**Round Rock Christian Academy**

**Spanish 4**

**2013- 2014**

Instructor:        Sr. Jared Abels

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Help Class:   Mondays 7:30-8:00

5A Study hall: Mondays 12:00 – 12:30, Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:30 – 12:30

**Required Resources:**

A comprehensive bilingual Spanish-English dictionary

**Course goals:** Our Spanish class this year will primarily be based on culture as well as to prepare you grammatically and lexically. Readings (which I will provide), conversations, crafts and food will be used to delve further into the culture. By the end of the course, you will be expected to communicate effectively on a variety of topics both orally and in written form. Note that as this course is intended to meet class abilities and needs, the schedule will change according to these variables. Below are some of the topics & Biblical emphasis we will discuss for the first nine weeks, further topics and themes will depend on student interest and proficiency.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Topic(s) | Cultural Reading | Cultural elements \*\* | Bible Reading |
| 1 | Argentina | “El crimen perfecto”  - Enrique Anderson Imbert | Posible guest speaker |  |
| 2 | justicia | Alfajorcitos | Mark 1 |
| 3 | crimen | Current events |  |
| 4 | México | “La casa nueva”  - Silvia Molina | Arte de chapas | Mark 2 |
| 5 | Riqueza y pobreza | Tamales |  |
| 6 | Mexican Church | Current events | Mark 3 |
| 7 | El Salvador | “Una carta de familia”  - Oscar Romero | Weaving Craft - Huipils |  |
| 8 | guerrillas | Pupusas | Mark 4 |
| 9 | familias | Current events |  |

**Cultural Board:** Each month you will need to report on a Spanish speaking country. You will provide an overview of the people, food, current events etc, but most importantly on the spiritual, moral and ethical situation of the country. This will be posted in class on a classroom bulletin board.

**Grade Scale: Course Grade:**

90-100 % A Class Participation  & Homework     40%

80-89 % B Memory Quizzes  & Tests    60%

70-79 % C \* note: tests and quizzes are in the

0-69 % F same category, but tests weigh more.

**1. Academic Honesty:** All students deserve a healthy learning environment and evaluations that are based on their honest, independent efforts. Honesty, trust, and personal responsibility are fundamental attributes of the Round Rock Christian Academy. Written and oral assignments should be completed without **any** kind of outside assistance. If a student is in doubt, s/he must seek help from his/her instructor only. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty may lead to an “F” for the course.

**2. Participation** - Regular attendance and **active** participation is mandatory for passing this class. Your participation is measured according to the following rubric

**Daily Participation Rubric**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Grade | Characteristics |
| **10** | * You are always eager to speak and contribute to the class discussion or activity. * You voluntarily raise your hand and participate many times during each class. * You are in class on time and are FULLY prepared for class. * You are cooperative and respectful towards the class, peers, and the instructor. |
| **8-9** | * You volunteer a few times in the class. * Your statements contribute slightly to the discussion. * Your participation has been lower than your personal abilities this day. |
| **6-7** | * You do not volunteer in class or rarely risk speaking unless you are called upon. * Your statements do not contribute to the class discussion or activity. * You are partially prepared for class. |
| **4-5** | * You refuse to participate when called on. * You come to class unprepared. There is NO evidence that you have completed your homework PREVIOUS to class, or are otherwise UNPREPARED. |
| **0-3** | * You do homework for another class, sleep in class or are otherwise absent. |

**3.**     **Quizzes & Tests (60%)** Each week we will have a short quiz on vocabulary, grammar, or the homework. These quizzes may occur at the beginning or end of class, or even assigned online. Bi-weekly tests will be at the end of each chapter and will focus primarily on the vocabulary and grammar within that chapter, with some reference to prior chapters.

**4.**   **Assignments** – These may include in-class work, homework, as well as work or lectures on the Internet. The workbook and your personal notebook are a part of this grade and will be graded on completeness, effort, legible handwriting, and self-correction. Students are expected to regularly review the materials covered in class, do appropriate homework, practice vocabulary, and come prepared for the next class.

**5.** **Semester & Final Exams** – These comprehensive exams occur at the end of each semester and will include listening, comprehension, reading, and written work. Please note that there will be **no make up** (except for emergencies in which case the student should contact the office before the scheduled exam and bring a *documented* excuse).

Reminder: Without prior arrangements with the office, you will **not** be excused from the Semester or Final exam. **Please contact me with plans that conflict with our exam dates**.

