OSP11: Spanish 1

Course Description
First-year Spanish is designed for students who have no previous experience with the Spanish language. The goal of this course is to help students build knowledge of the Spanish language and cultivate greater understanding of the Spanish-speaking world. The course places an emphasis on developing and improving communication skills in grammar, listening and reading comprehension, and writing. Students are exposed to primary sources, such as music, literature, history, politics, and current events, and are encouraged to see relationships between the Spanish language and other fields of study of their own interest. Students will read, discuss, and write short compositions, make presentations, and engage in a series of small research projects in Spanish. Resources include: a course textbook, multimedia materials, and a list of Internet web sites that are pertinent to cultural themes addressed throughout the course.

Learning Objectives
By the end of this course, students should be able to:

• Demonstrate spoken and written proficiency in a variety of situations
• Understand and use basic, intermediate, and advanced grammar structures when speaking, listening, and reading the Spanish language
• Use a wide-range of vocabulary in context
• Focus on meaning rather than grammar. Idea: language as culture as opposed to culture as language
• Demonstrate cultural awareness with respect to the diversity of the Spanish-speaking world

Major Topics

Semester One:
• ¿Quiénes somos? Tu biografía
• La familia
• El continente americano
• Geografía del mundo hispanohablante
• La naturaleza y los animales: el condor, el quetzal y el jaguar
• Las Islas Galápagos
• Las civilizaciones precolombinas: los incas, mayas y aztecas
• Etnicidad en América Latina
• El arte

Semester Two:
• Variación dialectal en el mundo hispanohablante
• Fonética (pronunciación) en el mundo hispanohablante
• Latinoamérica, un continente mestizo
• Los hispanos en los Estados Unidos
• Literatura hispana: Cuentos de la selva
• La tortuga gigante
• Las medias de los flamencos
• Los deportes y la salud
• Música y danza en el mundo hispanohablante
Major Assignments

Each semester, the final letter grade will be determined on the basis of the following types of assignments:

- **Attendance & participation in class:** (10%)  
- **Assignments:** (which may include online grammar & vocabulary exercises, readings from the textbook and other course material, short quizzes, current event reports, presentations, and group work outside of class) (20%)
- **Compositions:** (3-4 compositions per semester) (30%)
- **Exams:** (30%)
- **Midterm:** proctored (15%)
- **Final exam:** proctored (15%)
- **Projects:** (10%) (Fall/Spring semester final projects and in-class oral presentations)