COURSE SYLLABUS: Spanish 121

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REQUIRED TEXTS: Puntos de partida, 8th ed.
   Puntos de partida, Workbook, 8th ed.
RECOMMENDED: Puntos de partida, Lab manual 8th ed.
   English Grammar for Students of Spanish
   501 Spanish Verbs

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To increase awareness of Spanish-speaking cultures through the study of their language; to demonstrate why learning a foreign language is an essential part of one’s education; and to show how language can alter one’s perspective through exposure to different attitudes and thought processes.

2. To acquire, using a conceptual approach, a basic working knowledge of material presented in chapters 1-6 of Puntos de Partida. Incorporating all four basic elements of language acquisition – speaking, listening, comprehension, reading, writing – we will stress the fundamental concepts of grammar as tools of self-expression.

3. To have as much fun as possible while still achieving #1 and #2.

The students who can demonstrate proficiency beyond 101 level are urged to consult with the instructor about other options.

Grading Policy:

Homework: 10%
4 Quizzes: 20%
Oral Presentation: 10%
Participation: 40%
1 Final Exam: 20%

GENERAL INFORMATION, POLICIES AND ADVICE
This is a college transfer credit course equivalent to a five-unit class that requires a great deal of time in outside study and preparation. Remember that a unit credit is equivalent to an average of 3 hours of student effort per week. Come to class every day and be as well prepared as possible. Bring along both the textbook and the Workbook EVERY DAY. Keep up with assignments; try not to fall behind. If you miss a class, contact a classmate and get the assignments.

If you anticipate particular challenges impeding your ability to perform in this course, please contact me at the beginning of the quarter so that I can attempt to make accommodations for you.
1. HOMEWORK (10%)

Please note that you need to write your answers in COMPLETE sentences, otherwise you will get no credit.

You will need to do homework on almost a daily basis. This homework is essential for the development of your skills, as well as your success on quizzes and exams. You should do the exercises after we cover the corresponding material in class, and you should go over it as often as possible.

You are responsible for doing all the exercises the Workbook on the days they are covered in class. You will turn in your work in the Workbook a few times during the quarter so please bring your Workbook EVERY DAY, if you do not have your Workbook in class- you are going to lose points for your homework.. Since most of the answers are provided in the back, your work will be checked for completeness only. Do the exercises without referring to the answer key, and then correct your answers against the key using a different color pen. NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Other parts of the homework require that you turn them in for correction. The Para entregar sections will be due at the beginning of each class period the day after they are assigned. You will receive credit for satisfactorily completing the assignments (no credit will be given for incomplete work). NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED.

You can find additional material on the course web page: http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0072873949/student_view0/

It is tailored to the content of the book and provide you with additional practice to master the skills acquired in class. Many questions for the quizzes are taken from that site.

2. QUIZZES (20%)

You will take a total of five quizzes scheduled regularly throughout the quarter and you have to take them on the scheduled day. These will test your knowledge regarding the material covered for that particular section of the course. They will include vocabulary, grammar exercises and cultural information.

Although there will be five quizzes, only four will count toward your grade. This means that if you take all five quizzes, I will drop your lowest grade. This allows you to miss ONE quiz because there will be NO makeup quizzes. Please see me if you have any questions.

3. ORAL PRESENTATION (10%)

During the quarter, you will give a brief formal oral presentation in Spanish to the class on a topic related to the Spanish-speaking world. You will work with one or two other students in the class – we will assign groups in class. You will need to submit your topic to me by January 25th via email. I will then schedule the group presentations for the following dates: February 22nd to March 1st.

Please note that everyone in the group has to speak for at least 3 minutes and absolutely no more than 5. Shorter or longer presentations will lose points. That means that if there are 3 group members, the presentation will last approximately 15 minutes. Presentations will be graded according to the following criteria: 1) clarity and organization + visual materials and 2) generation of class interest.
4. CLASS PARTICIPATION (40%)
Apart from attending class daily and have studied the class material in advance, you are expected to participate actively in the class, show a positive attitude toward your fellow classmates, your instructor and the class activities. This is how I will evaluate your class participation on a weekly basis:

**Superior Performance (A: 90-100%)**
I listen carefully when others speak, and I volunteer often. I speak only Spanish. I actively participate with a positive attitude and treat others with respect. My presence makes a positive impact on how we do in class. I arrive on time, have perfect attendance and I do not leave early. I am always prepared for class.

**Above average to average (B-C 70-89%)**
I volunteer occasionally and generally listen to the instructor and to others. I speak in Spanish during class with very few exceptions. I show interest and participate in all activities, sometimes actively, sometimes passively. I arrive on time and I don’t leave early or miss class. I am always prepared for class with very few exceptions.

**Unsatisfactory (D-F less than 70%)**
I speak Spanish but I use English more often than I should. I sometimes don’t pay active attention to classroom activities, other students, and/or the instructor. I sometimes, sleep, read the newspaper or use my phone or do homework during class activities. I occasionally arrive late, leave early or miss class. I am not always prepared for class.

1. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding your Spanish class, don’t hesitate to discuss them with me. I will be more than happy to help you out.
2. Participate in class activities and do not be afraid to make mistakes- we learn by making them. I will make sure to maintain the class atmosphere fun and non-intimidating and I value your contribution to a relaxed environment in which we can all learn as much as we can. Ultimately it is YOUR CLASS, so enjoy it!

5. FINAL EXAM (20%)
The final exam will be a cumulative exam; in other words, it will reflect all of the material covered during the quarter. The format will be similar to the quizzes you take during the course of the quarter. You are expected to take this exam during the regularly scheduled exam time for this class. If you anticipate any scheduling problems, you must contact me well in advance of the final about scheduling a makeup (which MUST be taken before the regularly scheduled final exam). There are NO exceptions except in the case of a medical emergency (documentation must be provided).