**HISP200: Basic Spanish II** (credit independent from HISP0100) Spring 2014

Section: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Schedule: M – Wed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, meets in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Tu – Th \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, meets in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Office hours: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Placement**: Correct placement is a pre-requisite for admittance to all courses in the Spanish language program. Prerequisite: HISP 0100 or placement: SAT II scores between 400 and 450; Brown Placement Exam scores between 241 and 340. Students with an AP score of 3 or below must take the Brown Placement Exam (please check Placement and Course Description in the [Undergraduate Program section](http://www.brown.edu/academics/hispanic-studies/undergraduate) of the Hispanic Studies website.)

**¡Important!**

* You do not need to take HISP0100 in order to get credit for HISP0200 and vice versa.
* Read this syllabus carefully and make sure to clarify any doubts with your instructor immediately, as the guidelines and policies here described will be strictly followed in all HISP0200 sections in order to ensure all students are treated fairly and equally. Any exceptional circumstances not covered in this syllabus must be reported to the instructor immediately, accompanied by any relevant documentation.

**I. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Welcome to HISP0200! In this course we will continue to learn about the Spanish language system as well as achieve basic communication skills through the practice of speaking, listening comprehension, reading, and writing. There will be more emphasis on grammatical and lexical accuracy as well as increased fluency. You will also continue to learn about Spanish-speaking cultures through texts, short videos and other cultural materials, as well as to contrast them with your own culture. Class will be conducted entirely in Spanish.

**Goals and objectives**

With successful completion of HISP0200, students will:

• become acquainted with Spanish-speaking communities and gain insight into some aspects of Hispanic culture (i.e., institutions, mores traditions and history, attitudes and beliefs, etc.)

• be able to speak intelligibly to persons accustomed to dealing with foreigners in “survival” situations and carry on short spontaneous conversations involving everyday topics, observing the basic requirements of courtesy. Pronunciation should be accurate enough to allow comprehension by a native speaker.

• be able to comprehend simple conversations especially with those who adapt their speech to the foreigner/learner, and understand the gist of some one-way communications such as radio and television.

• be able to read many simple printed materials containing practical information in predictable contexts and some longer narratives on a variety of topics.

• be able to write simple correspondence and short compositions on familiar topics, with good control of basic grammar and sentence structure.

**Course pacing**

Learners work at different speeds. By reviewing student course evaluations over the years, we feel that we've set the pace that will be of benefit to the greatest number of learners. Although there is naturally quite a bit of variation in how much time individual students may need, you should expect to devote at least one hour of preparation/homework for each class hour, with additional work on weekends and for special assignments and exam preparation. If you feel that you are devoting significantly more time for this course after the first three weeks, please talk to your instructor. This is a time-consuming course, but there is a very positive side of this commitment: you will be thrilled at the progress you make in only one semester!

**Learning needs and special circumstances**

We try to make HISP0200 accessible to all students and would like to continue to enhance the course's accessibility, consequently we welcome specific suggestions and constructive comments on the presentation of course materials. We invite you to speak with your instructor *as early in the semester as possible* about anything that might affect your work with the course material (e.g., learning disabilities, ADD or ADHD, psychological conditions, chronic illnesses, different learning styles, extraordinary personal circumstances, etc.) We hold this information in highest confidence.

**Office hours**

Office hours are one of the best and most underused resources available to you. Since it is impossible for any instructor to address everyone’s learning needs during class time, we strongly recommend that you take full advantage of your instructors’ office hours. If you have class or work during your instructor’s office hours, e-mail him/her your available times so that s/he can offer you an appointment at a different time.

**II. COURSE MATERIALS**

***Dicho y Hecho: Beginning Spanish.* 9th edition** (Potowski, Sobral and Dawson)

• **Textbook**: The bookstore will have the Binder version (more economic, allows you to carry only what you need) but you may also buy a hardcover copy online (more durable, but you have to carry around two semesters worth of material.)

• **WileyPlus**: Wiley’s online course management system will give you access to the Workbook and Lab Manual, which is required for this class. The bookstore package already contains a registration code card for WileyPlus. If you use a different format of the textbook, you will have to purchase a registration code for WileyPlus as well.

• **Canvas site for HISP0200**: This will be a major source of information and resources throughout the course. Get to know it early and check often for assignments, announcements, handouts, etc.

You are also expected to read any e-mail from your instructor or course supervisor (Silvia Sobral), **you will be responsible for the information delivered through both channels.**

**On reserve at the Rockefeller Library**

• Several copies of the *Dicho y Hecho* student textbook (listed HISP 100-200).

