COURSE OUTLINE - SPAN 1010
First-Year Spanish I
FALL 2010
School of Linguistics and Language Studies, Carleton University

TIMES & LOCATIONS: TBA
INSTRUCTOR: Janett Martínez Amador, MA
OFFICE: 3A54 Paterson
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OFFICE HOURS: TBA or by appointment

I-OBJECTIVES

Learning a language is a complex, long-term process as well as a rewarding personal experience. You will find this class quite different from others in the university, requiring as it does attendance, participation and consistent effort, review and practice both in and out of class. You are expected to be actively involved in our class activities because your constant personal involvement both in and out of class will be essential to your progress.

This introductory course is aimed at preparing students with language skills and basic Spanish to communicate ideas and express them. My objective is engaging you as much as possible in task work for the activation of the learning process, to get you doing many activities in Spanish both in and out of class. This is the most effective way to acquire and retain what students are seeing in class and outside.

Broadly, in terms of language, during this course, you will work with the sound and spelling systems of Spanish; begin to make some important linguistic distinctions such as gender, verb endings and word order; learn to use and recognize some present, past and future forms; and acquire vocabulary related to common topics from our everyday lives with a lot of information, you can learn as much about the locations, lives, backgrounds and attitudes of Spanish speakers as you do the language.

The class is mainly conducted in Spanish to familiarize students with the Spanish sounds, the basic intonation patterns, practical vocabulary and also to encourage students to communicate fairly naturally from the first day, at all times, so the use of Spanish is promoted from the beginning. The emphasis is on spontaneous talk and confidence building.

II-DESCRIPTION OF COURSE WORK

As you can see, this is not a lecture course. The class is a workshop where the language is presented in a context and you work with it in pair/ groups in consultation with me. It is important that you maximize your time in class in the small groups to practice Spanish, try things out and listen to others. Get use to yourself speaking Spanish, ask for help or clarification, and generally contribute to making things happen so that we can have a more interesting and meaningful class.

The course is topic-based and task-based. Materials offer a variety of task-based activities around topics for a wide ability range to involve you in a variety of communicative activities –team work, joint information seeking, decision making as well as role plays. In general terms, we will move from our daily life topics, families and interests to ways of life in Spain and Latin America. Outside class, you will be expected to review explanations in the Coursepack and handouts, do activities assigned, check your email in Connect and WebCT, and later on do a little research in Spanish on given topics. Most of your writing for evaluation will be done in class and will grow out of topics discussed in class or something you had to prepare at home. Since attendance is essential and the class will be increasingly spontaneous, in-class writing for evaluation will not generally be announced beforehand but will be done when need and time coincide.

Language learning is cumulative, so it is important to keep up in order to progress with the class. In this introductory course, the language progresses rapidly on all fronts—vocabulary, language functions, topic
areas and grammar as well as the associated speaking and writing skills. Your attendance is extremely important to the class dynamics and to your success.

You are expected to arrive on time for all lectures and remain for the balance, as late arrivals and early departures disrupt other students.

Absences, late arrivals and early departures will reduce the in-class participation mark. Attendance is compulsory. Students must attend a minimum of 80% of classes in order to qualify for a passing mark for the term. A full assessment of the completion of assignments may depend on attendance records.

III-COURSE MATERIALS

Course pack SPAN 1010 required for this course. Students must bring the Course pack to all classes.

* You will be able to buy your course materials at Haven Books, 43 Seneca St at Sunnyside. It is the closest bookstore to campus. They stock some Spanish reference books. Tel: 730 – 9888 www.havenbooks.ca

Other materials:
Handouts on language, culture and practice activities, to be kept in your course folder.

Other resource texts:
A good, medium-sized (portable!) dictionary is important. Some good buys at Haven Books:

Harrap’s Spanish and English pocket Dictionary
Harrap’s Spanish and English Dictionary (with complete grammar review and tables)

WebCT. An updated course calendar, the course outline, course notes and assignments, grammar exercises will be posted on WebCT . It is also important to check daily your new emails in your CONNECT account.

For matters that are not in the public domain (i.e. your personal question/ request) you must contact us through your CONNECT account. If you do not have or have yet to activate this account, you may wish to do so by visiting https://portal.carleton.ca/

For us to respond to your e-mails, we need to see your full name, CU ID, and the email must be written from your valid CONNECT address.

Please note that cell phones and pagers should be switched off for the duration of all classes.

