



BELLOWS FREE ACADEMY

St. Albans, Vermont

World Languages Department Course Syllabus

Course Name: *Spanish 4/5*
Course ID: 10548Y / 10554Y
Course Credits: 1.0

Instructor: James Thurber

Year/Term: 2022-2023

Room: A218

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Description and course outline:

In Spanish IV and V, students will continue to develop skills in the primary areas of language: speaking, writing, reading, and listening. Students will examine grammar and vocabulary topics through thematic units based on the *Realidades* textbook series and authentic audio, visual and written sources in Spanish (articles, podcasts, videos, and novels). In addition, students will study cultural topics and enhance their language skills through exploring current events and customs from the Spanish-speaking world. Students will explore the following thematic units:

Unit 1: *Repaso* (Review of key grammar topics from Spanish III and IV)

Unit 2: *En las noticias* (news stories, natural disasters, and medical emergencies)

Unit 3: *La televisión y el cine* (Television and movies)

Unit 4: *Buen provecho* (¡Bon appétit! Cooking and culinary traditions)

Unit 5: *Cómo ser un buen turista* (How to be a good tourist)

Unit 6: *¿Cómo será el futuro?* (What will the future be like?)

In addition, students will examine the following grammatical topics:

The present tense, reflexive verbs, the preterite past tense, the imperfect past tense, the passive voice, object pronouns (direct and indirect), the future tense, the present perfect tense, commands (formal and informal), and the subjunctive mood.

Prerequisites:

Students must earn a score of 3 in all five standards in the previous language course.

Course Standards:

Writing: Learners communicate through written language to share information, reactions, and feelings. Learners convey in writing information, concepts, and ideas to inform, explain, persuade and narrate on a variety of topics.

Speaking: Learners communicate through spoken language to share information, reactions, feelings, and opinions. Learners orally present information, concepts, and ideas to inform, explain, persuade and narrate on a variety of topics.

Listening: Learners understand, interpret, and analyze what is heard on a variety of topics.

Reading: Learners understand, interpret, and analyze what is read or viewed on a variety of topics.

Culture: Students demonstrate understanding of customs, beliefs, cultural differences, and traditions worldwide.

Transferable Skills:

Self-Direction: Demonstrate preparation, initiative and responsibility for learning, complete assignments in a timely manner, demonstrate flexibility with learning and persevere in challenging situations.

Responsible & Involved Citizenship: Take responsibility for personal decisions and actions, work collaboratively with others, use technology and digital media responsibly.

Clear and Effective Communication: Presentation and organization of information, using evidence to support claim, poise, language control, and collaborative discussion.

Required Texts and Materials:

This course will be organized around the themes, vocabulary, and grammar presented in the ***Realidades*** textbook series. Students will not be assigned a *Realidades* textbook, but they may borrow and sign one out at any point to enhance their learning and clarify information.

Students are required to have a **three-ring binder** (with sections for notes, assessments, and practice work). In addition, students must come to class with their own **writing utensils**. Throughout the year, there will be binder checks for a Self Direction score.

Standard and Course Scoring Procedures:

Students will be assessed on each standard several times throughout the course. An average of these scores will be used to determine a student's overall performance in the standard (rounded to the nearest whole number). The course proficiency average, which is an overall score for the course, is an average of the five standards for Spanish IV/V rounded to the tenth level. **To receive credit for Spanish IV and V, students must finish the year with a CPA of 2.5 or better.** For a full description of BFA's proficiency-based grading and scoring procedures, please refer to the BFA Student/Parent Handbook.

Assessment and Retake Policy:

In this course, student progress will be assessed in a variety of ways. **Formative** assessments will be used to provide feedback on learning and to determine what types of instruction and improvement students need to achieve proficiency. Formative assessments do not count towards a score for a proficiency. **Summative** assessments will be used to determine proficiency scores for each unit. While some summative assessments may be traditional quizzes and tests, others will include performance-based tasks and cooperative projects. With any larger assessment, we will dedicate a significant amount of class time to preparation, and I will provide clear directions and an explanation of how to meet proficiency.

Following the school's reassessment policy, students may retake summative assessments **up to a score of proficient (3)**. Students must meet with the teacher and complete the reassessment process within two weeks of receiving the scored original assessment.

Google Classroom and PowerSchool:

In this course, Google Classroom will be used as the primary learning management system. **All homework scores, practice assignments, projects, and resources will be posted and recorded on Google Classroom.**

PowerSchool will be used for recording and tracking **proficiency scores and transferable skills**. Thus, to see a student's overall progress in the course, visit this platform. Practice work and resources will **not** be posted on PowerSchool.

Attendance and Class Absences:

In Spanish class, student attendance is essential. If a student misses class, the student will miss important language practice and instruction. If a student must be absent from class, it is the student's responsibility to contact the teacher (email is acceptable) within **two days** of the absence and complete any work or assessments from the period. It may be necessary to attend a morning callback period (7:30 - 8:00) on Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday.

A warning about online translators and academic plagiarism:

In language classes, students may be tempted to utilize online translators, such as Google Translate, on assignments and assessments for class. As language teachers, we can easily determine if a student's work is not his or her own. **If it is clear that an assignment contains language that was obtained through an online translator, it will be considered academic plagiarism.** This will result in a "0" for the assignment score with no opportunity for reassessment. Repeated offenses will result in further disciplinary consequences (following the policies outlined under "Academic Honesty" in the BFA Student and Parent Handbook).

The signatures below indicate that both you and your parent or guardian have read and understood the course expectations for Spanish class.

Student name:

Student signature: _____ date:

Parent/Guardian name:

Parent/Guardian signature: _____ date: