

WHEELER HIGH SCHOOL COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Spanish IV/V
ECE UCONN
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Room 127

I. Course Overview:

*This course will use film and text as a point of departure to further develop understanding of culture and history of different Spanish-speaking countries. This class will focus on improving oral and written response while addressing themes relevant to each film. In addition, the course will include an in-depth review of grammar and an amplification of vocabulary with an emphasis on continuing development. This course may be taken for UCONN/ECE credit. There is a \$30.00 charge for each credit; this is a six credit course. **Prerequisite:** This course is open to students who have achieved a grade of B or better in Spanish III/Honors and teacher recommendation.*

II. Overall Course Objectives (from curriculum):

Students will demonstrate improved written and spoken expression. They will be able to discuss and express their own ideas more clearly, using an increased knowledge and improved application of grammar, vocabulary and idiomatic expressions. Students will enjoy a deeper understanding of culture and history as presented through cinematic production and additional readings as they relate to the themes presented. Students will improve their ability to think critically and to analyze cinematic production.

III. Material Required:

Taller de escritores. Grammar and Composition for Advanced Spanish, Vista higher learning. Boston Massachussetts.

Cinema for Spanish Conversation Mary McVery et al. Focus Publishing, Newburyport MA.

IV. Class/Behavior Expectations:

Be respectful:

Come to class on time and prepared with all necessary materials and homework completed. Do not disturb instruction. Raise your hand. Do not mistreat the property of others or of the school. Be considerate of others. Do not bring food, cell phones or other electronic devices to class

Be responsible:

Participate and be active in your learning by listening and responding. Challenge

yourself and give your best effort on all classroom activities. Ask questions. Follow instructions and complete all work according to instructions. Written work should be done in Spanish unless noted. Be honest:

Do not use translators on any assignment; make sure that homework and testing is your own work. Take responsibility for your actions (or inaction).

Be safe:

Be aware of yourself and your surroundings. Be accountable for your actions. Use materials for designated purposes only. Know and understand fire drill procedures.

V. *Attendance Policy (BOE Policy #5113) – as stated in handbook:*

The North Stonington Public Schools believes that regular school attendance is essential for an effective and productive learning experience. The sequential presentation of school learning requires a continuity of instruction.

The maximum benefits for each individual child can be achieved only from participation and interaction in daily activity. In addition to instruction, other learning processes take place each day that are vital to a student's overall emotional and social growth. Time lost in school is irretrievable in terms of instructional opportunity and social interaction.

The primary responsibility for adherence to regular attendance rests with the student's parents/guardians and the individual student. The Connecticut General Statutes requires students over five and under eighteen years of age to attend school on a regular basis. Appropriate legal action will be taken against parents/guardians whose children fail to abide by the Connecticut Compulsory Attendance Law.

A student is considered to be "in attendance" if present at their school, or an activity sponsored by the school (i.e., field trip), for at least half of the scheduled school day. Any student in school for less than half of the scheduled school day will be considered absent. A student who is serving an out-of-school suspension or expulsion will be considered absent.

Excused Absence

The Board believes a student should not be absent from school without the parents' knowledge and consent, therefore verification of an absence should be in writing by a parent or guardian. The first nine (9) absences will be considered excused if a parent approves the absence and if it is properly documented with a signed note from a parent or a notation is made in the student's attendance record by a school official who received either a verbal or electronic communication from the parent. Family vacations are discouraged during the school year.

For the tenth (10) absence and all absences thereafter, absences will be considered excused for the following reasons:

- Student Illness (verified by a medical professional);
- Student observance of a religious holiday;
- Death in a student's family or emergency beyond the control of the student's family;
- Mandated court appearance
- Extraordinary educational opportunities (i.e., college visits) pre-approved by district administrators and in accordance with SDE guidelines.

There shall be no penalty for an excused absence. Students must bring a note from their parent or guardian to the main office on the day of return to school. For an illness, the student should provide documentation from a doctor. This note must specify the reason(s) for the absence and must conform to the Board of Education Policy # 5113. Excused absences will be listed on the morning bulletin of the day the note is received and marked in PowerSchool, and students will be allowed to make up all work missed. When a student is absent for extended periods of time--more than three days-- parents may obtain assignments from the teachers through the counseling office. Failure to make up assignments may result in a grade of zero for each missing assignment. A student may expect to have one day for each day of absence in order to make up missed work. If a student is absent from school, he/she may not be on school grounds. Extenuating circumstances will be dealt with on a case by case basis by the administration.