Girol Books, 120 Somerset St West (between Elgin & the canal). Good for extra resources, with a helpful, knowledgeable staff. Student discount!
Dictionaries, readers, puzzle books, comics, magazines and the free local Spanish papers.
Opening hours: Mon-Fri 10-6’00, Sat 2-5’00  Tel: 233-9044   e-mail: lroster@girol.com

Spanish-language press is also available in other places, such as:
Mags & Fags, 254 Elgin St (near Somerset)
Globe Mags, 57 William St (opposite Byward Market building)

Montreal. Librería Las Américas, 10 St Norbert (near Sherbrooke & St Laurent).
Weekend hours: Sat 9-5’00 (closed Sunday)  Tel: (514) 844-5994  www.lasamericas.ca

Toronto: Boli’s Books, 609 Bloor St West  Tel: (416) 535 – 6155  www.bolisbooks.com

IV-EVALUATION (assignments and grade distribution)
Classwork, & Quizzes 35%
Homework 20%
Midterm 15%
Tests (2) 10%
Final Group Presentation 20%
Total 100%

NOTE: A final minimum grade of C is required to move on to the next level.
All assignments must be completed on time, with the class, in order to receive grades.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Classwork & Quizzes (35%)
You are expected to be actively involved in whole in-class activities as well as in small groups for review and consolidation of both language and content. In the labs you will have grammar as well as listening activities to complete. Sometimes you will have short quizzes on certain structures or vocabulary discussed in the preceding classes. All of these tasks will be counted; all will be evaluated. Remember that they will be done regularly, often without warning, and must be done with the group. Your participation will be evaluated according to your attention and input to the class, including your presence for in-class writing assignments and your oral input in group work.

Homework (20%)
You will be given a number of tasks to complete at home and bring this material for class discussion. Home assignments will give you the opportunity to expand on topics and structures discussed in class. All of these tasks will be counted; all will be evaluated. Assignments will be evaluated for both content and form.

Midterm (15%)
Around the middle of the term, we will do a longer in-class midterm consisting of various short tasks around a topic. You can expect to do some reading and maybe listening, comprehension and structure-based questions and free writing. This test will be focused on all of the materials that were covered up the class before the midterm. Please note that I will keep the midterm and other tests after we have reviewed them together in class and kept available for any further questions.

Tests 2x (10%)
You will also have 2 tests during the course on the material covered in class and at home in the course. Written exams are designed to assess a variety of the skills which are practiced during the course, including: listening comprehension, writing, knowledge of vocabulary, knowledge of grammar, and familiarity with the Hispanic culture.
Note that these assignments are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned to students.

Final group presentation (20%)
This is a final, overall assessment of your ability to deal with the language in various situations, to be carried out in the last classes. You will be assigned a specific topic -to work in groups- to do some outside research, to be presented orally in teams. You must complete all parts of this cumulative assignment with the class. The final in-class assignment will be graded on the basis of agreement, intelligibility and content. Note that these assignments and results will be seen in class. Note that if you miss a class, you are expected to find out from classmates about work missed. Special circumstances may be discussed with me before something is due, so let me know if you will have to be away.

Due dates are final. Late assignments will not be accepted unless accompanied by a doctor’s note or other verifiable explanation.

A separate schedule/plan de trabajo will be handed out for you to keep track of dates for assignments and lab sessions.
V. CLASSROOM AND TUTORIAL GROUP BEHAVIOUR AND ETIQUETTE

Students are encouraged to relate course issues to the "real world" of Canadian society. Some issues we discuss are controversial and/or sensitive to some members of the class. Critical debate founded on intellectual analysis is encouraged and the principle of academic freedom is respected, but students must not make offensive or harmful statements. Racist, sexist, homophobic, or other derogatory language will not be tolerated. Respect people you disagree with intellectually. While active participation in the lectures and groups are encouraged, you must also allow others the chance to be heard.

**Disruptive behaviour** is an instructional offence at Carleton University. Talking amongst yourselves or using personal communication devices disrupts other students, so this will not be tolerated. Laptop computers and palm pilots may be used only for note taking. You are NOT permitted to operate mobile phones or other electronic devices during lectures or groups. You are expected to arrive on time for lectures and tutorial groups and remain for the balance, as late arrivals and early departures disrupt other students. See http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/human-rights/policy/attached-documents/dealing-with-disruptive-or-intimidating-behaviour-a-guide-for-faculty-and-teaching-assistants

VI. Statement on Academic Offenses

In all written work, students must avoid plagiarism, i.e. presenting the work or ideas of others as one's own. Forms of plagiarism include copying from the work of another author without proper use of footnotes and quotation marks; using the ideas of others without acknowledging the source; extensive paraphrasing; or submitting the work of another as one's own. The same piece of work may not be submitted for more than one course nor have been previously submitted to fulfill any other course requirement. For undergraduate students, academic offenses will be reported to the Office of the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

VII. Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

**Pregnancy obligation:** write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/student_guide.htm

**Religious obligation:** write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/student_guide.htm

**Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations:** in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but are not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that I receive your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by the last official day to withdraw from classes in each term. For more details visit the PMC website: http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/students/acad_accom.html