**Honors Cultural Studies**

Welcome to the class! ¡Bienvenidos a la clase de español!

Below you will find a detailed description of the expectations of this course. A large part of this course depends on the ability to take risks and work cooperatively with your teacher and classmates. Sometimes learning a new language is a challenging task, but if you keep an open mind and have patience, you may be surprised by how much you grow throughout the year. Read the information below and then keep it in a safe place. I look forward to a fun and productive year in Spanish!

Quotations that inspire my vision for our class

* “This is an active classroom, where the **joy and excitement** as well as the hard work of learning provide the kind of positive feedback that magnifies the effort put into learning. Fundamental to this perspective is a commitment to **growth, to renewal, to life.**”
* “The classroom becomes an important place **to connect to our roots, our past, and to envision the future**. It is a place to utilize and develop all of our talents and abilities. To develop excellence that is not limited to the few. The classroom becomes a place in which integrity is not just possible but normal.”
* “One goal of the liberatory classroom is that members learn to **respect** each other’s differences rather than fear them. Such a perspective is ecological and holistic.”
* “The concept of a liberatory environment suggests a new way to be with one another in the classroom. A classroom characterized as persons connected in a net of relationships with people who care **about each other’s learning** as well as their own is very different form a classroom that is seen as comprised [merely] of teacher and students.”
* “The web of interrelationships in the classroom is seen to stretch to **the local, regional, and global communities**.”
* “The vision includes a participatory, **democratic** process in which at least some power is shared. Learners develop **independence**. The classroom becomes a model of ways for people to work together to **accomplish mutual or shared goals**, and to help each other reach individual goals. Students are able to **take risks** in such a classroom.”
* “Students integrate the skills of **critical thinking** with respect for and ability to work with others. [This] pedagogy strives to help student and teacher learn to think in new ways, especially ways that enhance the integrity and wholeness of the person and the person's connections with others (Minnich, Rutenberg). Critical thinking, then, is not an abstracted analysis but a reflective process firmly grounded in the experiences of the everyday. It requires continuous questioning and making assumptions explicit, but it does so in a dialogue aimed not at disproving another person's perspective, nor destroying the validity of another's perspective, but at a mutual exploration of explications of diverse experiences.”
* Shrewsbury, 1993

### Required Materials

In order to stay organized and prepared throughout the year, you will need the following items. Being prepared will be factored into your classroom participation grade. If you are unable to obtain any of the following items, please see me.

* 1 three ring binder, paper (three hole-punched), & plenty of pens and pencils
* An Edmodo account [store your login/password info in a safe place!]
	+ *Highly suggested: a wifi capable device for class (mp3 player, phone, tablet, computer, etc.)*

Because you do not have a classroom textbook, you will have a LOT of papers to keep organized in your binders. DO NOT throw away papers or remove them from your binders; you *may* be allowed to use your binders on some assessments, and you want to have all of your work with you! ;-)

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### Grading Policy

Your final marking period grades will be determined by the following three categories:

* **80%- Assessments**: This includes written quizzes, interpersonal assessments, interpretive assessments, and presentational assessments. I may give some small pop-quizzes or collect classwork for a grade throughout the year, so always be ready ☺.
* **10%-Participation**: This will be based on active and passive participation, accountability, group and pair work, and being prepared. See the department rubric.
* **10%-Homework**: Everyone starts the marking period with 100%. Five points are deducted for each missed assignment. Every student has one opportunity to get half the credit lost by completing the assignment a day late

\*Note: There is no individual extra credit available in the World Language department. At the end of the Marking Period, your grade is your grade! Please do not approach me/send emails asking me to ‘bump’ your grade. If you do so, you will be reported to guidance.

\*\* If you FAIL (59 or below) a written assessment, you may schedule a retake and have your new score averaged with your old score.

### Classroom Policies

* **Everyone in the class is expected to respect everyone else in the class. This includes teachers, classmates, and guests.** This also includes everything in the classroom. Vandalism is reported to the office immediately.
* I have many materials for you to use! Mi casa es tu casa =) Make yourselves at home! But *please* help me to keep the room organized: i.e. if you use a pillow, put it back nicely; if you use a marker, put it back in the correct marker bin, etc.
* **Phones and music devices are NOT for games and snapchat! Phones and devices are to be used for Spanish classwork only (looking up words, researching, checking song lyrics, playing classroom games like kahoot, and listening to personal music when allowed). Use your device respectfully, or else I will collect it!**
* There are NO assigned seats. You may sit where you are comfortable (except my seat ☺). I reserve the right to assign seats at any point in the year – you have been warned!
* Students may not leave the classroom without notifying an adult in the classroom. If you are supposed to be in my class, I need to know where you are!

### Student Responsibilities

* If you are absent, it is **your** **responsibility** to get the notes from a friend and to see me about the work you missed.
* If you miss an assessment it is **your responsibility** to make-up the work within one week. I will NOT chase you down. I will mark the grade as “missing/zero” and wait for you to contact me.
* If you fail a written assessment, you may retake it within 1 week of receiving your score. (\*I may alter the assessment)
* Materials and homework will, as often as possible, be posted on **Edmodo**. You MUST have an active Edmodo account that you check at least twice a week. Please check Edmodo when you are absent!
* Homework is due the next class (after the day it is assigned) unless otherwise noted. If homework was posted to Edmodo, and you did not complete it (even if you missed class), you will receive a zero.
* **Cheating is unacceptable**; any form of cheating will result in a "zero" for all parties involved and the office will be notified.This includes copying and using translators to complete assignments. Trust me, I can tell when you use a translator!
* Turn things in on time! Late assignments will receive a 5 point deduction for every day they are late.

### Using the Target Language (Spanish)

Spanish is our target language. In order to be successful in this class, it is extremely important to speak the target language as much as possible. Don’t be afraid to use what you know and keep an open mind. Also – be kind to yourself. We ALL make mistakes. Mistakes are part of the process =). If you put in the effort and you are patient, your Spanish proficiency will grow as the year goes on!

**I am here for you! If you have any questions, please see me or send me an email:** ashley.warren@ww-p.org

I’m excited to spend this year with you! ¡Buena suerte!

Señora Warren ☺