CIEE Monteverde, Costa Rica

Course title: Spanish Language, Beginning III
Course code: SPAN 1003 MVCR
Programs offering course: Tropical Ecology and Conservation
Language of instruction: Spanish
U.S. semester credits: 3
Contact hours: 45
Term: Fall 2020

Course Description

The Beginning Spanish Language III course is designed to provide a basic introduction to the Spanish language. The primary objective is to help students to acquire the communication skills needed to survive alongside native Spanish speakers including their Costa Rican homestay families. The purpose of the course is to develop language skills through focused tasks, reading and listening comprehension exercises, vocabulary practice, lessons on grammar, oral and written expression, and fun, interactive activities. The focus is on conversation, possibly involving other students in the class or local people; the instructor serves only as moderator. The program involves activities inside and outside the classroom such as doing interviews, dramatizing real or imaginary situations, and exploring culture through different media, such as newspapers, literature, cinema, music, and legends. Homework assignments include exercises from the textbook, preparing oral presentations, writing simple letters, and participating in community projects or activities.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

1. have an enhanced understanding of Spanish grammar acquired in the previous level of Spanish (e.g., SPAN 1002 MTVE)
2. have improved use of the Spanish vocabulary and Costa Rican expressions acquired in the previous level of Spanish (e.g., SPAN 1002 MTVE)

The student will be introduced to new material including
1. a selection of Costa Rican expressions (Costarriqueñismos)
2. grammatical content such as irregular verbs with reflexive pronouns; reflexive verb in present and past tense; simple future verb tense; simple conditional; past perfect; pluperfect in indicative mode; future perfect; present subjunctive (volitional verbs); tener + age; ir + a + infinitive; por and para; estar + gerund; possessive and demonstrative pronouns
3. vocabulary and phrases related to professions, professional specialties, university subjects or courses, office and classroom, celebrations and holidays, colors, cooking terms, words for dining out, sports, types of music, newspaper terms, politics, diet, nutrition, accommodations

Additionally, the student will

1. have enhanced reading comprehension and writing capabilities, and an improved ability to communicate in oral presentations in front of peers and have dialogue in public places with unfamiliar people
2. be competent at describing objects, people and places
3. be competent at expressing conditions, obligation, necessity, prohibition, possibility, purpose, basic opinions, feelings and needs.
4. be able to provide instructions, and ask for help, as well as request, give, or refuse permission
5. be able to explain the environmental message of the novel El Planeta Verde

Course Prerequisites

None

Methods of Instruction

The method used is based on ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) and MCER (Marco común europeo de referencia para las lenguas: aprendizaje, enseñanza y evaluación).

Content is imparted through conversations, songs, readings, stories, and poetry, adapted to the level. In addition, students play Spanish-language board games, make oral presentations, write essays, and have dialogues and conduct interviews with locals in and out of the classroom. In addition, they are assigned daily homework from their textbook and workbook.
Assessment and Final Grade

1. Preparation 5%
2. Oral Presentation 5%
3. Quizzes 20%
4. Reading Comprehension 10%
5. Homework 20%
6. Final Exam 30%
7. Participation 10%
TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements

Preparation

This refers to having materials and the attitude necessary to begin classwork in the classroom on time. It includes having homework ready for submission on the due date.

Oral Presentation

This refers to a 15-20 minute verbal presentation that the student makes in front of the instructor and classmates on a theme that the student chooses.

Quizzes

During the semester there will be four quizzes covering vocabulary and grammar, and will include simple essays.

Reading Comprehension

During the course students will read various texts, and reading comprehension will be assessed with four quizzes.

Homework

There will be daily assignments from the workbook that must be completed for the next class. Incomplete or late homework will result in the loss of points.
Final Exam

This is a comprehensive exam in a varied format: multiple choice, sentence completion, short answer, associations, reading comprehension and listening comprehension. It will cover all material covered in class and from homework assignments.

Participation

Participation means attending class, paying attention, voluntarily providing answers, not speaking out of turn, working actively in group dynamics or teams, avoiding your native language, interacting with people, being focused and engaged in class, and keeping a positive attitude.

Attendance

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program, and all absences will result in a lower participation grade for any affected CIEE course. Due to the intensive schedules for Open Campus and Short Term programs, absences that constitute more than 10% of the total course will result in a written warning.

Students who transfer from one CIEE class to another during the add/drop period will not be considered absent from the first session(s) of their new class, provided they were marked present for the first session(s) of their original class. Otherwise, the absence(s) from the original class carry over to the new class and count against the grade in that class.

For CIEE classes, excessively tardy (over 15 minutes late) students must be marked absent.

Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursion or event, as well as to any required field placement. Students may not miss placement/work hours at an internship or service learning site unless approved in advance by the Academic Director and placement supervisor. All students must complete all of the requisite 100 minimum work hours on site at the internship or service learning placement to be eligible for academic credit.
Students who miss class for personal travel, including unforeseen delays that arise as a result of personal travel, will be marked as absent. No make-up or re-sit opportunity will be provided.

Attendance policies also apply to any required class excursion, with the exception that some class excursions cannot accommodate any tardiness, and students risk being marked as absent if they fail to be present at the appointed time.

