CIEE Buenos Aires, Argentina

Course title: Spanish Language - Beginning I
Course code: SPAN 1001 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 I 2021

Course Description

This course is for students with one or two semesters of college-level Spanish. The course provides a basic repertoire of linguistic elements and sufficient vocabulary to meet these communicative goals. Students should be able to use some simple grammatical structures and in general be able to pronounce in a clear, comprehensible way. By the end of this course, students can communicate when carrying out everyday tasks, understand phrases and expressions of common use, and describe aspects of their own past as well as issues related to their most immediate needs.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- Recognize the basic standards to comprehend and produce communicative Spanish speeches in the form of oral interventions and written compositions.
- Remember grammatical structures needed to accomplish given communicative tasks, as well as the vocabulary and relevant information about the context (cultural awareness).
- Understand communicative speeches that allow for exchange with native speakers on simple, practical subjects regarding everyday life and the personal sphere.

Course Prerequisites

None

Methods of Instruction

Structural and vocabulary exercises (Canvas): indicative and subjunctive in adjective clauses; subjunctive in adverbial clauses; past subjunctive; emigration and immigration

Reading & writing (Canvas): read a short crônica and respond to the questions in Canvas. Forum discussion follows.

Street task: enter a local travel agency bureau and inquire about travel options that interest you and are feasible for while in Brazil during your stay. Be prepared to report on your experience and what you learned in class tomorrow!

Preparation for next class:

Research online about your favorite leisure time activities, sports and hobbies. Develop vocabulary list and prepare to talk about in class (Canvas)

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Daily Homework 15%
2. In-class Oral Presentations and Written Weekly Projects 25%
3. Weekly Tests 20%
4. Final Test (Oral and Written) 20%
Course Requirements

Daily Homework

Students will be given written homework daily to reinforce the grammatical and lexical topics covered in the classroom and will be checked by the instructor in class every day. When homework must be turned in, no extension can be granted. Failing to complete their daily homework will result in a lower final grade for the course.

In-class Oral Presentations and Written Weekly Projects

Each week students complete a short-written project, which they will present to the class through an oral presentation at the end of the respective week. 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 for the course.

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)

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.

Class 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 thereby help ensure the effective functioning of the course as well as his/her individual learning progress. Participation and the investment of an appropriate amount of time in the preparation of each session will be considered in the determination of final grades.

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
Absences for classes will lead to the following penalties:

<table>
<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><strong>Automatic 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: 1.1 Intro to the Class and Creating a Personal Profile**

The instructor will present the syllabus to the students and explain the methods of instruction used. The students provide information about previous knowledge, learning expectations and reasons for taking a course in Spanish.

Reference material: CIEE Buenos Aires Material & Booklet CIEE Beginning Spanish 1: Ficha 1 – Parte 1, Unit 1

**Class: 1.2 Formal and InformalGreetings**

This session covers the topic of register, providing examples of formal and informal interaction. Students will review the Spanish alphabet, pronunciation, and spelling. Grammatical subjects will be singular and plural nouns, gender and articles.

Due: Daily homework.

Reference material: CIEE Buenos Aires Material & Booklet CIEE Beginning Spanish 1: Ficha 1 – Parte 1, Unit 2

**Class: 1.3 Greetings / Giving and Asking for Personal Information**

Students will organize a contact list. Students practice gathering information in the target language by practicing how to ask yes/no questions and using interrogative pronouns. A second focus will be the present tense of ser and its uses as well as the present tense of regular verbs.

Due: Daily homework.

Reference material: CIEE Buenos Aires Material & Booklet CIEE Beginning Spanish 1: Ficha 1 – Parte 1, Unit 3

**Class: 1.4 Family and Personal Relationships**

The subject of this class is “talking about family”. We will practice again asking questions of
information and clarification and enlarge our vocabulary by entering a new semantic field. Grammatical subjects will be the present tense, possessive, adjectives, and numbers. Students will share their final version of the project of the week, creating a personal profile to be posted on the course site.

