

EARTH EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL
Elementary Spanish (Español para Principiantes)
Universidad de San José credit: BE 105; Español Básico y Laboratorio Pedagógico
Spring 2016

DRAFT

Course Overview

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| Instructor | Rita Cárdenas |
| Class Time | Mon & Wed, 2-5pm |
| Field Trips | 15 Feb (San José), 8-9 March (Reserve with other course) |
| E-mail | rita@aprenda-espanol.com |
| Phones | (506) 2487-43-60, 8385-25-85 |
| Office hours | By appointment (por cita previa) |

Course Description

An intensive introductory Spanish course for students with little or no previous experience. Emphasis is on oral practice of themes used in everyday life while living in Costa Rica so as to provide the skills needed to communicate effectively in various aspects of the host culture on a day-to-day basis. No prerequisite. Three units.

Course Objectives

At the completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate listening comprehension of spoken Spanish.
2. Demonstrate oral fluency in Spanish, including vocabulary and quality of pronunciation.
3. Participate in the Costa Rican host culture in a more communicative and culturally appropriate way.

Course Materials

Required Text

Julio I Andújar & Robert J. Dixon. Workbook in Everyday Spanish. Book 1. Elementary - Intermediate, Second Edition.

Recommended Texts

1. A good Spanish-English Dictionary (Simon & Schuster, Larousse, Oxford, etc.). Por ejemplo: Oxford English Spanish. Oxford University Press ISBN 0-19-280013-2 (Librería Universal ¢1.900/\$10)
2. Dictionary Español Norma. Editorial Norma (Librería Universal ¢4.500)
3. A good dictionary of synonyms and antonyms in Spanish (e.g., Larouse, ¢6.500 Librería Universal)

Course Requirements

All classes will consist of a review of homework, lecture, grammar study, and oral practice exercises. Accordingly, students will be evaluated on the following:

1. Attendance & Participation (Asistencia y Participación). In order to achieve stated course objectives, attendance and active participation is essential. Evaluation will thus consist of two parts: *A) Attendance* (your physical presence), which will make-up five percent of your final grade, and *B) Active participation* (quantity & quality of verbal interaction) which will account for another ten percent. Please note that showing up late for class or an activity on multiple occasions is considered equivalent to missing an entire class period. *Total Value: 15%. Late Policy:* Not applicable (no make-up's for missed classes).
2. Homework (Tareas). Five (5) written homework assignments will be assigned during the course, each with a value of two percent of your final grade. *Total Value: 10%. Late Policy:* 10% deduction per day late.

3. Quizzes (Exámenes Cortos). As an effective means of improving the students' grammar and vocabulary structure, three (3) quizzes will be given during the course. Each will have a value of five percent of your final grade. *Total Value: 15%. Late Policy: Not applicable (no make-up's for missed classes).*

4. Oral Presentations (Presentaciones Orales). There will be four (4) oral presentations with a value of five percent of your final grade each. The instructor will provide the topics, or the students may choose them. The presentation should be in Spanish, 5 minutes in length, and make use of some form of audiovisual aid. *Total Value: 20%. Late Policy: Not applicable (no make-up's for missed classes).*

5. Written Exams (Exámenes Escritos). There will be two (2) written exams during the course, a mid-term and a final, each worth twenty percent of your final grade. *Total Value: 40%. Late Policy: Not applicable (no make-up's for missed classes).*

Course Evaluation

The final grade for the course will be determined according to the following scale:

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| 95-100% = 4.0 (A) | 73-76.9% = 2.0 (C) |
| 90-94.9% = 3.7 (A-) | 70-72.9% = 1.7 (C-) |
| 87-89.9% = 3.3 (B+) | 67-69.9% = 1.3 (D+) |
| 83-86.9% = 3.0 (B) | 63-66.9% = 1.0 (D) |
| 80-82.9% = 2.7 (B-) | 60-62.9% = 0.7 (D-) |
| 77-79.9% = 2.3 (C+) | 0-59.9% = 0.0 (F) |

Course Policies

Course Methodology. The goal of this course is to complement the immersion experience of studying and living with a homestay family in Costa Rica. Accordingly, students are expected to achieve a minimum level of proficiency in communication and social skills. This can only be accomplished through your active participation both in and out of class. The language interaction in the classroom is Spanish. From Day 1 ONLY SPANISH will be used by the instructor and students alike. Thus, you should preview the vocabulary and grammar presentation in the book BEFORE coming to class.

Attendance. With the exception of illness, participants are expected to attend all program functions, activities, field trips, service-learning activities, guest presentations, etc. There are a variety of reasons for this including receiving academic credit for associated activities, facilitating program dynamics, assisting with personal adjustment issues, and contributing your effort toward group assignments. Students will be held responsible for knowing the class schedule and making alternative arrangements ahead of time for any missed assignments. For further detail regarding participation, see 'course requirements' above.