• *English Grammar* *for Students of Spanish*. This little book defines terms that you may hear in class and gives detailed explanations of important grammatical points. If you find it useful, it would be a good idea to purchase and have as reference.

**III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Attendance and punctuality**

As this is a performance class, a significant part of the course work takes place during class. Therefore, **attendance is obligatory**. Note the following policies:

* You are allowed four absences without penalization during the semester for any reason including illness, travel, job/school interviews, sports, etc. We trust that if you miss class it is because of a good, justified reason so we will not ask for doctor notes, etc. You should still keep all relevant documentation in case it is needed later.
* Each absence over the four allowed will result in one point taken off the participation portion of your final score[[1]](#footnote-1). Any student missing more than 25% of all class meetings automatically fails the course under any circumstances.
* In case of exceptional circumstances leading to frequent or prolonged absences, or to an absence on an important class period (i.e. a test day) you must present proper documentation[[2]](#footnote-2) and discuss the absence **immediately** with the instructor, who will then consult with the course supervisor. In the case of lengthy absences, alternate work will be assigned to compensate for the class work missed, and in the case of a missed exam or graded work, make-up plans will be arranged. Note that it is ultimately the course supervisor’s decision whether or not these alternative arrangements are granted and will establish the conditions for such arrangements.
* Missed exams and presentations cannot be made up or late work accepted. Please, do not ask your instructor to make exceptions, since your request involves putting the rest of the students in the course in a disadvantageous position.
* When you miss class it is your responsibility to get in touch with a classmate to find out what you missed, including announcements, assigned homework, etc.
* You are expected to arrive on time, as late arrivals disrupt both your instructor and fellow students. Note that each late arrival of over 5 min. will be penalized with 10 points off (out of 100) your weekly participation grade.
* Varsity athletes: Please provide your away game calendar at the beginning of the semester (and be sure to have your coach contact your instructor if the schedule changes). You are responsible for keeping up with course work and handing assignments in on time. In case of particularly tight scheduling, make sure to request extensions from your instructor in advance.

**IV. COURSE COMPONENTS**

**Participation and daily preparation**

Language acquisition is an active process that takes place by doing, interacting, and communicating in that language. HISP0200 is designed to maximize your opportunities to use the language for communication, so class time is largely dedicated to communicative practice and all students are expected to engage and actively participate in class activities.

In order to accomplish this goal, students are required to read grammar explanations, learn vocabulary, do practice exercises, etc. outside of class in preparation for class time. Since we plan class activities that incorporate new linguistic structures and vocabulary, this daily individual work is key to your ability to fully participate in class. Also note that, since extensive class time will not be devoted to the presentation of new grammar, it is important to your progress in this course that you keep a list of questions that arise as you study to bring to class. You should also attend your instructor’s office hours if you have any questions or difficulties.

Participation will be evaluated throughout the semester and you will receive participation scores weekly (check your grades in ***Canvas***.) Should there be any questions about your participation scores, talk to your instructor **as soon as possible**: often, low participation scores reflect a misunderstanding of what you are expected to do. Please consult the participation criteria handout in Appendix A.

**Before and after-class homework**

Our course calendar lists preparation and homework assignments as well as other important dates (e.g. tests) and deadlines.

Typically, ***Preparación*** assignments will consist in studying vocabulary and/or grammar, and completing some practice activities in the textbook and *WileyPlus In-Text activities* to get ready to use the new language in the following class. Being well prepared is key to your ability to fully participate in class and will therefore be a significant part of your participation score for the week. Note that, although the calendar may be at times altered by the instructor to accommodate the needs of the class (for example if class time is needed to catch up or review), it is always the student’s responsibility to prepare each class day as described in the calendar.

The only path to long-term language acquisition is extensive practice of what you learn. After-class ***Tarea*** activities will involve work with *WileyPlus* Workbook and Lab Manual exercises and other practice materials assigned (e.g. activities provided by the instructor) to further reinforce the new language you are learning. *WileyPlus* Workbook and Lab Manual exercises are graded. You will receive immediate feedback for exercises with a discrete answer and you will have 2 attempts to complete each exercise correctly for full credit. After that, you will have unlimited attempts (before the deadline) for 50% credit. Activities where there is not a discrete correct answer (i.e. open ended questions) will be read and credited by your instructor weekly. No late *Tarea* exercises will be accepted for credit. In case you miss a due date due to severe illness or some other emergency, please be in touch with your instructor as soon as possible and arrange for documentation of your absence. If you know you are going to miss class on a day when homework or a composition is due, make sure you turn it in prior to your absence. In the case of religious holidays, homework may be turned in the first day of class you attend after the holiday.

