

## Spanish 4 honors: Fall Rotation, 2011

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

### Prerequisite

- This course is designed for linguistically talented and motivated students who have completed the equivalent of Spanish III or Spanish III Honors. At the completion of this course students will be ready to take AP Spanish.

### Course Description

This is the 4<sup>th</sup> year course of Spanish. It is conducted entirely in Spanish and designed to accomplish the following objectives:

- Refine and practice in depth complex grammatical structures that have been introduced in Spanish 3.
- Acquire new grammatical structures.
- Develop the ability to communicate in Spanish by improving skills in listening comprehension, speaking, reading and writing.
- Expose students to a variety of the Spanish-speaking world's real-life situations through authentic readings and audio/video segments.
- Expand vocabulary based on a variety of topics.
- Develop cultural awareness through exposure to the history, art, music and literature of the Spanish-speaking world.
- Create an environment where students think and speak in Spanish as much as possible.

### Required Materials

- Blanco, José A. *Revista: Conversación sin barreras, 3rd edition*, Boston: Vista Higher Learning, 2010 (ISBN# 978-1-60007-856-9) with accompanying supersite passcode.
- Moscoso, Verónica. *Los ojos de Carmen*. Blaine Ray Workshops, 2008.
- <http://www.tatespanish.com/hawken>

### Grading:

The semester will be evaluated in the following areas:

1. **Homework 40%**- Students will complete a variety of exercises to review the material presented in class. Possible homework activities include formal and informal writing assignments, on-line workbook pages, readings, etc. There are daily homework assignments that must be done faithfully to ensure that the students come prepared for class each day, and have sufficient practice for the chapter and comprehensive evaluations. Papers and homework are to be completed by the beginning of the class period. Homework activities will be posted in advance so that students can plan ahead in their preparation for class, or in the case of an unexpected absence. Assignments that need to be completed via the Internet have an automatic 1-day grace period if needed. There will be occasional bonus assignments throughout the course that can be completed to boost the homework grade.
2. **Assessments 50%** - Students will be evaluated regularly through quizzes, exams or "performances" (writing or speaking samples). Unannounced quizzes may be re-taken for full credit. Major assessments

may be completed only once. Students should expect to be evaluated on how well they can apply their language skills to meaningful tasks. Students will be asked to formally write or present on various themes/topics throughout the semester. Students will see the rubrics used for evaluation before beginning the assignment.

3. **Participation 10%:** 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.*

### **Late Assignment / Make-up policy**

Work missed during an unexcused absence (see Student Handbook) may receive a zero. Students who miss school for an unplanned, excused absence of five days or fewer are entitled to 1.5 days per day of absence, rounded up, in which to make up all missed work and tests. For example, if a student misses a test on Monday due to illness, he or she must make up the test by end of the school day on Wednesday (1.5 days rounded up). A student who is absent Monday and Tuesday due to illness must make up the missed test by end of the school day on Friday (1.5 days x 2). Papers or homework handed in after the class period ends will also be counted as late. Late papers and homework will be marked down by 10% for each day they are late.

**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 able to spend this rotation with you in Spanish 4 honors. I 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.

### **How to be successful in Spanish 4 honors:**

1. Practice Spanish on a daily basis! Language learning is done best in small “chunks” and on a consistent schedule. You should expect to have homework each night.
2. You should prepare the lesson (study vocabulary, read material, etc.) BEFORE arriving to class. By being prepared, you will be able to participate and follow along during classroom activities, as well as clarify any questions that you might have. Also, bring your materials to class every day.
3. Participate orally in class and don't worry about making mistakes. Making mistakes is part of the learning process!
4. You should try to look for examples of the material/lessons outside of class.
5. See what strategies work best for you (for language learning, reading activities, writing, flash cards, etc.) and use them.