Due: Oral Presentation and Written Weekly Project: “My Family”

Reference material: CIEE Buenos Aires Material & Booklet CIEE Beginning Spanish 1: Ficha 1 – Parte 1; Unit 4

**Week 2**

**Class: 2.1 Describe the University Neighborhood**

Students will take a field trip to the university area where they explore Study Center neighborhood and find out what it has to offer. In the second half of the class, after returning to the classroom, they will create a guide for first-time visitors to the area, listing useful stores and resources and summarizing essential information about them.

Due: Daily Homework task Page 23.

Reference material: CIEE Buenos Aires Material & Booklet CIEE Beginning Spanish 1: Ficha 1 – Parte 2; Unit 1

**Class: 2.2 Give and Ask for Directions**

Students will learn to find their bearings in Buenos Aires and practice asking for and giving directions through role plays. They will also familiarize themselves with the city’s public transportation system and will have to make suggestions for hypothetical commutes.

Due: Daily Homework.

Reference material: CIEE Buenos Aires Material & Booklet CIEE Beginning Spanish 1: Ficha 1 – Parte 2; Unit 2

**Class: 2.3 Comparing Routines**

Students will compare their routines in Argentina and in the States, talking about differences and similarities. They will practice reflexive and non-reflexive regular and irregular verbs in the present tense, and review the vocabulary used to talk about time, including telling the time, day and night, days of the week, months of the year etc. Students will present a list of usual weekend activities in their hometowns and, in a second step, choose possible leisure activities from Buenos Aires’ arts, and cultural events calendar.

Due: Daily Homework.

Reference material: CIEE Buenos Aires Material & Booklet CIEE Beginning Spanish 1: Ficha 1 – Parte 2; Unit 3

**Class: 2.4 Your Routine, Your Neighborhood**

Students will present a slide show designed to persuade viewers to visit their neighborhoods. They will talk about activities, stores, atmosphere, favorite places, and special location within the city. Subsequently, there will be a review session for Test 1, before students take the test.

Due: Oral Presentation and Written Weekly Project: “Life in Buenos Aires 1: Your routine, your neighborhood”. & Weekly Test 1

Reference material: CIEE Buenos Aires Team Material & Booklet CIEE Beginning Spanish 1: Ficha 2 – Parte 4

**Week 3**

**Class: 3.1 Buying Groceries**

Students will make a grocery list and do role plays simulating grocery shopping situations. They will
also talk about food in general and let the group know about their favorite meals. The grammatical topic will be demonstrative adjectives and pronouns. Different ways of expressing likes and dislikes will be reviewed.

Due: Homework Task: Page 60

Reference material: CIEE Buenos Aires Team Material & Booklet CIEE Beginning Spanish 1: Ficha 3 – Parte 1

Class: 3.2 Preparing a Recipe

Class 3:2: Preparing a Recipe

Students will present their favorite recipes and learn how to prepare typical Argentinian dishes. Differences between Argentine and American food will also be discussed. Students will give their opinion about healthy and unhealthy foods and ingredients. As for grammar, stem-changing irregular verbs will be reviewed.

Due: Daily Homework.

Reference material: CIEE Buenos Aires Team Material & Booklet CIEE Beginning Spanish 1: Ficha 3 – Parte 2

Class: 3.3 Planning Meals for Argentine Menus

Students will practice how to order at a restaurant and a bar. They learn what dishes are typically served in Argentina at which special events. We will also talk about food as a cultural phenomenon. The grammatical focus will be on irregular verbs (querer, poder, preferir, tener) and some idioms with tener.

Due: Daily Homework.

Reference material: CIEE Buenos Aires Team Material & Booklet CIEE Beginning Spanish 1: Ficha 3 – Parte 3

Class: 3.4 My Favorite Restaurant in Buenos Aires and My Favorite Meal

Students will present a two-step project. In the first part, they share their favorite restaurant in Buenos Aires and talk about the dishes to be found there. In the second part, they will present their favorite Argentine meal and explain how it is prepared, specifying ingredients and cooking techniques. Subsequently, there will be a review session for Test 2, before students take the test.

