CIEE Buenos Aires, Argentina

Course title: Spanish Language - Intermediate I
Course code: SPAN 2001 BAAR
Programs offering course: Buenos Aires Open Campus Block
Open Campus Track: Language, Literature, and Culture
Language of instruction: Spanish
U.S. semester credits: 3.00
Contact hours: 60.00
Term: Spring Block III 2020

Course Description
This course is designed for students with two to four semesters of college-level Spanish. The primary objective of this intermediate course is to allow students to achieve maximum communicative competency in the Spanish language and immersion in Spanish life. In this course, intermediate Spanish language students will gain a broader cultural, lexical and grammatical foundation for their language studies.

Learning Objectives
By completing this course, students will:

- Differentiate linguistic and communicative competences of the Spanish language in informal situations and specific formal contexts.
- Create clear and well-structured descriptive or narrative texts on subjects familiar to them and related to the socio-cultural context.
- Produce argumentative conversations based on simple and abstract topics, and use of idiomatic expressions.
- Understand the notion of variety in Spanish and identify and eliminate Anglicisms in their speech and be able to mark the characteristics of Rioplatense Spanish in different socio-cultural immersion contexts for comprehension purposes.
- Develop a deeper understanding of the Spanish grammar, syntax and vocabulary.

Course Prerequisites
This course is designed for students with two to three semesters of college-level Spanish, or the equivalent as determined by a placement test.

Methods of Instruction
Communicative student-centered task-based approach. The structure of each week is as follows:

- The tasks will be organized by Weekly Topics, so that each session of a week is related to the others.
- At the end of each week, students will have to do a written and oral presentation and a mini test/written assignment with a focus on the grammatical/lexical content covered along the week.
- Students will be provided with extra material as homework to reinforce the grammatical and lexical aspects seen in the classroom.
- Each of the presentations and tests will count for the final grade.

Assessment and Final Grade
1. Participation 20%
2. Homework 10%
3. Oral Presentations and Written Weekly Projects 25%
4. Weekly Tests 20%
5. Final Test (Oral and Written) 25%
TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements
Participation
Participation is valued as meaningful contribution in the digital and tangible classroom, utilizing the resources and materials presented to students as part of the course. Meaningful contribution requires students to be prepared in advance of each class session and to have regular attendance. Students must clearly demonstrate they have engaged with the materials as directed, for example, through classroom discussions, online discussion boards, peer-to-peer feedback (after presentations), interaction with guest speakers, and attentiveness on co-curricular and outside-of-classroom activities.

Each student is expected to actively participate in class, and this is absolutely necessary to the effective functioning of the course as well as to individual progress. Participation and the investment of an appropriate amount of time in the preparation of each session will be taken into account in the determination of final grades.

**Homework**

Students will be given written homework on a daily basis to reinforce the grammatical and lexical aspects covered in the classroom that will be checked by the instructor in class everyday. Homework will include both text completion exercises, answering questions and writing texts (250-300 words). Failing to complete their daily homework will result in a lower final grade of the course.

**Oral Presentations and Written Weekly Projects**

At the end of each week, students will have to present and deliver a presentation of their weekly project. Both the delivery of the presentation and the written project will be assessed. Failing to complete their oral and written weekly projects will result in a lower final grade of the course. Each written project should be 350-500 words.

**Weekly Tests**

At the end of each week, students will have to sit a mini-test where they will be assessed on the grammatical and lexical content of the week. Each of the weekly assessment will count for the final grade.

**Final Test (Oral and Written)**

The four language skills (oral and written expression, oral and written comprehension) will be tested through written comprehension and guided production activities, as well as oral discussion on proposed subjects.

**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:
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: 1.1 Knowing people**

The scope of the course and instructions method will be presented. Students will give and ask for personal information. They will also express aspects of themselves: their interests, tastes, affinities, similarities, differences, etc.


**Class: 1.2 How does Buenos Aires fit your interests**

Students will talk about their hobbies and leisure time and will rate those activities. Different immersion activities offered by the city will be presented. Finally, they will compare their routine in Buenos Aires with the one in the States, evaluating pros and cons.

Due: Daily homework.

Reference material: CIEE Buenos Aires Material & Booklet CIEE Intermediate Spanish 1: Ficha 1; Parte 2

**Class: 1.3 Lifestyle of Buenos Aires**

Students will get familiarized with some aspects of lifestyle of Buenos Aires. Through typical lexical expressions they will describe places and habits in the city.

Due: Daily homework.

Reference material: CIEE Buenos Aires Material & Booklet CIEE Intermediate Spanish 1: Ficha 1; Parte 3.

**Class: 1.4 Important landmarks in Buenos Aires**

Important landmarks and their history will be presented to students. Through this information they will be able to narrate stories about the past in Buenos Aires and they will create a scrapbook of the most interesting places and activities in Buenos Aires.

Due: Daily homework.


**Week 2**

**Class: 2.1 Spanish manners at the table**

Students will be presented the most common lexical expressions to make requests using courtesy strategies and to make a polite complain at a bar or restaurant. Through the imperative mood, they will prepare a tutorial on Spanish manners and useful tips at the table and at a restaurant.

