

Northland Preparatory Academy
Spanish IV Syllabus: 2015-2016

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Course Description and Objectives: Spanish IV is a continuing course that assumes prior knowledge or experience with the language at the Spanish I - III levels. This course aims to develop all five language skills: listening, speaking, reading, writing and cultural competence through the use of authentic materials and those designed for Spanish learners. In an effort to synthesize knowledge gained in SPA I-III, students will be required to spend the majority of their time on language production (speaking and writing) and task-based learning. Instruction is conducted primarily in Spanish and students will achieve a greater understanding of the target language. Students will also investigate some historical and contemporary issues important to life in Spanish-speaking countries through authentic text, documentaries and discussions. Students will continue to build their skills for interpreting readings dealing with cultural issues and comment on such texts.

Students will increase their levels of proficiency via the everyday use of the target language. By continuous practice of the target language, it is expected that students will be able to spontaneously create with the language, initiate, sustain and close intermediate-level exchanges, ask and answer questions and possess the skills necessary of circumlocution when faced with a more difficult communicative task. Additionally, students will be able to meet intermediate practical writing needs by creating compositions.

Required Materials:

Imagina: Español sin barreras, José A. Blanco y C.Celilia Tocaimaza-Hatch, Vista Higher Learning 3rd Edition. – Provided by instructor

Hard copies of textbooks will be kept in the classroom. E-book codes will be provided for home use within the first weeks of schools.

Reading List:

**Como agua para chocolate* by Laura Esquivel

Film:

**Pancho Villa and other stories* Documentary on the Mexican Revolution

**Como agua para chocolate*

*These may or may not be used with the new curriculum.

Required Materials:

1. 3 Ring binder with pockets and 5 divider tabs.
2. Lined paper
3. Flash drive
4. Composition Book

Recommended:

1. A good Spanish/English dictionary
2. Use of www.wordreference.com (online Spanish/English dictionary)
3. 501 Spanish verbs

Student Learning Outcomes: Active engagement with the content of this course will allow students to:

1. Increase their level of proficiency in the use of the target language not only enabling them to communicate in the context of everyday situations, but also to discuss and express opinions on more in-depth subject matter.
2. Understand the main idea and supporting details of both spoken and written Spanish intended for native speakers and/or students of the language on topics related to daily life and Hispanic culture.

3. Initiate and respond verbally to statements, ask and answer questions and spontaneously create with the language as well as participate in conversations about familiar topics with sufficient accuracy in pronunciation and grammar so as to be understood by persons accustomed to interacting with learners of Spanish both within and beyond the school setting. Present information, concepts, and ideas to an audience of listeners or readers on a variety of topics.

4. Meet practical writing needs by creating coherent compositions, descriptive narratives and summaries with sufficient accuracy in grammar, spelling, punctuation, and vocabulary so as to be understood by persons accustomed to interacting with learners of Spanish and native speakers.

5. Understand some significant cultural traits of the Spanish-speaking world (customs, lifestyles, attitudes, geography, famous people, etc.) so as to be able to function appropriately in typical social situations. Demonstrate understanding of the concept of culture through comparisons of the cultures studied and their own.

Assessment of Learning Outcomes:

This course will be graded using a total point system. Within a total point system a student has the ability to earn a certain number of total points. The actual number of points earned is compared to the total possible points in order to determine the student's grade.

The **quarter grade** will comprise of points earned in the following categories: homework, daily participation, quizzes, chapter exams, and projects.

The **semester grade** will comprise of points earned in both quarters and the final exams (written and oral).

Homework: Students will be assigned homework tasks on a daily and weekly basis. These assignments may include practice sheets, writing assignments, research, reading and self and group evaluations.

Daily oral performance: As this is a language class, **students will be expected to interact in Spanish as much as possible.** Failure to participate (arrive on time, communicate in Spanish: ask/answer questions, volunteer, demonstrate, contribute to class discussions and group work, share experiences...) will result in a loss of points.

Quizzes:

You can expect a quiz (pruebita) every week except when there is an exam or other major activity. Study and memorize the "vocabulary" list located on the last few pages of each chapter. Key grammar points may also appear. You may or may not be informed beforehand. If absent, it is the student's responsibility to make up any missed quiz **the day they return.**

Compositions: You can expect to write several compositions during the course of the year. Your instructor will determine the topic of each essay. Your compositions in Spanish will be graded on content, vocabulary, and the appropriate use of learned grammar.

Exams: There will be a mid-term exam each chapter which will include listening comprehension, grammar, vocabulary, reading comprehension and cultural information. If absent, it is the student's responsibility to make up a missed exam **the day they return.**

Projects: There will be a variety of projects to complete throughout the year that will demonstrate your ability to use the learned vocabulary and grammar in a communicative context through class presentations. Assignments may include: writing samples, oral presentations, cultural projects, and use of Spanish outside the classroom.

Final exams: There will be a final exam mid-year and one at the end of the year. The final will be in two parts: the communicative assessment and the written assessment. These exams will be cumulative and thus include all material studied up to that point. Information you learn through spaced repetition stays with you longer than information you "cram". Daily study periods of shorter duration are more productive than marathon study sessions just before an exam.

Communicative assessments: A major assessment of your speaking abilities will be conducted at mid-year and one at the end of the year, providing you with an opportunity to demonstrate your abilities to communicate about everyday topics and situations in Spanish. This assessment may be conducted as an interview between you and the instructor, as role-plays performed between you and a classmate, or as a short presentation about the topics covered during the semester or cultural aspects of Spanish-speaking countries.

Late Work: Late work will not be accepted. Failure to turn in work by the given due date will result in a zero for that assignment. However, students will still be required to complete these assignments in lunch detention or after school detention as needed. Students who are absent, for extenuating circumstances, will be given one week after the due date to turn in assignments.

Attendance: Students are expected to be on time and attend class everyday. Success in learning a second language depends upon consistent practice and participation. Emergencies, doctor's appointments and illnesses will be handled on an individual basis.

Bathroom/Hall Passes: There will be a process for leaving the class for any given reason. Each student will be given a card which will allow them to leave the room to the restroom, locker and front desk. Each time that a student asks for permission to the room, one of the icons on the card will be marked off. When all of the icons are marked off the student will no longer be able to leave the room or total points will be taken from their final grade at the end of the semester.

Food / drinks / gum: There will be no food, drinks or gum in class except during special occasions (fiestas and presentations). A container for water with a lid that closes is fine.

Classroom Management Statement:

It is the responsibility of each student to behave in a manner which does not interrupt or disrupt the learning process between the teacher and students. Should such interruptions or disruptions occur, the following actions will be taken:

1. At a minimum, students will be warned if their behavior is evaluated as disruptive.
2. Serious disruptions may result in immediate removal of the student from the instructional environment.
3. Significant and/or continued violations may result in a range of actions from discussing the disruptive behavior with the student to consulting with the dean of students to a parent/teacher conference.

World Language Common rules:

RESPECT. Value yourself, others, teachers, your school, and your world.

UNDERSTAND. Be teachable, actively listen, participate, and inquire.

LEARN. Be present, be focused, and be prepared with required materials.

ENGAGE. Be undistracted, free of cell phones, electronics, make-up, etc.

SOAR. Do your best, take risks, show initiative, and enjoy your mind.