Absences for classes will lead to the following penalties:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of Total Course Hours Missed</th>
<th>Minimum Penalty</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 10%</td>
<td>Participation graded as per class requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 – 20%</td>
<td>Participation graded as per class requirements, 3% grade penalty &amp; <strong>written warning</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 20%</td>
<td>Automatic <strong>course failure</strong>, and possible expulsion</td>
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N.B. Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, or local holidays. Final schedules will be included in the final syllabus provided to students on site.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1
Class Program Orientation and Field Trip 1

Week 2
Class .
Grammar: Regular verbs in present and past tense. Irregular verbs in present tense and verbs with reflexive pronoun. Ser and estar. Tener + age. Ir + a + infinitive.

Vocabulary: Greetings and introductions. Numbers (1-100), professions and specialties, countries, demonyms, days, months, relatives, subjects of study or courses, office and classroom, antonyms, seasons and weather, time expressions, animals, common adjectives, celebrations, food, institutions, time expressions

Cultural note: No entiendo ni papa. Suave, suave. ¡Pura vida!

Reading comprehension: “Actividades Cristina”. “Verano invierno”

Activity: Introduce yourself, ask for and give personal information. Interact in presentations. Describe your daily routine in present and past tense. Talk about family. Present your own country or state. Talk about school and your life as a student. Interact in shopping centers. Ask for and give information about an object and place. Describe yourself and other people. Describe food, places and environment. Ask about plans and intentions.

Assignments and exams: Oral interview, placement test No. 1.

Week 3
Class

Grammar: Simple past verb tense (Groups 1, 4, 5) and past imperfect. Imperative mode. Direct and indirect objects.

Vocabulary: Clothes, personal objects, institutions, expressions of time, colors, adverbs, weights and measures, fruits and vegetables, other cooking terms, the body, classroom and office, shopping, in the restaurant


Assignments and exams: Quiz No. 1. Reading comprehension No. 1 (CPI Tareas #1, pp. 7-24).

Week 4
Class Students on field trip #2

No Spanish classes

Assignments and exams: Read El planeta verde

Week 5
Class Students on field trip #2

No Spanish classes

Assignments and exams: Read El planeta verde

Week 6
Class

Grammar: Special verb: gustar and similar verbs.

Vocabulary: Sports, adverbs, foods, clothes, personal objects

Reading comprehension: “Chico”

Activity: Express emotions. Talk about hobbies. Discuss food preferences.
Assignments and exams: Placement test No. 2. Reading comprehension No. 2 (CPI Tareas #1, pp. 25-42). Mini essay No. 1

Week 7
Class

Grammar: Por and para

Vocabulary: Adverbs, holidays and important days

Reading comprehension: “La despedida”

Cultural note: No tener ni un cinco. Hablar paja. Estar en la luna.

Activity: Ask for and give an opinion. Express agreement or disagreement. Link information by expression of cause and consequence

Assignments and exams: Oral presentation.

Week 8
Class


Vocabulary: Types of music, numbers, newspaper vocabulary

Reading comprehension: A newspaper article.

Activity: Discuss different types of music and your preferences. Express what is going on right now. Give and ask phone numbers. Narrate events from the newspaper.

Assignments and exams: Quiz No. 2.

Week 9
Class


Vocabulary: Clothes, rooms of the house, personal objects

Activity: Describe a daily routine en present and past tense. Express reciprocity.

Assignments and exams: Reading comprehension No. 3 (CPI Tareas #1, pp. 43-60).

Week 10
Class

Vocabulary: Clothing, bathroom, bedroom, kitchen, personal objects, natural phenomena, illnesses

Reading comprehension: “El mundo del future”

Cultural note: Ser lengua larga. Qué vacilón. Estar hecho leña


Assignments and exams: None.

Week 11
Class Students on field trip #3

No Spanish classes

Assignments and exams: Read El planeta verde

Week 12
Class Students on field trip #3
No Spanish classes

Assignments and exams: Read El planeta verde

Week 13
Class


Vocabulary: Shopping, restaurant, household, clothes, fruits and vegetables, expressions for travel, sports and fun, politics, animals, food

Reading comprehension: “Estereotipos”. “Lo que hemos hecho”. “Había una vez”

Activity: Express or formulate hypotheses. Express desire or courtesy. Narrate activities that are happening right now. Give information about your trips. Tell about your professional life. Talk about past actions prior to another past action. Song: “Gracias a la vida”

Assignments and exams: Quiz No. 3. Mini essay No. 2

Week 14
Class


Vocabulary: Clothes, expressions when you travel, sports and fun, adjectives, family, diet, nutrition, accommodations

Reading comprehension: “Lo que quiero”

Cultural note: Estar de goma. Llegar a la hora del burro. ¡Qué chiva!

Activity: Confirm facts. Review by information obtained. Express curiosity about past events. Express wants and needs. Give advice and
tips. Request, grant and deny permission. Express conditions, obligations and prohibitions. Review.

Assignments and exams: Reading comprehension No. 4 (CPI Tareas #1, pp. 61-78). Quiz No. 4.

Week 15
Class

Assignments and exams: Final Exam

Course Materials
Readings

Textbook - workbooks:

CPI Tareas # 1: a collection of exercises, verbs, vocabulary, readings, and other printed materials.

Reference materials


RAE y Asociación de Academias de la lengua española (2005). Diccionario panhispánico de dudas, Bogotá: Santillana Ediciones Generales, S.L.