

# World Languages: Spanish I Pre-AP Course Syllabus (2018-2019)

Instructor: April de Garcia

Class Website

Room: A114

Email address: [april.degarcia@kerrvilleisd.net](mailto:april.degarcia@kerrvilleisd.net)

<http://senoradegarcia.com>

Tivy HS number: (830) 257 - 2212

Conference hours: 7:50- 8:45 a.m.

Google Voice number: (830) 542-9309

## Expectations

Students are responsible for attending class each day and participating. Students are responsible for knowing assignment due dates as well as obtaining their own replacement handouts if they are out due to illness or other school-related activities. The entire class is expected to participate. Due to the nature of how we will learn Spanish, it is imperative that you participate and be present, physically and mentally. I rely on students to help cultivate and promote a safe and creative environment. By respecting your instructor, as well as the others around you, you will enable me to guide you through a successful and rewarding language learning experience.

This is not your "average" class. The level of academic study will be higher than a regular class. It isn't enough just to do your work, but to do it with desire and superior effort. I can help you and teach you, but YOU know best what you need. It is YOUR responsibility to navigate your way, and ultimately your success in this class. Because this is a PRE-AP course, I will conduct the class assuming that you will eventually be taking the Spanish AP Language exam. I am almost always available for tutoring before and after school, as well as during my lunch. Please let me know ahead of time that you will be coming in.

### Hablando el Español

- ➔ Use as much Spanish as possible in class.
- ➔ Accept that you will not be able to communicate at a level as advanced as you do in English.
- ➔ Rephrase, draw, or act out ideas in order to make yourself understood and understand others.
- ➔ Learn to function in the classroom in Spanish. (Clarify, ask for help, ask permission, etc.)
- ➔ Be proud of all successful communication in Spanish.
- ➔ Don't distract yourself or others with English unless absolutely necessary.

## Notebook

An organized 3-ring binder notebook will serve as an important resource in this class. It should be set up as follows:

- Warm-ups (dated and in chronological order)
- Worksheets and handouts (numbered and in order)

## CLASS PARTICIPATION

Often, when you go outside of your comfort zone and try new things, meaning you participate beyond regular mandatory responses, you will receive a peso.

- Write your name on the back of your peso.
- At the end of class, place it in the 'Jarra de Rifa'

Each Monday, I will pull three names out of the jar and you will win a prize. The more pesos you have, the better your chances to win!

## Expectations

- 1. Be respectful...**of everyone and everything, including you!
- 2. Bring your best...**in everything you do, everyday.
- 3. Be honest...**remember that character is what you do even when no one is looking.
- 4. Be grateful...**simply by being where you are, you have been given incredible opportunities.
- 5. Cooperate...**with everyone in everything. You can learn just as much from each other as you can from me.
- 6. Be ready and open...**you never know when something incredible may happen. Consider new ideas. Listen and think before you make a judgment or a decision.

**FACT:** The world is changing! We no longer live in single communities but instead find ourselves connected to people and places around the world. One of my primary goals for our class is to broaden our thinking about the world, our country, Texas, and even Kerrville. We will learn about new and different cultures and discuss current events. We will discuss global issues and encourage and value diverse perspectives. Ultimately, we will learn to see our world in a new way so that we not only learn to use the Spanish language, but also understand the world in which we use it!

## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### GRADING POLICY

# 70%

- Tests (x2)
- Projects (x1.5)
- Quizzes (x1)
- Oral Assessments (x1)

# 30%

- Daily practice
- Homework
- Warm ups / Folder checks

\*\* Grades will be weighted to reflect the knowledge and skill required to complete the assignment. \*\*

### Tecnología

- ➔ During class, we will use the language lab and personal electronic devices **AT TIMES**. Students who do not have personal devices will pair up with students who do.
- ➔ At **ALL** other times, **cell phones MUST be turned off and stowed away**. *If they are out during instruction, I will take them up and hold them for you until the end of class.* If I have to take them up more than 3 times, you will store your phone behind my desk each class period for the rest of the semester. You may collect it when the bell rings.
- ➔ Outside of class, you will often be asked to access web-based resources for various assignments. ***Make sure you determine how you will access the Internet.*** Students may use the library if Internet access is not available at home.
- ➔ Conduct yourself on the Internet in an academic manner.