Remember that speaking a language is not just about memorizing information but are trying to acquire a skill: you need to use the new vocabulary and structures many times for you to be able to use it automatically (as you do in your first language, or in some ways similar to other skills such as driving or playing a musical instrument.) Because of the importance of daily practice and the fact that class time is limited, you are required to work with *WileyPlus* materials at least 3 hours/week, with a balance between written and listening/oral work. It is very important that you spread your work over the week instead of doing it all in one or two long sessions.

**Compositions**

You will write three compositions during the semester, with two versions each. (You will also complete shorter written assignments throughout the semester.) Your instructor will mark errors on the composition, using the abbreviations found in the correction key in Canvas, and will return the paper to you for correction. You will then turn in both the first and final drafts together. Please read carefully the information regarding compositions in the Appendix B and the ***Compositions*** section of Canvas. Late compositions (whether first or second version) handed in within 24 hours of the deadline will be accepted for 50% credit. Any work turned in after this grace period will not receive credit.

**Oral activities**

During the semester you will work on two different oral activities, a skit or dramatic performance and a presentation, both to be done in pairs or small groups. More details will be provided later in the semester.

**On academic honesty**

We expect that you have read, understand and are prepared to abide by the Brown University policies on academic honesty. We therefore expect students to follow all ordinary and specified procedures for testing and to prepare and write their own compositions and any other work; copying sentences or larger texts from the Internet or other sources without using proper references, using electronic translators or getting help from Spanish-speaking persons is strictly prohibited. If you would like to consult with a friend or tutor, you can ask about general issues, but not specifics about work you are going to submit for a grade (e.g. a friend or tutor can review with you the differences between imperfect and preterit, but not correct or help you select verb tenses for your work.) Brown U. considers academic dishonesty a very serious matter and requires instructors to report it to the Dean of the College. Please ask your instructor if you have any doubts or questions.

**IV. EVALUATION AND GRADING**

**Exams and quizzes**

Although much of your grades for the semester will be earned throughout your daily work and performance, there will also be will be 4 quizzes and 3 exams throughout the semester covering grammar and vocabulary as well as listening and writing. Exams II and III will also include oral sections to be completed in pairs or small groups. There will not be a final exam.

Please note that exams will not be made up except in the case of severe illnesses or other emergencies (that must be **properly documented)**. If you miss class on the day of an exam, please contact your instructor immediately. Mark quiz and exam dates in your calendar now and make travel arrangements accordingly. No special accommodations will be made if you schedule other activities, trips, job interviews, etc. on an exam day.

**Grading**

Grading is standardized for all sections of HISP0100 on a percentage basis:

**Participation 15 %**

**Homework 20 %**

**Exams (3) 30 % Quizzes (4) 15 %**

**Compositions (3) 10 %**

**Oral activities (2) 10 %**

Letter grading scale:

90-100%: A 80-89.99%: B 70-79.99%: C Below 70%: NC

Please track your grades on Canvas and, if you have a question about a grade, please talk to your instructor immediately. Also, remember to save all graded work throughout the semester in case your instructor needs to check it.

**IMPORTANT NOTES:**

* Please be advised that there will be no re-writes or extra-credit work, and there will be no curving or rounding up of grades. We urge you to discuss any questions or issues related to your grades right away. Grades will not be negotiated at the end of the semester.
* Students in Spanish language courses are advised that, in accordance with Hispanic Studies departmental policy, instructors will award the grade of "S with Distinction" to S/NC students whose work is of extraordinarily high quality (a minimum grade of 93).

