**The Hill School** Extra Help: by appointment, periods A, B,

**AP Spanish Language & Culture** & Wednesday night (fall term)

Ms. Robinson - Aula 216 brobinson@thehill.org (*before 9:00pm)*

2015-2016 Syllabus Campus Residence: Rolfe 1 East

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**General Course Description**

The Hill School's modern language department strives to prepare its students for the responsibility of being a global citizen by offering a wide range of tools, both traditional and innovative, to aid their progress. The department believes students should develop the ability to read, write, and speak comfortably and clearly in the language. Students should expect to dedicate considerable time to listening comprehension and speaking skills, both in class and in the Multimedia Language Center. This advanced class will be divided into 6 major thematic units. For each unit, you will be assigned readings of authentic texts, listening exercises, oral and written tasks of varying length and difficulty. We will have frequent quizzes and tests that will always involve the incorporation and integration of several skills at the same time. It is thus imperative that you are ready to take chances by using new material, make mistakes, and expand your base of knowledge and production in the language with each week. It is also essential that you quickly learn to expect to *give an opinion* and support it.

**Course Materials:**

1. Temas: AP Spanish Language & Culture, Draggett, Conlin, Ehrsam, & Millán.

🡪New or used is acceptable. If new, register for VHL course Supersite

1. AP Spanish: Language & Culture Exam Preparation, Frisancho, Redmon, & Bravo.

**🡪MUST BE NEW. Strongly encouraged to register for VHL course Supersite**

1. Subscription to *Audacity* (laptop only, download free at <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/> )
2. 3-ring binder with pockets and/or College-ruled notebook (perforated), with a section in the back for “palabras útiles”, and a folder, used only for this course. OR: a folder/binder for handouts & a section in iPad note-taking app dedicated to notes and “palabras útiles.”
3. *AP with Service Learning ONLY: workbook (provided at first night class meeting period)*

**Course Objectives**

* Students will become familiar and confident with various components of the AP Spanish Language & Culture Examination
* Students will be able to understand and react to a variety of authentic newspaper and internet articles, short stories, letters and e-mails, lectures, conversations, and presentations.
* Students will be able to express themselves in a variety of styles and mediums that are appropriate to the audience.
* Students will be able to express themselves orally by convincing, debating, inquiring, and describing to an appropriate audience

**Course Expectations** (it is expected that you…)

* come to class fully prepared, with all books and materials (especially your notebook and iPad!) and having done the assigned homework
* speak only in Spanish in our classroom and when we speak together outside of class (speaking another language will result in a drop in your participation grade).
* have a positive attitude about improving your abilities and helping others to improve theirs. It is also VERY important to make mistakes. If you aren’t making mistakes almost every day, you aren’t targeting enough improvement of your Spanish.
* contact me ahead of time if you know that you will miss class. If the absence in unexpected, please email me later in the day. If you are going to be late to class because a teacher makes you late, please have that person give you a note. Otherwise, I will mark it as unexcused.
* PARTICIPATE, WORK hard, and have FUN - really, I promise we will have some fun ☺

**Assessment & Evaluation:**

* Homework (25%) – There are 2 parts to this grade: 2 points for the stamp that you will receive if your homework is completed with care at the beginning of class on the day for which it is assigned, and 2 points for your corrections, when applicable, which must be done in a different color pen. There will also be handouts or exercises done online, which will have different measures for grading, and your personal list of “palabras útiles.”
* “Reflexiones”, essays, and other major writing or speaking assignments (20%) – There needs to be improvement/progress shown in each one of these, or your grade in the course (and on the AP exam) will likely suffer. Nearly all of the “Reflexiones,” incorporate skills or themes of valuable importance to the AP exam. Thinking carefully, critically, and planning well for these throughout the year will serve you well come exam time in May.
* Quizzes (15%) - These tend to be themed vocabulary quizzes each week (or an occasional grammar quiz). They will increase in difficulty throughout the year as they begin to incorporate more AP format questions that utilize the vocabulary theme. The third one, however, is the most difficult of the year – do NOT let it scare you, rise to the challenge and do your best. Begin familiarizing yourself with these words TODAY (Temas, pgs 31-34).
* Tests (20%)\* – These are important measures of your progress, and count as such. Each test will consist of one or several exercises that are components of the AP exam. We usually only have one per marking period, sometimes two.
* Participation (20%) – This needs to be a **given** in your mind already. I will only encourage you so much to take seriously your ACTIVE and THOUGHTFUL participation in class. This is an AP course, and you need to practice every single day. At the beginning, just getting words out of your mouth is acceptable. After a while, you will be expected to think as you speak, and make progress in the accuracy of your expression. You should have out your personal vocabulary list every day in class, adding to it as we go along (This is a grade at the end of the marking period, and throughout, keep up with it).

