

Department of Modern Languages and Literatures
Pittsburg State University
Fall 2007

Course Title: MLL-154-07. Spanish Language and Culture I

Credit Hours: Five. Meets General Education Requirements

Pre-requisite: None

Day and Time: M-F 12:00-12:50 PM

Room: Grubbs Hall 102

Instructor: Sr. Eli Fuentez

Office: 403 Grubbs Hall

Telephone: Office: 620-235-6131
Home: 620-423-4183

Email: ejfuentez@hotmail.com

Office Hours: Monday: 2:00-3:00 PM
Tuesday: 2:00-3:00 PM
Wednesday: 2:00-3:00 PM
Thursday: 2:00-3:00 PM
Friday: 2:00-3:00 PM

CLASS DESCRIPTION: This is a beginner level course designed to introduce you to the basics of the Spanish language. During the six chapters covered, you will learn to communicate at the novice level in a variety of situations. Activities used to introduce and reinforce language structures will include listening, speaking, reading, and writing, as well as cultural concepts that will both reinforce language skills and give students a wider appreciation of the Spanish speaking world.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- 1) *Imágenes*. 2nd Edition (2007) Caycedo Garner, Domínguez, Rusch
Textbook, Activities Manual (Workbook/Lab Manual), Multimedia CD-ROM 1.0
- 2) Audio CD to accompany the Lab Manual portion of the Activities Manual, available at a cost of \$3.00 in the Language Lab, 202 Grubbs Hall.
- 3) ACE Practice Tests, accessible at
<http://college.hmco.com/languages/spanish/rusch/imagenes/1e/students/ace.html>

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS: 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 the 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 life-long learning and intellectual, ethical, and aesthetic 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. (Goal #1, 1.1, 1.2)
 - 1) stimulating critical thinking and encouraging decision-making free from prejudice or insularity (Goal # 2, 2.1, 2.4)
 - 2) promoting an appreciation of different cultures. (Goal # 4, 4.3)

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 (Goal # 3, 3.1, 3.2)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 3.1 Recognize the value of diverse cultural, national and ethnic backgrounds.
- 3.2 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 Department of Modern Languages and Literatures has a retro-credits program designed to reward students who have already spent years learning languages in high school. Students must sign up for the program ***in 428 Grubbs Hall*** with Kathy Dyer, Departmental Secretary, during the first three weeks of the semester in which they take their **first** language course at PSU. That course determines their entry level and the maximum credits they can earn through retro-credits. For more information on retro-credits visit our webpage at www.pittstate.edu/flang. ***Transfer students who took language courses at another university or college are not eligible. The Department encourages students to seek faculty advice to determine their best entry level.***

EVALUATION

Chapter Tests (4 @ 50 points)	200 points
Exams (2 @ 100)	200 points
Vocab Quizzes (6 @ 5)	30 points
Comprehensive Vocab Quiz (1 @ 25)	25 points
Multimedia Assignments (2 @ 20)	40 points
ACE Practice Tests (7 @ 5)	35 points
Workbook/Lab Manual (7 @ 10)	70 points
Attendance/Participation	25 points
<hr/>	
Total	625 points

GRADING SYSTEM

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

CHAPTER TESTS AND EXAMS: Chapter tests will be given over chapters 1,2,4, and 5. Two comprehensive exams will be given, one over chapters 1-3, the other over chapters 4-6. **NO CHAPTER TESTS OR EXAMS MAY BE MADE UP UNLESS THE INSTRUCTOR IS INFORMED IN ADVANCE OR IN CASE OF EMERGENCY! (THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DEFINE WHAT AN EMERGENCY IS)** Tests and exams will contain both oral and written components. Tests may also include a brief oral interview.

QUIZZES: A total of six quizzes will be given throughout the semester. These may or may not be pop quizzes. Quizzes will mostly be over vocabulary, so study the vocabulary for each chapter. Do not fall behind in learning vocabulary.