**Appendix A - Participation evaluation criteria**.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Class contribution – quantity 25%** | **Class contribution – quality**  **25%** | **Language use 40%** | **Other 10%** |
| (23 – 25 pts.)  Student participates fully and contributes **actively** to the class and class activities, takes initiative working with classmates in pair and group work, frequently **volunteers** and responds to instructor's questions. | (23 – 25 pts.)  Student is always **well prepared** and demonstrates that (s)he has completed the assigned readings/homework for the day. Contributions are original, thoughtful. Listens actively to instructor and classmates. | (36 – 40 pts.)  Student always **speaks in Spanish**[[3]](#footnote-3). Student makes an effort to use the new linguistic structures and vocabulary assigned for study outside of class and pays some attention to accuracy. | (9 – 10 pts.)  Student always **asks questions** when something is not clear.  Arrives to class **on time**, has all necessary materials. |
| (20 – 22 pts.)  Student generally participates and contributes to the class and class activities, may occasionally need extra prodding and instruction to keep up with class activities. Responds to instructor's questions, occasionally volunteers. | (20 – 22 pts.)  Student is generally prepared, has completed the assigned readings/homework for the day. Generally listens actively to instructor and classmates, may “tune out” occasionally. | (31 – 35 pts.)  Student always speaks in Spanish but may engage in English if other students initiate its use. Often uses new linguistic structures and vocabulary assigned for study outside of class. | (7 – 8 pts.)  Student often asks questions when something is not clear.  Arrives for class on time, may occasionally arrive a couple of minutes late. He/she has all necessary materials. |
| (16 – 19 pts.)  The student participates and contributes to the class and class activities only as necessary to complete the task (minimum effort).  Responds to instructor's questions, rarely volunteers. | (16 – 19 pts.)  Student is generally not well prepared, has not completed the assigned readings and homework for the day. Often listens actively to instructor and classmates, but “tunes out” frequently. | (26 – 30 pts.)  Often speaks Spanish but sometimes engages in or initiates English use.  Does not use the new linguistic structures and vocabulary assigned for study outside of class. | (5 – 6 pts.)  Does not ask questions and/or may not have all necessary materials. Arrives late (a couple of minutes) frequently, or arrives over 5 min. late. |
| (0 – 15 pts.)  Fails to meet the criteria above. | (0 – 15 pts.)  Fails to meet the criteria above. | (0 – 25 pts.)  Fails to meet the criteria above. | (4 – 5 pts.)  Fails to meet the criteria above. |

**Lateness**: There will be a **deduction of 10 points off your weekly score for each arrival over 5 min. late**.

**Other notes**:

* Showing up for class and not participating adequately does not warrant receiving any participation points.
* You may bring your computer for class related work. Being engaged on other activities (checking e-mail, doing work for other classes, etc.) is not allowed during class.
* The use of cell phones is not allowed either, neither as phones nor for other purposes (e.g. to check e-mail).

**APPENDIX B: COMPOSITION WRITING NOTES & GRADING CRITERIA**

Writing is different from speaking in that we have the opportunity to reflect, organize and re-write in order to achieve our objective (describe, narrate, argue, etc.). Even though your linguistic resources in Spanish are limited, you are expected to view your compositions in Spanish as examples of college-level academic writing in terms of content, organization, etc.

**Grading criteria:** Since writing is a process, you will turn in two drafts for each composition, which will be count towards the total grade as follows:

Composition 1. Version 1: 50%; version 2: 50%

Composition 2. Version 1: 60%; version 2: 40%

Composition 3. Version 1: 75%; version 2: 25%

Note that a zero will be given to a second draft without any improvements.

Though both drafts will be graded following the same criteria described below, in the second draft your instructor will especially focus on the improvements in these areas based the indications made on your first draft. Each draft will be evaluated over a total of 10 points, the main components evaluated are:

**Content:** The content must be relevant to the assigned topic; your main idea/s clearly stated and well developed (by describing, comparing, illustrating with examples, etc.). Interest and creativity are also rewarded.

**Organization**: Consider both the overall organization of the composition as well as that of each paragraph. Make sure the reader can easily follow your ideas. Reading your work out loud can be a good way to check for coherence and “flow.”

**Language (linguistic structure and vocabulary)**: You should convey your message clearly but also try to “stretch” your linguistic resources by using a variety of new vocabulary and structures, including some longer sentences, connectors, etc. It is important to check for grammar basics as well: verb forms, agreement, use of articles, etc. As for vocabulary, do not use a dictionary too much. Instead, rely on *Dicho y Hecho* vocabulary (use the glossary in the back). If you must consult a bilingual dictionary, be sure to check entries in the Spanish-English side to help you make a better choice.

**Mechanics (spelling and punctuation).** Review spelling and punctuation and make sure you use the Spanish characters needed (e.g. the letter **ñ**, punctuation marks (¿, ¡), stress marks (see handout in *Canvas* regarding how to write Spanish characters in Mac and PC computers).

1. In HISP0200 participation counts for 15 points (out of 100) of your final grade. Let’s say you had a perfect participation score at the end of the semester but you missed class 6 times. You will have a penalization of 2 points, resulting in a final participation score of 13. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Documentation should clearly indicate you were not able to attend class and/or submit due assignments on the specific day(s) missed. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. English is only allowed if there is a question that cannot possibly be formulated in Spanish. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)