Due: Oral Presentation and Written Weekly Project: “Life in Buenos Aires 2: Gastronomy/In the restaurant” & Weekly Test 2

Reference material: CIEE Buenos Aires Team Material & Booklet CIEE Beginning Spanish 1: Ficha 3 – Parte 4

Week 4

Class: 4.1 Learn About Types of Clothing and Choose an Outfit

Students share their favorite style of clothing, describing shapes, colors and fabrics. After that, students learn about buying clothes in Buenos Aires.

Due: Homework task: Page 112

Reference material: CIEE Buenos Aires Team Material & Booklet CIEE Beginning Spanish 1: Ficha 4 – Parte 1

Class: 4.2 Describing a Piece Clothing and Evaluating Its Fit

The students will do a shopping role play. The grammatical topic will be use of direct and indirect objects to avoid repetition.

Due: Daily homework.

Reference material: CIEE Buenos Aires Team Material & Booklet CIEE Beginning Spanish 1: Ficha 4 – Parte 2
Class: 4.3  Go on a Shopping Spree

In this class, the grammatical focus will be on the past tense (preterit=simple past) and placing events in sequence. The students learn the morphologic structure of irregular and regular forms in the past.

Due: Daily homework.

Reference material: CIEE Buenos Aires Team Material & Booklet CIEE Beginning Spanish 1: Ficha 4 – Parte 3

Class: 4.4  My Personal Shopping List

Students will learn about different companies and local products from Argentina. They will compare styles from different Latin American regions and see how fashion changes in different world places.

After this, they will write a personal list of wish places to visit and clothes to try.


Reference material: CIEE Buenos Aires Team Material & Booklet CIEE Beginning Spanish 1: Ficha 4 – Parte 4

Week 5

Class: 5.1  Cultural Attractions in Buenos Aires

Students will research and identify both mainstream as well as more unusual tourist and/or cultural attractions in Buenos Aires. As they describe these attractions, they will review the vocabulary of the semantic field “holidays and free time”.

Students will plan a hypothetical weekend excursion in Buenos Aires for their parents or friends, involving a visit to a cultural event. They will make a budget and justify their choices. They will then talk about a real experience.

Due: Daily homework task, page 149.

Reference material: Booklet CIEE Beginning Spanish 1: Ficha 5 – Parte 1

Class: 5.2  Suggesting a Plan for Going Out: Accepting / Refusing an Invitation

Students will hold a conversation in which different plans for going out are proposed and debated. They will accept and / or reject the proposals justify their decision.

Due: Daily homework.

Reference material: Booklet CIEE Beginning Spanish 1: Ficha 5 – Parte 2

Class: 5.3  Visit to Bellas Artes Museum

Students will visit a local museum and make a treasure hunt. They will choose an emblematic artwork and present it to their classmates. They will learn how to describe a picture and place it in their socio-cultural context.

Due: Daily homework.

Reference material: Booklet CIEE Beginning Spanish 1: Ficha 5 – Parte 3

Class: 5.4  Tourist Blogs, Leaflets and Brochures

Students will be exposed to different tourist blogs, leaflets and brochures. They will learn about different cultural activities in Argentina and decide a plan for their week-end. They will also make a presentation of the cultural life in Argentina and they will sit for the weekly test.
Week 6

Class: 6.1 Expressing Feelings

The students will learn how to express their feelings in the present as well as in the past. The grammatical part of the session focuses on narrating in the past and contrasting preterite and imperfect tenses.

Due: Daily homework task.

Reference material: Booklet CIEE Beginning Spanish 1: Ficha 6 – Parte 1

Class: 6.2 Narrating One’s Experiences in Buenos Aires

The students will talk about some of their most important experiences they had during their stay in Buenos Aires, using the preterit and imperfect tenses.

Due: Daily homework task.

Class: 6.3 Review

The students will do a general review in preparation for the Final Test. They will sit for a mock exam and correct them together.

Due: Revision for exam.

Class: 6.4 Final Test

The students will take the Final Test.

Due: Final Exam

Course Materials

Readings

Learning material will be provided by CIEE Buenos Aires: various handouts, booklet with key grammar points and other relevant information; resources on the Internet.

- CIEE Buenos Aires Team Material: Beginner I Course Workbook.

Online Resources