

Spanish Grammar and Writing

Nivel 1

LE-602

Updated 2021

60 classroom classes/4 credits

I. Course description

This is a theoretical-practical course. In it the development of grammatical and written expression skills are combined. Level 1 coincides with Level A2-B1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) and the Cervantes Curriculum Plan, therefore, those who opt for this course are supposed to have an A2 level of Spanish so that they can request and give general information that allows them to function in an immersive environment for their survival in Spanish. Teaching and evaluation tool Portfolio will be used, since it allows an evaluation and self-evaluation not only of the results, but of the teaching-learning process in a qualitative way. Students will be provided with linguistic tools and written expression strategies so that they produce various types of texts considering the grammar rules of written Spanish. Intercultural competition will be developed transversally along the course, and it will be reinforced with cultural excursions to surrounding areas. Classes will be attended at UISIL campus.

II. Objectives: At the end of the course students will be able to:

- Have linguistic and lexicon elements to manage themselves and talk about simple topics such as family, hobbies, work, travel, etc.
- Express points of view and ideas on abstract topics such as movies, novels, etc.
- Write simple and cohesive texts on a series of everyday topics within their topics of interest linking a series of different short elements in a linear sequence.
- Write the description of a given event, a recent trip, real or imaginary.
- Tell a story.
- Summarize, communicate and offer their opinion with some certainty about specific facts related to their reality.

III. Temas:

1. Present of indicative regular verbs
2. Present of indicative irregular verbs
3. Gerund
4. Motion verbs, OD, OI

5. Imperative
6. Past Indefinite
7. Subjunctive - wishes
8. Past Imperfect
9. Present of the Subjunctive
10. Future
11. Conditional
12. Relative sentences
13. Possessive
14. Prefixes and suffixes

IV. Academic field trips: The sites to visit on these excursions are surrounding San Isidro in southern Costa Rica. Each semester UISIL organizes **two or three** academic field trips. After having visited these places, students must participate in some obligatory group projects which will be evaluated. Some field trip examples from past semesters are:

1. Bribri: One of the most important indigenous communities in Costa Rica. They still preserve their language, building houses techniques, traditional ecological knowledge and everyday customs.
2. Longo Maï: Agricultural and ecological community (ecovillage) focused on sustainable production for self-consumption and inhabited mostly by Salvadoran immigrants who fled the war in their country in the 80s.
3. Local farms in rural communities: We visit some local farmer in this rural community with innovative and sustainable ideas who are producing non-traditional products such as apples, mushrooms, wine, or honey.
4. Las Nubes reserve and Alexander Skutch biological corridor. A conservation project owned and directed by York University. The Faculty of Environmental Studies of this Canadian university operates an eco-campus on the reserve that hosts classes and research projects focused on sustainability, conservation, and socio-ecological development of rural and indigenous communities.

V. Language

This course is taught in the Spanish language except for excursions.

VI. Schedule: 4 hours per week

VII. Literature

- Ainciburu & González Rodríguez, **Vía rápida**, Curso intensivo de español, Difusión, 2011

VIII. Method and evaluation criteria.

- Attendance: It is essential that students attend 80% of the classes to be evaluated.

- Evaluation methodology: Techniques described in the CEFR will be used for the evaluation of this course.
- Summary:

Evaluation activities	Number	Value	Total
Quizzes	5	5 %	25 %
Group projects based on academic field trips	2	15 %	30 %
Final exam	1	20 %	30 %
Class participation			15 %
Total			100 %

- Scale:

90 – 100 %	A	Excellent
80 – 89 %	B	Good
70 – 79 %	C	Fair
Less than 70%		Fail