MULTIMEDIA ASSIGNMENTS: A total of two multimedia assignments will be given throughout the semester. These assignments are designed to help students to explore the culture, geography, and history of the Spanish speaking world. These assignments will be discussed in more depth as they are given.

ACE PRACTICE TESTS: These tests may be accessed at the following website:
<http://college.hmco.com/languages/spanish/rusch/imagenes/1e/students/ace.html>

For each chapter there are several sections of the practice test. The instructor will inform you in advance of which section(s) you must complete. To complete the test, simply go to the website and click on the appropriate section. If you do not receive a 100% the first time, retake the test until you do so. Once correctly completed, choose the “Print” option. Once the completed test(s) have been printed, turn them in to the instructor. DO NOT choose the “email to instructor” option. These tests are to be turned in on the same day that the chapter test or exam is taken (with the exception of the preliminary chapter—this will be discussed in class). No late work will be accepted.

WORKBOOK SECTIONS: Homework will be given each class period at the end of class based on the class for that day and will always include several activities from the Workbook. DO NOT GET BEHIND ON THE HOMEWORK. Homework assignments reinforce classroom practice. Your classroom participation will be hindered if you get behind in your homework.

Important note: As *you complete each workbook activity, correct it* with the answer key immediately with red ink (you will get credit for this) and *then* review the activity by reading it *aloud*. This will help reinforce reading and speaking skills and help you prepare for the listening portions of tests. Monitor your own pronunciation and continually make adjustments as needed. Repeat/model pronunciation of dialogues and lab manual activities.

LAB MANUAL SECTION: These activities are very important in building listening skills and will help you practice for the listening portions of quizzes and exams. You may do these activities alone, with a study partner, or in a group. You will receive credit for completing the lab manual activities. Always answer in **complete** sentences. The goal is to understand the native speakers--and this requires a lot of practice. Mimic their pronunciation and read the script on your own or with a partner.

PARTICIPATION: Upon entering the classroom, students are expected to practice aloud (greet the instructor and classmates, read aloud, practice conversation, quiz vocabulary, role-play, or practice for an oral interview). A goal-oriented, academic environment is encouraged. Socializing in English in class is discouraged. You will receive up to 5 points a day for participation. **You should make your participation obvious to the instructor (answering questions, practicing in the hall before class, or practicing with another student upon completing an activity).** Paired reading practice is encouraged.

ATTENDANCE

Frequent, daily exposure to and use of the target language is vital in making real progress toward speaking a foreign language. Therefore, students are expected to be in class every day, prepared to participate fully. Should you miss class, it is your responsibility to look up the current assignment and return to class prepared to participate fully in the activities. I take roll each day. Each class meeting you miss, for whatever reason, will result in this portion of your attendance grade being reduced by five percent [5%]. However, **if on a given day, you have an exam or a presentation to make in another class and you are not prepared**, go ahead and come to class; before class gets under way, ask me not to call on you on that day and I will respect your request. You learn more by just being in class, observing and listening, than you do by missing. Nonetheless, *if you come to class chronically unprepared*, I will drop you from the course. **Chronic tardiness** is detrimental to your chances for success and disruptive for your classmates.

Tardiness is strongly discouraged. It interrupts and distracts the class. **Three tardies will count as an absence.** Special arrangements for class conflicts must be made on or before the first day of class.

Cell phones: It is my experience that cell phones are very disruptive to the learning process. The policy for cell phones in the classroom is as follows:

- 1) PHONES OFF UPON ENTERING CLASS.
- 2) “OFF” is not a synonym for “silent” or “vibrate.”
- 3) If you are expecting an EMERGENCY CALL, let the instructor know before class begins.
- 4) IF YOUR PHONE RINGS IN CLASS, you have two options.
 - a. Pack up your books; take the call in the hall, and DO NOT return to class. In this case, you will be counted absent.
 - b. Turn the phone off and turn it in to the instructor (along with a sincere apology). Pick the phone up after class. If it happens again, you will be asked to leave the class for the remainder of the class period and be counted absent.