work from bell to bell over Spanish  
Line up for the door before class is over (we work bell to bell)  
Not bring materials to class  
Not pay attention when the REMIND message says for you to bring your textbook to class  
Do not try  
Use English language to communicate (when inappropriate or when you have been taught the   
 Spanish equivalent)  
Make negative comments or put—downs (language is never used as a weapon in this class)  
Interrupt when someone else is talking  
Be off-task  
Distract others  
Not practice with a partner in class when time is given  
Not contribute to group activities (singing, writing, performing, skits, etc.)  
Be too serious…NO FUN!  
  
**What if I make a mistake in class?**Mistakes when acquiring a new language are normal, natural, and…EXPECTED! Even students with a high degree of proficiency in the language will make many errors when speaking or writing. Remember that while laughing at yourself or with others is encouraged, making fun of others will not be tolerated. Have fun participating in class and your Spanish will improve!  
**OHS World Language Department Grading Policy**Grading scales will be set up as **60% Assessments & 40% Miscellaneous**   
o Assessments: Based on standards and objectives which include a variety of quizzes, tests, benchmarks, presentations, speaking assessments, major essays, and/or major projects.   
o Miscellaneous: Simple projects/assignments (songs, plays, model), notebook (portfolio, collection of articles, summary of news from Spanish speaking world, etc.) writing (poems, short essays, critiques), class work (class activities, worksheets), homework, and participation. Students will have opportunities to choose the method through which they demonstrate proficiency.  
**-Special Note**  
Performing poorly on assessments can be a reason for a re-do per the teacher’s discretion. Teacher may also choose to assign extra credit as he wishes.

**-Honors Points**  
Because this is an honors class, 3 additional points will be awarded at the end of each nine weeks as well as on the midterm and final exam grades.  
**-Homework Policy**10 pts later per day for unexcused absences up to 50% credit. HW will not be accepted after 5 consecutive school days (no matter if it is an even or odd block day or a straight seven class period day).   
**-Quiz and Test Retakes**Students may retake major tests that they fail. The teacher reserves the right to either average both grades or accept the higher of the two grades.

**Miscellaneous**If you are having difficulty in class or have any questions, please come talk with me or visit my webpage (listed above) for useful online resources. Some of these resources include the following websites: [www.studyspanish.com](http://www.studyspanish.com), [www.quizlet.com](http://www.quizlet.com), [www.spaleon.com](http://www.spaleon.com), [www.avancemos.conjuguemos.com](http://www.avancemos.conjuguemos.com)