

**Department of Modern Languages and Literatures**  
**College of Arts and Sciences**  
**Fall 2009**  
**Course Syllabus**  
**Spanish Language and Culture I**  
**MLL 154-01,02**

**Instructor: Mr. Brett Smith**  
**Office: Grubbs Hall 446**  
**Classroom: Grubbs Hall 102**  
**Class Time: 8:00-8:50, 9:00-9:50**  
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**Office Hours: 10:00-12:00 MTWTH**

### **GENERAL EDUCATION**

This course counts toward the requirements in General Education for your degree program. General Education is an important part of your educational program at Pittsburg State University that has been designed to implement the following philosophy.

### **PHILOSOPHY OF GENERAL EDUCATION**

General education is the study of humans in their global setting. The general education curriculum, therefore, acts as the heart of a university education by developing the capacities that typify the educated person and providing a basis for lifelong learning and intellectual, ethical, and an esthetic fulfillment. General education examines the world around us and fosters an understanding of our interactions with the world and our place in the universe. General education celebrates the creative capacities of humankind and helps to preserve and transmit to future generations the values, knowledge, wisdom, and sense of history that are our common heritage.

### **GOALS OF GENERAL EDUCATION FOR THIS COURSE**

This course contributes to the overall purpose of the General Education program by:

- 1) Providing the students with the basic knowledge and skills in a foreign language that will enable them to participate more effectively in our global society. (1.1, 1.2)
- 2) Stimulating critical thinking and encouraging decision making free from prejudice or insularity. (2.1, 2.4)
- 3) Promoting an appreciation of different cultures. (Goal # 4.ii.3) However, the emphasis of this course will be to help the students meet the following objectives for the understanding and appreciation of a variety of cultures and their interrelationships (3.1, 3.2)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to: 1.1 Recognize the value of diverse cultural, national and ethnic backgrounds. 3.3 Demonstrate an understanding of the relationships of gender, race, and class within and across cultures. These objectives are met through a variety of means, including: 1) Reading, analysis, and discussion of cultural information about the countries and regions where the target language is spoken 2) Discussion of authentic materials that show the diversity of the people who speak the language. Such authentic materials include audio tapes, video tapes, pictures, music, and internet resources among others.

3) The practice of situations that show the sociolinguistic appropriateness of language use in different communicative instances.

### **RETRO CREDITS**

The retro credits program allows students with significant prior language experience to benefit in several ways. It is designed to reward deserving students who have already spent years learning languages in high school and to encourage those students to seek university level courses to complete a Minor or Major. Students desiring credit for language proficiency acquired before coming to PSU should consult in the Department.

### **HOW TO APPLY**

Students must sign up for the retro credits program with Kathy Dyer, Departmental Secretary, during the first three weeks of the semester in which they take their first language course. That course determines their entry level and the maximum credits they can earn through retro credits. Transfer students who took language courses at another university or college are not eligible. No exceptions or extensions will be granted. The Department encourages students to seek faculty advice to determine their best entry level. For more information on retro credits visit our webpage at [www.pittstate.edu/flang](http://www.pittstate.edu/flang).

### **REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

- 1) Text: Imagenes. Rusch, Dominguez, Caycedo Garner
- 2) Activities Manual
- 3) InText
- Audio CDs with chapter dialogues (Accompanies Text)
- 4) A Spanish Dictionary

### **Additional Materials**

- 1) Imagenes Video Program (Students do not have to buy)
- 2) Imagenes Website:  
<http://college.hmco.com/languages/spanish/rusch/imagenes/1e/students/ace.html>

### **EVALUATION:**

Chapter Tests (4 @ 50 points each) 200  
Midterm 100  
Final Exam 100  
Activities Manual (6 @ 25 points each) 150  
Quizzes (20 @ 10 points each) 200  
Assigned Readings (2 @ 25 points each) 100  
Attendance and Participation 100  
900