**Late work/zero work** is accepted up to five days after the due date, but not after the end of the six-weeks grading period. There is an automatic 30-point deduction for all late work. Late work will be recorded as a zero and only changed to a 70 if turned before the 5-day grace period. I will not be reminding you to turn it in.

**Make-up work policy:** Students shall be expected to make up assignments and tests after absences. The district allows two days for completion of make-up work for each day of absence. Students shall receive a zero for any assignment or test not made up within the allotted time.

Some of our assignments will be completion grades; others will be graded for accuracy.

**Retesting policy:** All students have an opportunity to correct/retake major tests up to a passing grade of 70, within five school days but not after the termination of the six-week grading period. Students must complete those assignments per teacher policy during pre-arranged times with their instructor.

**Extra credit will be rare, so do your work the first time!**

### ABSENT WORK

- Come prepared for any assignment that you know is due, even if you were absent. (If you will be out for a school-related event, come by **BEFORE** you leave to get missed work.)
- Any papers you missed will be in the wall bin by my desk.
- Ask a classmate to explain any confusion and see me for any clarification.
- Complete and turn in work **no later than 2 days** after your absence.
- Arrange a time with me to come in before or after school or during my lunch to complete any test, quiz, or any other missed work.

### Academic Dishonesty

In this class, we are not learning about the Spanish language, we are **learning to communicate** using the Spanish language. For this reason, it is important that on each assignment, you try to *apply what you have learned* to communicate an appropriate message. The following are **unacceptable** and **will result in lost credit (that means a ZERO)** for assignments:

- Using the thoughts or knowledge of another student on an independent assignment.
- Copying the work of another student
- Copying an example from a Spanish language resource.
- **Using an on-line translator, such as Google translate.** (Dictionary use is acceptable, but should be approached with care)
- Having a friend or family member do your assignment.
- Having a friend or family member correct your assignment.

These behaviors are **easily detected** by the teacher. If you are having difficulties with an assignment, please ***maintain your integrity*** by asking me for help rather than assuming you can pass off dishonest work as your own.

# Estimados Padres,

(Dear Parents,)

# August 2018

I am excited to work with your child this year! I look forward to having the opportunity to cultivate a love of languages with your child. I will do everything I can to help and support their success in our class. At the end of the day, however, your child's level of success will be determined by his/her level of effort. I will continue to remind them of this throughout the year, and I appreciate your support in doing the same. I am available to you for questions or concerns, no matter how small. Please contact me at your convenience, and encourage your child to do the same. My contact information can be found on the front of this syllabus. I am usually available for a conference during first period (7:50 – 8:45 a.m.) but can work around your schedule if necessary. Please take time to review all of this information with your child. **Both parent and student should sign below.** I look forward to working with you this year!

X \_\_\_\_\_

X \_\_\_\_\_

**Sinceramente,**

**April de Garcia**

August 2018

Dear Parent / Guardian,

This semester my students will be viewing some authentic Hispanic films and videos that

were produced in Spanish-speaking countries as well as a television show from Spain. Some of the films and videos are unrated or PG-13. I have carefully previewed each of these and I have chosen them because of the cultural and linguistic content that I feel will benefit these students and allow them to expand their language study to a higher level. The rated PG-13 films and television shows are rated PG-13 mostly due to profanity. I do censor several scenes for content when viewing in class.

If you would like to come to my classroom and preview any of the films, you are welcome to do so by appointment.

Your child will need your permission to view any film that is rated PG or PG 13.

**Board Policy:** Videos and video clips may be used to support or enhance the instructional program. The teacher shall screen these additional resources in advance. If the video is to be used for another purpose such as reward or incentive, its use shall be cleared with the campus principal. Only films that have been rated “G” may be used without parental consent. Videos or any portion thereof, with any other rating, may only be shown with the informed permission of the principal and parents. An alternative instructional activity designed to meet the same instructional needs will be available for students whose parents deny permission. EFA (LOCAL)

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at [april.degarcia@kerrvilleisd.net](mailto:april.degarcia@kerrvilleisd.net).

Sincerely,

April de Garcia  
Tivy High School Spanish teacher

Please check and sign:

\_\_\_\_ I agree that my child may view any films that Mrs. de Garcia has selected for the class and I give permission for him/her to see any film with a PG-13 rating that the class will be viewing.

\_\_\_\_ I do not grant my child permission to see PG-13 films in class.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date