\*The final exam grade in the fall term is worth 25% of your term grade. There is no exam in the winter term, and in the spring term students sit for the AP Exam instead of a final exam. In the rare instance a student does not sit for the AP Exam, a culminating term project worth 25% of the spring term grade is expected, with the majority of front end research completed by the return from Spring break.

How to succeed

There are many ways that you can improve your chances for success. Begin by doing ALL of the homework. Sometimes there is quite a bit, and you need to budget your time accordingly by looking ahead on the assignment sheet. Additionally, find ways to listen to, read, and speak Spanish outside of class. There are native speakers, music, novels, online news, podcasts, SPANISH DINNER TABLE (beginning Monday evenings in late September – you must attend 2 per term, but more is strongly encouraged) etc…. that can all help you to practice. If you perceive that you have gaps in your Spanish, it is up to you to address those outside of class. I’m happy to give you direction and advice as to how you can improve some aspect of your Spanish, but we will spend minimal time in class reviewing grammar concepts. Lastly, with each new week, you should ALWAYS be striving to produce MORE language, with a little more ACCURACY.

Extra help is always available – Please make an official appointment to meet with me so we can both write it down and know that it is mutually agreeable. I am available during most of my free periods and some evening study halls. Extra help is generally group oriented for all levels of my Spanish students, so if you need one on one time making an appointment is imperative. Also, if you are struggling with some part of the class, please don’t wait to come see me. We will address any and all issues together and work things out.

**Academics:**

* Unless otherwise noted, major assignments are to be handed in at the **beginning** of class on the day they are due, or submitted via Canvas before class begins, otherwise they are considered late. Canvas assignments always default to being due at 11:59pm; however, unless otherwise noted it is expected they are turned in by the time our class bell rings that day. It is not my responsibility to ask you for your homework. If daily homework is to be collected you will be prompted when to do so. As this is a college-level course, my expectations of you to be a responsible student are as such. I will not nag you for missing assignments. Homework never turned in receives a zero in my gradebook. However, I can *always* let you know what you’re missing, where you should focus your energy to improve, and offer suggestions for how to do so IF you take it upon yourself to ask me.
* Daily homework is graded in two parts: a stamp at the beginning of class that is worth 2 points and, if applicable, the corrections IN ANOTHER COLOR PEN, for an additional 2 points. I will **not** give a stamp for late homework, but you may still earn half of the points if you complete the assignment correctly. If your absence is excused, you need not make up daily homework assignments; however, it is in your best interest to complete as many as possible.
* Major assignments (reflections, essays, presentations, term projects, etc.) and homework collected for a grade that are handed in late will be penalized a letter grade for every day they are late (Ex: A to a B).
* No assignments will be accepted if they are more than one week late.
* Extensions will **not** be given on daily homework, and they will only be given on major assignments if you speak with me at least **two days** prior to the due date of the assignment. (please keep in mind that extensions will be given rarely and only for valid reasons or extenuating circumstances).
* Any work, test, quiz, etc. missed due to an **unexcused** absence results in an F.
* When you miss class due to an **excused** absence, it is expected you will turn in any work that was collected for a grade on the next academic day you are present in line with the number of days you were absent (ex: if you were absent three days, the assignment was due on the first day of your absence, then you have three days to submit the work). If your absence is anticipated, I suggest planning to do some work ahead of time (or during the absence, if possible) so as not to become inundated with make-up work.
* If you miss a class (regardless of the reason) it is **your** responsibility to get any notes, assignments, and/or announcements from a classmate or me. Nearly all assignments, handouts, worksheets, etc. will be posted on Canvas. Please inform me if you are aware ahead of time that you will be absent from class.

If you are having difficulty with any part of the course (the material, the workload, the instructor, getting your assignments in on time, etc…) I strongly recommended that you set up a meeting with me so that we can work together to resolve any problems.

**A note about academic honesty:**

* Plagiarism, copying, and cheating are NOT tolerated under any circumstance nor is the use of an online or electronic translator (online **dictionaries** – such as wordreference.com – are acceptable, for single word or idiomatic phrase searches). The aforementioned hinders your success in the classroom and will result in being directed towards the Honor Council.
1. I encourage you to work with peers on your daily homework assignments; however “helping” others does not include doing their work. Inappropriate “help” may result in being referred to the Honor Council.
2. Please refer to The Hill School handbook for more information about procedures regarding academic honesty.

¡Vamos a trabajar muy duro y pasarlo bien! ¡Buena suerte a todos!