Absences. In accordance with general program policies, course absences will subject grades to being lowered. Unexcused absences from *class meetings* will subject the final course grade to a reduction of 1% (for 1 days missed), 2% (for 2 days missed), and 5% per day thereafter (for three or more days). Also note that excessive tardiness to class may be counted as missed class. Missed *field study/volunteer work days* will result in a 5% reduction in the final grade (1 day missed), and a 10% reduction per day thereafter (this is also considered class time). This means that if you are late and miss a departure for a field trip, you not only miss the trip, but also the equivalent amount of class time. For SPECIAL circumstances (beyond your control) where you are unable to attend, it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO DIRECTLY CONTACT THE INSTRUCTOR PRIOR TO CLASS TIME, regardless of the reason for the absence. Otherwise, all policies previously outlined will be in force and there will be NO make-ups.

Appropriate Behavior. The following guidelines for appropriate behavior will apply to this course, and the program:

- Cell phones** may NOT be used during scheduled class time, whether we are in a formal classroom or in the field.
- Laptops, tablets, or similar devices** are to be used ONLY for taking notes, not for connecting to the internet for any other purpose. If this policy is disrespected, WiFi service at the university may be discontinued for all.
- Email** is the official means of communication throughout the program. As such, all students will be responsible for checking email at least once daily. Thus, please be sure we have the best email address for you during your time in Costa Rica, as not receiving/reviewing emails is no excuse for not knowing appropriate information.

Accordingly, *all communications with professors related to academics shall be via email (or phone, if during regular working hours)*. Texting is not an appropriate means for questions about course assignments.

d) **Homework questions** that are within 24 hours prior to the due date are subject to a non-response. Though students often choose to complete assignments the night before it is due, questions that may arise at that point do not constitute an urgent situation for the professor. In particular, texting or calling at the last minute--particularly outside of working hours--is not appropriate, nor a substitute for advanced planning.

e) **All other policies** identified on the program web site, and presented at the beginning of the program, also apply to this course: <http://www.earthedintl.org/Policies.htm>.

Course Outline (subject to modification to accommodate student needs)

I. Review

- a) Vocabulary: Greetings, relationships, likes/dislikes, family & customs, travel, food, hobbies
- b) The present tense: Regular verbs (verbos regulares)
- c) Basic structures (ser/estar, saber/conocer, hay, tener, necesitar, querer, ir)
- d) The imperative (el imperativo)
- e) Verbs like gustar (verbos especiales)
- f) The present progressive (presente progresivo)
- g) The periphrastic future (future perifrástico)

II. Reflexive Verbs

- a) Formation and uses of reflexive verbs
- b) The imperative of reflexive verbs

III. The Present Tense

- a) Irregular verbs (verbos irregulares)
- b) Stem changing verbs (verbos que cambian)

IV. The Preterit Tense

- a) Regular use of the preterit
- b) Irregular verbs (irregulares del pretérito)

V. The Imperfect Tense

- a) Regular usage
- b) The imperfect and the preterit: Difference

VI. Indirect Pronouns

VII. Perfect & Conditional Tenses

- a) Present perfect tense
- b) Past perfect tense
- c) The conditional tense

VIII. The Future

- a) Forms of the future tense
- b) Relative pronouns

IX. The Subjunctive: An Overview

- a) Principles of Subjunctive Impersonal Clauses
- b) Subjunctives with emotional expressions

Tentative Course Schedule

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| Week 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Repaso de vocabulario - Tiempo presente - Verbo especial gustar - Interrogativos - Tarea #1 - Field Trip: Alajuela |
| Week 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quiz #1 - Ser vs estar - Comparaciones de desigualdad - Oral Presentations #1 - Verbos en presente (regulares) - Repaso general - Tarea #2 - Futuro perifrástico |
| Week 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quiz #2 - Verbos en Presente progresivo - Irregulares en presente - Direct pronouns - Tarea #3 - Pronombres después de preposiciones |
| Week 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reflexive verbs - Oral Presentations #2 - Repaso del presente regulares e irregulares. - Verbos en pretérito perfecto simple |
| Week 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Examen Parcial (mid-term) - Pretéritos irregulares - Pretérito ir/ser - Tarea #4 - Pronombres indirectos |
| Week 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pretérito de verbos -ir (stem-changing) - Verbos en pretérito imperfecto - Cognados y cognados falsos - Quiz #3 - Repaso del presente y pretérito - Presente perfecto y participe - Oral Presentations #3 |
| Week 7 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Verbos en pretérito e imperfecto - Se + verbo construcciones - Tarea #5 - Pronombres relativos - Subjuntivos con expresiones de emoción |
| Week 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Examen final (final) - Oral Presentations #4 - Course review & evaluation |

Additional Resources

1. Giebler Simonet, Alf Alexander. A lo tico. Costarriqueñismos y otras vainas. Segunda Edición. San José Costa Rica.
2. El Nuevo Sembrador, Edición dirigida y realizada por: La escuela Nueva S. A. Editores.
3. Lengua Española, Compañía Cultural Editora y distribuidora de Textos Americanos, S.A.
4. Libros Escuela Para todos (ICECU) 2005 al 2011.
5. Charts, posters, pictures, games, flash cards, lottery, songs, videos and teaching techniques.