**6**. **Classroom Procedures**

1. Entering the room:
   1. Enter quietly & sit in assigned seat, request changes before or after class.
   2. Place backpack on floor in front of desk, do not block aisles
   3. Get text, workbook, notebook, pencils, pens, or other materials ready.
   4. Look at board assignments & begin daily start-up tasks
2. Assignments
3. You are responsible for getting your assignments – EVEN WHEN ABSENT
4. When absent, day of grace for each absence, but these are days, not classes.
5. Written on the whiteboard daily – all assignments are also on Ren-Web.
6. Work should be turned in at the beginning of class, otherwise it is late.
7. After collection time, late work is **20%** less, a **zero** after the start of the 2nd class.
8. Ask the instructor regularly concerning extra credit or optional assignments
9. Classroom Equipment & Items
10. When using the computer center, resource center, or cultural items, show respect and honor to the owner, complying with any rules.
11. This room is not your locker, items left here may be donated to a worthy cause.
12. Consequences & Rewards
13. Warnings will be given as appropriate, followed by the announcement of the demerit – at times without mentioning names. If you have any questions about a demerit you may have received, speak with the teacher privately after class.
14. If necessary, class disruptions may be handled by a conference outside the door, with necessary follow-up.
15. Watch for signals given by the teacher to encourage you to comply with the rules and procedures.
16. Rewards may include: candy or other cultural food, parties, time off (usually to play social interaction games like cards), or field trips.
17. Classroom Behavior
18. You are expected to use the restroom between classes.

* You are allowed 3 passes per nine weeks to use the restroom during classtime, each use beyond this will cost a demerit each.

1. You are expected to be courteous and respectful with each other, visitors and with the teacher.

* This includes guest speakers, other faculty entering or the intercom.
* Students should stay quiet & in seats as teacher interacts with visitor
* Class resumes as normal after visitor has exited.

1. Exiting the room:
2. Teacher will advise ending time approaching, and students may prepare to leave. You are not to stand by the door waiting the bell. Do not prepare to leave early!!!
3. It is the students’ responsibility to record assignments before leaving.
4. Students need to clean area around desk and room if necessary.
5. After the bell rings, the teacher will release the class.
6. Exit quietly.

**7. Tutoring Services** - Do not hesitate to seek help. Whenever you have a difficulty with the course materials, you should contact the instructor for assistance. I am available during my study help time (listed at the top) as well as by personal arrangement if necessary.

**8. Extra Credit:**

Throughout the year there will be multiple opportunities for extra credit. Regular assignments to earn additional points each nine weeks are the following:

* Attend a **cultural event** and write a one page paper explaining what happened and why it was cultural. Possibilities may include quinceañera, weddings, dance class, Hispanic church service, museums or even authentic restaurants.
* **Current events** give us an interesting view of other cultures as well as how they relate to these events. Report on an event in the Hispanic world occurring within 10 days of your submission. Include relevant facts, the impact of this event on the culture, and especially where you see God moving in all of this.
* Several people will be highlighted each week in the classroom. Pick one of them from the current nine weeks, to **research** a two page essay detailing their importance to the Christian movement. Remember to cite all resources in MLA format.

**9. Flipped Classroom:**

At certain points during the year, we will switch the format of the class to that of the flipped classroom. In the flipped classroom, lectures become the homework while traditional homework becomes classroom activities. The teacher works to facilitate the instruction while the student gets the opportunity to be fully in control of acquiring the language and gets to ‘show it off’ and demonstrate that knowledge to the rest of the class.

Helpful Online resources:

* Our class weebly. – ***rrcaAbels.weebly.com***
* Señor Jordan Videos – ***www.SenorJordan.com***
* Quizlet – ***quizlet.com/rrcaSpanish***
* 123 Teach Me Spanish – ***www.123teachme.com/learn\_spanish***

**10. Digital Learning:**

New technologies appear almost monthly and we use them for a variety of purposes, in fact many of us use them on a daily basis for leisure or recreation. Smart phones, laptops, Kindles and iPad’s are only a few of the many possibilities, each with their own great apps and features, especially for the classroom.  I want to encourage the use of electronic devices in the classroom as long as they are being used for the classroom *and* at the direction of the teacher. You are welcome to take notes, record the class (after permission), use online resources or other applications as they become available. ***However***, if you use your electronic device in the classroom for *anything* other than current classroom activities (facebook, gaming, etc), you ***will*** lose this privilege for the remainder of the nine weeks (or longer), your device ***will be***sent to the office, and you ***will*** receive consequences as determined by school policy.