Spanish 10 Course outline

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Course objective

The objective of this course is to help you acquire a higher level of listening, speaking, reading and writing of the Spanish language and to introduce you to some aspects of Spanish cultures. You will be acquiring Spanish by hearing it spoken and using it in contexts that you understand.

Course Content

We will be using various stories as the basis for the course. We will also be reading one novel over the course of the year. The class will be taught using conversation, stories, reading, acting, movie clips and music via the TPRS method. (see last section of this course outline).

Evaluation

- Unannounced vocabulary quizzes  20%
- Writing pieces (speed writes, timed writes)  40%
- Oral  25%
- Final project  15%

Homework

- Daily review of all vocabulary and story notes.
- One comic strip per story.

Class participation and classroom rules/expectations

- Daily participation: participating includes contributing to stories and discussions, listening to me and your classmates, asking questions when you do not understand, taking notes when appropriate, and speaking as much Spanish as you can.
- An important aspect of daily participation is bell to bell learning. My expectation is that when the bell rings, you will be prepared to learn, meaning you will be in your seat with your binder out and open and a pen/pencil out. Don't be late! Also, I expect you to keep your materials out until I tell you to pack up at the end of class (we will most likely be Tprsing right to the bell on most days, anyways).
- No washroom visits during the storytelling and essay writing time. In other words, don't bother asking. If I can hold it, so can you!
• No eating or drinking (except water). This includes no eating at the door (see second bullet above)
• Hi tech devices: I don't want to see any! I will simply take them away and return them at the end of the day. PLEASE PUT YOUR PHONE IN YOUR BACKPACK AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS.
• Since most of the learning will take place in class, it is expected that you attend class on a regular basis. Excused and unexcused absences will greatly affect your mark.
• If you are absent the day of a quiz or the day an assignment is due, you must provide a note explaining the nature of the absence.
• You will be allowed to make up quizzes or essays during lunch hour provided you show me a note.
• If you have an unexcused absence the day of a quiz or test, you will receive a zero.
• In addition to regular classroom materials, for this course it is suggested you use a three ring binder divided into two sections: Vocabulary and Writing.

Course method

Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling (TPRS) is the methodology that will be used in this class. TPRS is a methodology for foreign language teaching that mimics natural language acquisition. Language is taught holistically without having to focus on grammar rules. Grammatical accuracy is taught, but not in the traditional way through verb conjugations, etc. Language is learned by understanding messages in the target language. That means it is picked up through comprehensible input. Input is listening and reading that is understood by the learner.

Each storytelling (or storyasking) will follow this pattern:

• Students will be introduced to new structures and vocabulary with the translation.
• The class then tells a story orally, with the students providing details as needed.
• After the oral storytelling, students read a story which reinforces the oral story structures and provides reading practice.

The course content concentrates on the most-used vocabulary and language structures of the foreign language being taught such that students acquire the ability to understand when spoken to, read most information needed in daily life, and express themselves more freely than seen in the traditional classroom. Students tend to be more engaged in learning because they are concentrating on the details of the story at hand, dealing with subjects and details of interest to them personally, and at the same time are acquiring new language unconsciously.

THIS METHOD IS PARTICIPATORY! It is a fun way to learn but it is not a spectator sport: students who succeed will respond orally when appropriate.