Unexcused Absence

An unexcused absence occurs when a student is out of school beyond the first nine (9) absences, parent documentation is not provided for the first nine (9) absences and the absences does not meet one of the excused absence reasons listed above. For every unexcused absence, the student will not be allowed to make up or receive credit for work missed.

Tardy to Class

If a student is more than fifteen (15) minutes late for class, other than because of a school-sanctioned event, he or she will be considered absent from class.

Limit on Total Number of Absences: No student will receive course credit for a full year course after having been absent from that course for more than twenty (20) class periods (excused or unexcused) during the school year for reasons other than school sponsored activities (i.e. field trips). The total number of absences will be pro-rated for less than full year courses and for courses which meet other than five times per week.

VI. *Grading Policy (percentages, total points, etc..)*

Quarterly Evaluation

Oral participation (daily conversation, guided discussions and debates) (30%)

Written responses (grammatical focus, thematic focus) (30%)

Class Preparation (homework, written exercises, research for debates) (20%)

Quizzes (vocabulary, grammar, comprehension, culture and written response) (20%)

Midterm Exam (20% of first semester grade)

Listening and reading comprehension

Oral interview

Written response

Vocabulary

Grammar

Culture

Final Exam (20% of second semester grade)

Listening and reading comprehension

Oral interview

Grading scale:

A+ (97 – 100) C (73 – 76)

A (93 – 96) C- (70 – 72)

A- (90 – 92) D+ (67 – 69)

B+ (87 – 89) D (63 – 66)

B (83 – 86) D- (60 – 62)

B- (80 – 82) F (50 – 59)

C+ (77 – 79) R (0 – 49) – May NOT be made-up in Summer School

To receive credit in any subject, a student must achieve a passing grade (D-).

VII. *Final Assessment Policy*

For one credit or half-credit full year courses, *course assessments* (exams/activity) are given at the conclusion of each semester, a mid-term and a final. For half-credit courses, a *course assessment* (exam/activity) will be given at the end of the semester. All *course assessments*, except in selected classes, are one and one-half hours in length. All students must arrive on time and remain in class for the full duration of the period. Students taking the AP test will not be required to sit for a final exam. **Seniors are exempt from taking a *final course assessment*, in any course where the students have at least a 90 average.** Physical Education classes will not be required to give an exam, but there will be a health exam which could be given earlier. Normally, no excuse for missing a *course assessment* other than illness will be accepted. The principal must give such permission. In cases where an absence is unexcused, a "0" will be recorded for the grade, and no course credit will be given if it is the *final course assessment*.

VIII. *Academic Integrity Statement*

The faculty and administration of Wheeler Middle/High School demand high standards of academic performance and academic honesty. Anything less would jeopardize quality education and allow our students to deny themselves needed skills and knowledge. For this reason students who cheat on their assigned work, reports, research papers, quizzes, tests or examination risk prompt and punitive action by both their teacher and the school. Examples of violations may include, but are not limited to:

- Giving or receiving aid on tests and graded assignments
- Unauthorized talking during tests
- Copying regular homework/exercises
- Unapproved discussion of examinations/assignments contents
- Cheating on peer reviews of student work
- Misuse of technology

Documentation of all sources is important to avoid plagiarism, which is the stealing of another's ideas, words, writing, or academic work, and implying that it is original. Both quoting and paraphrasing information from an outside source, including any technology without crediting that source is a form of plagiarism. Students who are found cheating or plagiarizing will be subject to the following guidelines:

First offense:

- Academic penalty up to and including zero.
- Parent contacted.
- Administration notified (by teachers completing a discipline form).

Subsequent offenses:

- Academic penalty up to and including zero.
- Parent contacted.
- Disciplinary action by administration which may include office detention or suspension

IX. *Teacher Availability for Extra Help (Day and Time):*

Please prearrange extra help. I am usually available during break and after school until 3:00 pm.

X. *Wheeler High School Academic Expectations met by this course:*

- *Literacy*
- *Communication*
- *Collaboration*
- *Analysis*