

**Department:** World Languages

**Course Name:** Spanish I

**Course Description:**

This course, for eighth and ninth graders and above when there is sufficient enrollment, is intended to build a solid foundation in the Spanish language and the culture of Latin America and Spain. It is designed for students at the first level of the language who have had some experience with Spanish, and who have clearly demonstrated an introductory proficiency regarding the elementary structures of the target language. Grammar and vocabulary are presented to fit into particular thematic contexts: greetings, life at school, the family, leisure time activities, vacation, and shopping. Other essential elements are reading, writing, listening and speaking with a particular emphasis on verb conjugation. The students begin to learn the three modes of communication---interpersonal, interpretive and presentational---as defined in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Standards for World Languages as they apply to the “5 C’s:” 1) Communication, 2) Community, 3) Comparison, 4) Connections, and 5) Culture. The course is taught in accordance with ACTFL’s proficiency guidelines. As well as regular assignments in our text, the students are exposed to longer, more complex reading assignments in selections of authentic literature, magazine articles, video stories on different aspects of Hispanic culture and history, short stories, etc. In this way, the students can learn more quickly and build a mastery of active, appropriate vocabulary based on context.

**Content:**

Grammar

Nouns

Subject pronouns

Direct object pronouns

Formal vs. informal

Adjectives, descriptive and possessive

Definite and indefinite articles

Use of “gustar”

Indirect object pronouns

Subject-verb agreement

Regular -ar, -ir and -er verbs in present indicative

Stem-changing verbs in the present indicative

Regular -ar, -ir and -er verbs in preterite ; “ir” and ‘ser” in preterite

Ser and Estar in present indicative and Ser vs. Estar

Verbs with irregular YO form

Punctuation, capitalization

Negative sentences

Interrogative sentences, words

Possession

Contractions

Present Progressive construction

Saber vs. Conocer

Preterite tense of regular verbs; Ir and Ser

Demonstrative adjectives

Vocabulary

Greetings and leave-takings

Expressions of courtesy

Classroom, subjects and school life  
Days of the week, months, seasons, weather  
Clothing  
Family  
Professions and occupations  
Travel and vacation  
Sports, recreation and pastimes  
Time expressions  
Numbers to 1,000  
Colors

### Culture

Basic geography and history of the Spanish-speaking world  
Basic overview of holidays and days like Día de Muertos and Día de la Raza, as well as countries like: Spain, Ecuador, México, Cuba, United States (influence of Spanish) and U.S. territory of Puerto Rico

### **Skills:**

Use Spanish as a means of communication (exchange greetings and farewells; ask and answer questions using new vocabulary and idiomatic expressions)  
Strive to develop an authentic accent when speaking  
Learn and apply grammatical concepts  
Listen to and interpret information  
Write dialogues, descriptions and short essays  
Read and interpret written text  
Acquire knowledge and perspective of culture  
Build geographic awareness  
Make connections and comparisons between the English language and the Spanish language

### **Text and Materials:**

Blanco, José. Senderos Level 1. Spanish for a Connected World. Boston: Vista Higher Learning, 2018.  
Various other supplemental materials from teacher

### **Methods of Instruction:**

Conversational exchange: teacher-student or student-student  
Direct explanation: lecture  
Review, revision of homework assignments  
Drills: written and oral  
Video and iPad activities  
Cooperative learning: partner dialogues and exercises  
Individual and group projects

### **Methods of Evaluation:**

Tests (written, oral and auditory tasks)  
Quizzes (written and oral)  
Writing samples of increasing length  
Oral presentations of individual projects with written component  
Oral presentations of group projects (and dialogues) with written component  
Response questions (oral and auditory)  
Class participation  
Homework checks

Two comprehensive semester exams