Due: Daily homework.


**Class: 2.2 Spanish meals**

Students will talk about their eating habits and the food they like/dislike, justifying their decisions. They will also get familiarized with different Spanish meals and the way they are cooked. Through the use of commands, they will give instructions to prepare meals.

Due: Daily homework.
**Class: 2.3 Healthy lifestyle**

Students will discuss about what is considered a healthy lifestyle and methods to avoid illness. They will elaborate a healthy meal plan for the week. Finally, in small groups, they will create an awareness campaign.

Due: Daily homework.


**Class: 2.4 Lifestyle in Buenos Aires**

In groups students will present their awareness campaigns on healthy lifestyle and will answer questions from other groups and the teacher. They will also make a mini-test.

Due: Oral Presentation and Written Weekly Project: “Life in Buenos Aires 1: What to be aware in Buenos Aires” & Weekly Test 1

**Week 3**

**Class: 3.1 What kind of traveler are you?**

Students will get familiarized with information about tourism in Argentina. By using past tenses, time expressions and linking words, they will share information about their travelling experiences in this country.

Due: Daily homework.


**Class: 3.2 Interviewing people**

Students will interview a partner about his/her stay in Buenos Aires: e.g. places visited, food, best moments, etc. They will get familiarized with some expressions to show interest in what the other person is saying. Finally, students will share information with the class.

Due: Daily homework.


**Class: 3.3 Life Changing**

Through making a list of ways they have changed since they live in Buenos Aires, they will describe the impact of this experience in their lives. They will also justify their answers by using connecting expressions (cause and consequence).

Due: Daily homework.


**Class: 3.4 Sharing anecdotes about staying in Buenos Aires**

Students will present a real or invented anecdote about their stay in Buenos Aires and will answer their partners and teacher’s questions. They will also make a mini-test.

Due: Oral Presentation and Written Weekly Project: “Life in Buenos Aires 2: The perfect week in this city” & Weekly Test 2
Week 4

Class: 4.1 Suggesting plans

Students will find out what’s on in Buenos Aires, and express their opinions, views and wishes on different cultural activities and alternative plans. Through the use of subjunctive mood, they will make invitations and suggest plans to their classmates. They will be presented different expressions to accept or refuse invitations, making excuses.

Due: Daily homework.


Class: 4.2 Experiencing Buenos Aires

Students will share information about their cultural experiences in Buenos Aires, and they will be able to recount other students’ experiences.

Due: Daily homework.


Class: 4.3 Planning a trip

Students will get familiarized with places to plan a 4-day trip in Argentina and in small groups they will decide the best options, justifying their choices.

Due: Daily homework.


Class: 4.4 Writing in a travel blog

In small groups, students will write an entry in a travel blog to recommend places to visit and activities to do there. They will also make a mini-test.


Week 5

Class: 5.1 Products and services in Buenos Aires

Students will be presented different shops, products and services available in Buenos Aires. They will give their opinion on possibilities of quality, prices, service, etc. They will make a role playing of typical situations at a shop.

Due: Daily homework.


Class: 5.2 Customer complaints

Students will participate in discussions about the utility of a product or services offered in Buenos Aires. They will also be able to make a complaint about a product or service they have bought.

Due: Daily homework.


Class: 5.3 Advertisement

Students will recognize and understand complex texts as ads, new, articles about products and
services. In small groups, they will design and write their own commercial on a feature, services or product typical from Buenos Aires.

Due: Daily homework.


Class: 5.4 Letters to expose a problem

Students will write a letter to expose a problem related to a product or a service and they will demand compensation. They will also make a mini-test.


Week 6

Class: 6.1 Planning the last days

Students will create a bucket list of things they still want to do before leaving Buenos Aires. They will share their list with the group, justify their opinions and they will tally for the most popular answers.

Class: 6.2 Plans and hypotheses

Students will make a statement about future plans and they will formulate hypotheses about what they will be doing after the course.

Class: 6.3 Revision of contents

Students will be encouraged to revise the contents and express doubts. They will make a mock exam for practice and correct it in class.

Class: 6.4 Final Evaluation

Students will sit to a written test on all topics seen throughout the course. They will also present a final video or ppt presentation about their experience in Buenos Aires, recommendations for fellow students and plans for the future.

Due: Final Test (Oral and Written)

Course Materials

Readings

Material will be provided by CIEE Buenos Aires: CIEE material, Aula del Sur 1, Gramática Básica para el Estudiante de Español (reference grammar book), resources on the Internet; booklet with key grammar points and other relevant information. Argentinian newspapers, magazines and movies.

Readings:

Specially done material by CIEE Buenos Aires staff based on the following bibliography:

- García Negroni, María (coord.) El arte de escribir bien en español. Manual de corrección de estilo. Buenos

**Online Resources**

- <http://www.educ.ar>
- <http://www.buenosaires.gob.ar/cultura>
- <http://www.welcomeargentina.com>