**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 a 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:

- Demonstrate use of Spanish grammar, vocabulary, and Costa Rican expressions acquired in the previous level of Spanish (e.g., SPAN 1002 MTVE)
- Define, recall, and use 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
- Define, recall, and use 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, etc
- Demonstrate enhanced reading comprehension and writing capabilities, and improved ability to communicate in oral presentations
- Describe everyday objects, people and places
- Express conditions, obligations, necessity, prohibition, possibility, purpose, basic opinions, feelings and needs
- Provide simple instructions, ask for help, and request, give, or refuse permission

**Course Prerequisites**

None. Each student is placed into a particular level depending on his/her linguistic skills, as assessed in an initial placement exam.

**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. Participation 15%
2. Oral presentation 5%
3. Quizzes 20%
4. Reading comprehension of the book (quizzes) 10%
5. Homework 20%
6. Final exam 30%
TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements

Participation

Participation means 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.

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 of the book (quizzes)

During the course students will read the novel *El planeta verde* 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 (but not the novel).

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

Program Orientation and Field Trip 1

**Week 2**
Class: 2.1

**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: 3.1

**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


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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>
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<tr>
<td>10 – 20%</td>
<td>Participation graded as per class requirements, 3% grade penalty &amp; written warning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 20%</td>
<td>Automatic course failure, and possible expulsion</td>
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</tbody>
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Assignments and exams: Quiz No. 1. Reading comprehension No. 1 (CPI Tareas #1, pp. 7-24).

Week 4
Class: 4.1

Students on field trip #2: No Spanish classes

Assignments and exams: Read El planeta verde

Week 5
Class: 5.1

Students on field trip #2: No Spanish classes

Assignments and exams: Read El planeta verde

Week 6
Class: 6.1

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: 7.1

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: 8.1

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: 9.1

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: 10.1


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: 11.1

Students on field trip #3: No Spanish classes

Assignments and exams: Read El planeta verde

Week 12
Class: 12.1

Students on field trip #3: No Spanish classes

Assignments and exams: Read El planeta verde

Week 13
Class: 13.1


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: 14.1


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

Week 15
Class: 15.1.

Assignments and exams: Final Exam

Course Materials
Readings

Textbook and 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.