### **GRADING SYSTEM:**

A 90-100%  
B 80-89%  
C 70-79%  
D 60-69%  
F 0-59%

## **POLICIES:**

The dates of tests and exams are announced. EXAMS MAY NOT BE MADE UP UNLESS YOU INFORM ME IN ADVANCE OR IN CASE OF EMERGENCY. (I RESERVE THE RIGHT TO DEFINE WHAT AN EMERGENCY IS). Homework dates are also announced in advance. There will be no credit for late homework. In general homework is due on the exam date. However, I will collect homework prior to the tests and exams. Attendance is vital to the study of a foreign language. Most of your listening exposure and speaking practice is done in class. Here you will develop fluency. Therefore I expect you to be in class every day, prepared to participate fully. Should you miss class, it is your responsibility to get the notes and the next day's assignments. (Call or email me or a classmate.) I take role every day. IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN 5 UNEXCUSED ABSENCES I WILL CONSIDER DROPPING YOU FROM THE CLASS. I reserve the right to define an unexcused absence. Chronic tardiness is detrimental to your chances for success and disruptive for your classmates. Avoid it. Three late attendances= 1 absence. In addition, this class requires a lot of work in pairs and/or groups. Each person in the group is expected to participate to the best of their abilities. All test materials are the instructor's property and therefore **must** be returned to him after test reviews. TEST MATERIALS TAKEN OUT OF CLASS WITHOUT INSTRUCTOR'S PERMISSION **WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED BACK FOR ANY CREDIT!**

Exam format will consist of some combination of listening; true false, multiple choice, short questions, and fill in the blanks. The final day to drop this course without grade report is September 8, 2008. If you have a handicap or a disability that I need to know about, please inform me. I will like to work with everybody to ensure maximum benefit from this course.

Students seeking assistance with academic programs because of handicap should contact Teresa R. Massa (620-235-4189), Director of Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action. Students with learning disabilities should contact Dr. Jamie Wood (6202354193) Coordinator of Learning Disabilities and Special Services. **Special Notice: Cell Phones, Pagers, etc. Turn the sound device to the off position. I will not tolerate cell phones, lap tops, mp3 players, I pods, or any other electronic device. From the moment you enter the class room you will be expected to have put them away. If you violate this policy you will be asked to leave. The second offence will result in you being expelled from my class. In that regard, on the day of a test, if you are using any of these devices your test will be taken and you will receive a (0%) and an absence for that day.**

## **STUDY TACTICS**

- 1) Read assigned text before class. Take grammar notes in class. Review grammar notes and text explanations as soon as possible after class.
- 2) Memorize new vocabulary in small amounts. Organize vocabulary by subject. Review the current chapter's previous vocabulary every day. Building vocabulary is essential to your success in a modern language class. Repetition is the key to permanent memorization. If you cannot remember a word try to express yourself in other words that you do know.
- 3) Practice using the language at every opportunity. Speak to a Spanish speaking friend, student, coworker or customer.
- 4) Study and do homework with a classmate.

## **Assignments**

### **1) Activities Manual AM**

These assignments correspond with each chapter in the text. In your course outline the Manual will be referred to as AM. All AM 's will be checked at the end of the hour, the day before the test. The day before the test will be considered a review day. On this day you will exchange your manuals with a classmate and work together as peers to help each other find mistakes. I will not look for 100% completion. I will look to see that you have used the manual as a study tool and that you have completed a majority of it. I tell you now, if you DO THE ASSIGNMENTS IN THE AM you will find the chapter tests very easy. NO LATE WORKBOOKS WILL BE ACCEPTED. DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE STRENGTH OF THESE ACTIVITIES WHEN IT COMES TO YOUR FINAL GRADE.

### **2) Quizzes (Q)**

These will be given at random over different aspects of grammar during the semester. These quizzes CAN NOT be made up. If you are not in attendance on the day a quiz is given you then forfeit the points for that quiz. That is one more reason why attendance will be imperative.

### **3) Assigned Readings (AR)**

These readings are to assist the student in the area of interpreting the language. The student may pick his or her reading (however it MUST be approved by the instructor first), or they may request one from the instructor. After reading the material the student must write a small essay over the content they learned.