

Spanish 1: 2011-2012

Instructor: Rick Tate, rtate@hawken.edu

www.tatespanish.com/hawken

Cell phone: 216-538-4948

Free periods: B, C, during free time and after school

Office phone: 440-423-4446 x 552

Google voice #: 440-836-3442 (DIGA)

(voice messages, oral recording, texting)

Introduction:

Welcome to Spanish 1! With 329 million native speakers, Spanish ranks as the world's No. 2 language (counting those who people speak it as their first language.) It is slightly ahead of English (328 million) but far behind Chinese (1.2 billion). http://www.ethnologue.com/ethno_docs/distribution.asp?by=size
Our goal this year is to help you get a solid foundation as you begin communicating in this amazing language. Our topics will be based around the following areas of high need:

<i>Unit 1: ¡Buenos días!</i> (basic conversation, Intro to Spanish-speaking world)	<i>Unit 2: Mis amigos y yo</i> (Describing people)	<i>Unit 3: Mi tiempo libre</i> (Hobbies / Sports)
<i>Unit 4: Un día en la escuela</i> (School / activities)	<i>Unit 5: La vida en casa</i> (Family / home life)	<i>Unit 6: ¡Buen Provecho!</i> (Food / Restaurants)
<i>Unit 7: Mi rutina diaria</i> (Body, daily routine, health)	<i>Unit 8: ¡A comprar!</i> (Shopping / clothing)	<i>Unit 9: ¡A Viajar!</i> (Travel / airplane / hotel)

Required Materials

- Humbach, Nancy and Sylvia Madrigal Velasco. *¡Exprésate! Spanish 3*, Orlando: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 2008
- Tablet or other computer with Internet access
- <http://www.tatespanish.com/hawken>

Grading procedures:

The goal of our Spanish class is to empower students to use Spanish outside of the classroom in the situations which will come up in their lives. To help accomplish this goal, I have designed a grading system that allows for mistakes and additional practice when needed. Please read the following descriptions carefully to help you succeed at your desired level. I will do everything in my power to help you achieve your language goals.

Assignments / Quizzes: There will be an assignment each night for students to complete. This assignment may be formal (reading selection, computer assignment, etc.) or informal (study/review new vocabulary words or patterns.) Assignments are due on a specific day. We will have quizzes almost daily. All quizzes count towards the term grade, but students who are *up-to-date with their assignments* may retake quizzes as many times as desired (during free time or after school). However, students may choose to do bonus assignments to make up for low quiz scores or assignment points (including late assignments) as long as all assigned work has been turned in. To complete bonus assignments, choose

and complete any number of assignments from the bonus menu provided online. *All regular and bonus assignments must be turned in by the day of the test.* The maximum number of points awarded for bonus assignments may not exceed the number of points missing during the unit. For example, if a student has earned 187 / 200 on assignments and quizzes for a given unit, he or she may earn up to 13 bonus points for that unit, bringing his or her score up to 100% for the assignment/quiz category. When submitting assignments electronically, students must follow exact instructions and only use their assigned Hawken e-mail address for any correspondence. Not following turn-in instructions will be considered the same as a missing assignment. Up-to-date information is always available at my website, www.tatespanish.com/hawken

Tests (Performances): Although much of our assessment will be done either informally or via quizzes, we will still have written/oral/listening tests throughout each unit. All tests are cumulative and will be announced in class and online. Tests may not be retaken, but students may prepare for tests by studying, completing bonus assignments and paying attention in class.

Late work: Required assignments are due on assigned dates. Late assignments, if accepted, will be docked accordingly. Pre-approved bonus assignments may be completed to make up points due to late assignments within a unit (provided that the bonus points are completed before the test date). I do not accept late work from a unit after the unit test.

Participation: Students can earn up to 5 participation points per day. Most or all of these points come from the "Spanish declaration." Additional participation points are earned for excellent behavior or outstanding language performance in class. Points are taken away, if needed, by those students that distract from the learning of others. *Because of the potentially disruptive nature of computers, students that use their computers to be off task will lose 5 participation points per day.*

Mastery Points: Students desiring an "A" or "B" grade will complete Mastery points and Enrichment activities. Mastery points may be completed by any student at any time throughout the term. Students may earn up to 250 mastery points for completing activities in one of four categories: Speaking, Listening, Reading & Cultural experiences. There are hundreds of suggestions online (visit the link from my main page) if interested. Mastery points are worth up to 10% of the total grade and must be turned in by the specified dates (prior to Interim and the end of the rotation). No credit will be awarded for mastery points that are turned in late.

Breakdown of semester grades (final grade is the average of the 2 semester grades):

- Assignments / daily quizzes: 40%
- Tests / Performances / Projects (including final exam): 40%
- Mastery Points: 10%
- Participation (Spanish declaration): 10%

The good news on grades (efforts count!):

- All students may earn up to 100% on the assignment/quiz category by completing bonus assignments in each unit for lower quiz scores or missed assignments.
- All students may earn 100% on Mastery Points by accurately completing them as instructed.
- All students may earn 100% on Participation by only speaking Spanish in class.
- Even if you only earned 50% on tests, you could still have an 80% in the class.

Advancing to Spanish 2

The Hawken Modern and Classical language department requires that a student earn a minimum of a C- in a class in order to advance to the next level of that language. Any course grade lower than a C- will result in the student repeating the class or choosing a different language option. Students will be invited to participate in honors-levels classes using a combination of course grades, placement exam scores, writing samples and teacher recommendations.

Behavior expectations: All students are expected to treat themselves and others with respect, refrain from interfering with others' learning, be honest in the classroom and with course work and arrive on time and prepared. Those able and willing to comply with these requests will be allowed to participate with the class in all activities throughout the year. I adhere to all school-wide regulations including behavior, discipline, plagiarism (including computer translators) and attendance policies. Please review the Hawken Integrity Code.

As a member of the Hawken community,
I am a person of integrity striving to be my better self.
My words and actions reflect my belief in
justice, compassion and fair play.
I respect the rights, work, ideas and dignity of all.

Conclusion:

I am thrilled to be here at Hawken with you. I am looking forward to a wonderful year together and promise you that as you invest in Spanish, you will be greatly rewarded. Please don't hesitate to call or e-mail with any questions or concerns.