

Español I

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Rm. 117

Course Information:

Students learn to communicate about basic personal information and several other simple, high frequency topics through speaking, writing, listening and reading. Many varied activities build a foundation of grammatical knowledge and skills that allow students to succeed in higher levels of language study. Students explore Mexican geography, cities and culture, leading them beyond some of the stereotypes and misconceptions common in our community. Finally, students develop understanding of some of the cultural practices common throughout the Spanish-speaking world. Passing a proficiency test at the end of the year is required for promotion to Spanish II.

Promotion to Next Level and Graduation Requirements:

There are no pre-requisites for this class. It is an introductory level course and is open to all students. Spanish I fulfills the first year of La Salle's two-year World Language requirement (see page 24 of the Student Handbook).

A student earning a grade of a "D" or lower in the class at the end first semester will be evaluated and a determination of skill level will be made. Students may be asked to drop the class and re-take it the following year or to continue on an academic contract.

In addition, a proficiency exam will be administered approximately three weeks prior to the end of the second semester in order to verify that the students have mastered the vocabulary and concepts needed for success in Spanish II. Students may be asked to repeat part or all of Spanish I or enroll in summer school if they are deemed unready to continue. Also, a C- or better is a requirement for admission into the Oregon University System (page 15 of Student Handbook).

Required Materials:

Workbook: *Paso a Paso I* ISBN: 0-673-21681-0

Students are expected to come to class with their binder (with 3 dividers for **homework**, **handouts**, and **returned work**), composition notebook and dark blue or black ink pens each day. A class set of textbooks will remain in the classroom for student use during class. Copies of the text for student use are available in the library.

Classroom Philosophy:

Every individual in the class has the right to learn in a safe environment, and therefore has the responsibility to create and maintain that classroom environment for one another. We have dignity because we are all made in the image of God, and all deserve to be treated with respect. This means doing your best, treating others respectfully, encouraging each other, and maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning by both listening and speaking at appropriate times.

This year in Spanish you will widen your knowledge of and appreciation for cultures, lives, and perspectives that are different from your own. I want to increase your interest in the Spanish language while teaching you useful skills for communication. You can expect that reading, writing, listening, and speaking will all be regular parts of our class, and that participation is a vital part of learning a new language. I expect you to use class time to learn Spanish, and to spend a reasonable amount of time outside of class studying and doing homework.

Course Objectives:

- Students will be able to communicate about basic personal information through speaking, writing, listening and reading.
- Students will be able to communicate ideas on several simple, high-frequency topics.
- Students will attain grammatical knowledge and skills that will allow them to succeed in higher levels of language study.
- Students will develop an understanding of Mexican geography, cities and culture that goes beyond common stereotypes.
- Students will develop understanding of some of the cultural practices common throughout the Spanish-speaking world.

Course Outline (subject to change):

Semester 1

	Unit name	Duration
1.	Primer Paso/ Introductory Unit	4 weeks
2.	¿Qué clases tienes? School and classes	3 weeks
3.	¿Cómo eres? What are you like?	3 weeks
4.	Geography and cities/states of Mexico	2 weeks
5.	Los Pasatiempos, What do you like to do in your free time?	3 weeks
6. / 7.	Interspersed Units (Reading & Culture through Celebrations)	2 weeks instructional time
	Semester review	1 week
	Semester Exam	1 day

Semester 2

	Unit name	Duration
6. / 7.	Interspersed Units (Reading & Culture through Celebrations)	3 weeks instructional time
8.	¿Qué prefieres comer?	3 weeks
9.	¿Cómo es tu familia?	3 weeks
10.	¿Qué llevas?	3 weeks
11.	Interspersed cultural topics (Current events in Mexico)	2 weeks instructional time
12.	¿Adónde vas de vacaciones?	3 weeks
	Review & Placement test	1 week
13.	¿Qué tienes que hacer en casa?	as time permits
	Unit 13 Exam	1 day

Student Learning Activities

Each unit will include a wide variety of in-class student activities to promote vocabulary acquisition and grammar learning. Homework will be assigned approximately three nights per week (though this may be lower during the first semester). Students are expected to study as well as complete assignments. Each unit will culminate with a comprehensive test, which will likely include listening, reading, grammar, and writing activities. Oral proficiency will be assessed twice during the year (with semester exams) through a short interview. Additional information can be found in the next section.

Grading Policy:

Learning Activities: Homework, In-class work, Participation, & Projects 40%

I will be looking for homework that is neat, complete, and organized.

Assignments will usually be given from the workbook or photocopies provided by the teacher.

- **Late homework** will be accepted TWICE per SEMESTER within one week of the due date. This is known as a “gratis,” or free, assignment. No other late homework is accepted for credit.
- **Late projects** receive a letter grade deduction for each day past due (including blocks). Come see me immediately if there is a viable reason you cannot turn a project in on time.
- **Extra credit** will not have a major impact on your grade. It may be offered once or twice per semester.
- **Absent work** is accepted for full credit when turned in within one week of returning to school. After one week, the normal late homework policy applies. Please note the test make-up policy below. See me if you need an extension for unusual circumstances.
- **Keep all returned work.** Occasionally I make a mistake when recording or entering grades. It is important that you keep returned work so that you can prove my mistake. They will also be helpful in reviewing for tests and finals.

Assessments: Tests & Quizzes 50%

Most units will end with a summative unit test. Each unit will have an average of one comprehensive check quiz. On assessments if you earn a grade of D or an F, you may correct the test or re-take the quiz and raise it to a C- within one week of receiving the grade. You will need to make arrangements to come in after school. In the case that you take advantage of this policy more than twice, a study session with the teacher prior to the next assessment will be required.

Notebook 10%

You are expected to keep a notebook (composition style) of class notes just for Spanish. It will be organized into sections, which I will explain in class. You will be expected to get notes from a friend if you are absent. This notebook will be graded for completeness, accuracy, and organization during each semester. Bring this notebook to class every day and keep it in your class binder.

Your **semester grade** will be determined as follows:

90% Semester Work (homework, tests/quizzes, etc) + **10% Semester Final Exam**

Grading Evaluation Scheme:

100-93=A	89-87=B+	79-77=C+	69-67=D+	59-0=F
92-90=A-	86-83=B	76-73=C	66-63=D	
	82-80=B-	72-70=C-	62-60=D-	

Academic Honesty: Please see the Student Handbook page 19

On any homework, project or test, **cheating and copying** will result in a zero for both those who knowingly supply answers and those who present work that is not their own. I will also report the incident to administration and to your parents/guardians. Working together is usually okay, but know and respect the difference.

Attendance: Please see the Student Handbook pages 29-31

- **Absent work** may be turned in within one week after the absence. After that, refer to the late homework policy (above).
- **Tests** may also be made up for full credit any day after school for one week after an absence. If the test is not made up within one week, it may be taken for a maximum score of a C.
- **MAKE-UP WORK IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.** *I will not hunt you down or give reminders about absent work. The scores will be recorded as 0 until made up.*

Rules & Expectations:

- 1) **Respect** yourself, others, and your school in all actions and words.
- 2) Be **appropriate**.
- 3) All **school rules** and **policies apply** in my classroom (See Student Handbook).
- 4) Arrive **on time** and **prepared** for class.
- 5) Maintain an environment **conducive to learning**.

<p>DO</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Be in your seat when the bells ring.2. Bring needed materials EVERY DAY.3. Act with respect for others.4. Participate in classroom activities.5. Raise hands to ask questions.6. Follow school rules.
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<p>DON'T</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Bring food or drink into my classroom (water is okay).2. Interrupt when others are speaking.3. Let yourself fall behind (speak up and get help when you need it).

Consequences:

Loss of in-class participation points (may or may not be announced), verbal warnings, notes/email/call home, classroom service, detention, visit with Vice Principal for Student Life.

Writing Guidelines and Rules

The following are the guidelines for use of dictionaries, computer translators, sibling, friends, parents, etc. on writing assignments for the La Salle World Languages Department.

Acceptable:

- Use words learned in class or personal experience whenever possible.
- Simplify or restate the idea in a way previously learned in class.
- Include only one new word per sentence if necessary.
- When using a dictionary or translator, use grammar knowledge to find the appropriate word (noun, verb, infinitive, adjective).
- Follow grammar rules studied in class to incorporate any new word used. Often the word will need modification (i.e. gender, verb form).
- Conjugate verbs when appropriate.
- It is always a good idea to have a teacher, friend, sibling, or parent proof-read work before it is turned in. Make sure you understand the corrections. If you do not, it is not your work and thus you cannot use it.

Unacceptable:

- Do not enter a phrase, sentence, or paragraph into a translation program or service. The teacher knows your ability and will be able to tell immediately. Translate single words only using the guidelines outlined above.
- Do not copy a paragraph or passage from an internet site or other source and paste it into a translator program. This is plagiarism.
- Do not use grammatical structures you do not understand. If you do not understand it, it is not your work. Use vocabulary and grammar studied in class to create meaning.

Strategies for success

- Keep up on all homework assignments and oral points. Do your work carefully and thoroughly. You will learn more if you put in the extra effort.
- Set up an e-mail or phone partner for days you miss class, forget the assignment, or need a bit of help. Complete make-up work immediately.
- See me for additional clarification or explanation whenever needed. I often give good hints!
- Be open and ask questions during class.
- Take advantage of the NHS tutors or arrange to work with one of the Spanish IV or V students for additional help each week (see me).
- Use the textbook website for additional practice activities (www.pasoapaso.com)
- Study actively. Use flashcards, rhymes, word associations, or one of the other strategies learned in class to help you remember concepts and words.
- Use your language skills to the fullest extent, both inside and outside of the classroom. Seek out opportunities to use Spanish in your everyday life.

Name _____

Español I

PLEASE read the course expectations outlined above, sign, and detach this page. Your son or daughter will receive homework credit for returning this completed page. Thank you.

STUDENT:

I have read and agree to the contents of this syllabus. I understand what is expected of me in order to succeed in this course.

Print Name

Signature

Date

PARENT:

I have read the contents of this syllabus. I understand what is expected of my son or daughter in order for him or her to succeed in this course.

Print Name

Signature

Date

Please provide your (parent) email address:
