

Earth Education International  
Intermediate Spanish  
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**Course Description**

An intensive intermediate Spanish course for students who have recently completed at least one-year of college-level Spanish. Emphasis is on vocabulary and sentence structure, as well as oral practice. Prerequisite: One year of college Spanish. Instructor approval required (3 credits).

**Course Objectives**

At the completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify and correct the principal shortcomings of his or her oral and written expression.
2. Express his or herself with increased fluency and accuracy of the grammatical aspects of oral and written Spanish.
3. Recognize various dialect variants typical of Spanish of Costa Rica.
4. Achieve enhanced integration within Costa Rican/Central American culture through an improved understanding of the language and associated regional cultural idioms.

**Course Materials:**

The primary (required) text for the course is as follows:

1. McVey Gill, Mary, and others. In Contact: Grammar in Action. Fifth Edition. Holt, Rinehart and Winston/Harcourt Brace College Publishers. Fort Worth, TX. 1999.

Additional materials for the course will be selected from the following texts:

2. García-Highland, Victory, and others. To That Yes! Heinle and Heinle Publishers. Boston, MA. 1993.
3. Freeman, Ronald. Exchanges Manual: Activities. Random House. New York. 1980.

**Course Requirements**

All classes will consist of a review of homework, lecture, grammar study, and oral practice exercises. Accordingly, students will be evaluated on the following:

1. *Written Composition & Grammar Exercises*. After being presented with an explanation of the grammar of the day by the professor, students will partake in composing various in-class written grammar exercises. These will consist of short compositions (1-2 pages), grammar activities, writing dialogs, reading of materials, quizzes, and/or short exams as appropriate.
2. *Oral Expression & Vocabulary Activities*. Oral expression activities of 5-10 minutes each will follow the grammar exercises each day. These activities will provide an opportunity for oral practice of the grammatical subjects learned in class on various topics of interest to the student: Personal activities, current events, politics, culture, etc. The format will be through presentations, dialogs, dramatizations, story-telling, and/or directed thematic conversations as appropriate. Oral activities will also draw upon new vocabulary that students have encountered out of class. In order to facilitate this, each student will bring a written list of new vocabulary to each class session.
3. Quizzes. Three short written quizzes on themes addressed in class will be given during the semester. Each will be approximately 15-20 minutes, and cover materials presented since the previous quiz.
4. Final Exam. A comprehensive final exam including all materials covered in the quizzes will be given at the end of the semester.

**Course Evaluation**

Each course requirement will be weighted according to the following scale:

1. Composition & grammar exercises: 30 %
2. Oral expression & vocabulary activities: 35 %
3. Quizzes (3): 15 %

#### 4. Final exam (1): 20 %

Students' final grade for the semester will be based upon the following standardized scale:

- A+ 100- 97%
- A 96.9- 90%
- B+ 89.9-87%
- B 86.9-80%
- C+ 79.0-77%
- C 76.9- 70%
- D+ 66.9-60%
- D 60%
- F 59.9% or below

### **Course Outline**

#### I. Review

- a) The present tense (regular and irregular tenses)
- b) Ser vs. estar (all the uses)
- c) The preterit tense (regular verbs)

#### II. The Preterit tense

- a) -Er and -ir verbs with stems ending in a vowel
- b) Irregular verbs in the preterit

#### III. The Imperfect tense

- a) Formation of the imperfect
- b) Basic uses of the imperfect
- c) The imperfect and the preterit: differences

#### IV. The Future & Conditional tenses

- a) Formation and uses of the future
- b) Formation and uses of the conditional

#### V. Direct & Indirect Pronouns

- a) The formation and uses of the direct pronoun
- b) The formation and uses of the indirect pronoun

#### VI. Reflexive Verbs

- a) Formation and uses of reflexive verbs
- b) The reflexive pronoun as indirect object
- c) The imperative of reflexive verbs

#### VII. The Perfect Tenses

- a) The formation of the present perfect
- b) The past perfect
- c) The future perfect
- d) The conditional perfect

#### VIII. The Subjunctive in Noun Clauses: Present Tenses

- a) Forms of the present subjunctive: Regular verbs
- b) Forms of the present subjunctive: Irregular verbs
- c) Use of the present subjunctive in noun clauses
- d) The present subjunctive in noun clauses after impersonal expressions

### **Course Schedule**

Week 1-2 - Review, preterit tense

Week 2-3 - Quiz 1, Imperfect tense

Week 3-4 - Future tense

Week 4-5 - Quiz 2, Conditional tenses

Week 5-6 - Direct and indirect pronouns

Week 6-7 - Quiz 3, Reflexive verbs & perfect tenses

Week 7-8 -The subjunctive tense

Week 8-9 - Final exam, course review & evaluation