

**JANUARY WINTER SESSION PROGRAM IN MEXICO**

The Spanish Language Institute

Cuernavaca, Morelos, MEXICO

Course #: **SAB 442-501**

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

Tel: (607) 753-\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_@cortland.edu

**SYLLABUS FOR**

**SPA 201: INTERMEDIATE SPANISH I in Cuernavaca, México (3 cr. hrs.)**

**I. COURSE OVERVIEW & OBJECTIVES**

**SPA 201 CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** Continued development of the skills of listening, reading, speaking, and writing, with emphasis on developing communicative strategies at the intermediate level. Expanding cultural knowledge with exposure to literature.

Prerequisite: SPA 102 or equivalent. (3 cr. hrs.)

**SPA 201 & THE CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK:** This course, as is the case with all of our offerings in the I.C.C. Department, is rooted in the ideals of liberal learning. The underlying ideal in all of our classes, whether they be literature-, culture-, or language-based, is that all three of these elements are interwoven. The specific knowledge and perspectives that will be acquired in this class reflect SUNY Cortland's commitment to instilling in our students an acumen for themes and issues pertaining to Global Understanding (knowledge of the interconnectedness of the natural and human experience through exposure to the political, social, economic and religious differences of the target language's literature and civilization) and Social Justice (comparison and contrast of issues of social justice, equality, and democracy between our society and those of the target language).

Intermediate Spanish I in Cuernavaca, Mexico, is a three-week study abroad program designed to allow the beginning student of Spanish the opportunity to continue his or her study of Spanish in an immersion environment in a Spanish-speaking country. The student will take classes and study Spanish with native instructors at the **Spanish Language Institute (S.L.I.)**, a private Spanish-language school in Cuernavaca. In daily classes, the student will study Spanish grammar and expression, as well as continue building conversational proficiency in Spanish.

**Objectives of the Course**

The student will continue his/her basic four-semester study of Spanish begun on the home campus. S/he will continue to develop his/her abilities in Spanish in all four language skills, while continuing to build an active core vocabulary and increasing his/her knowledge and understanding of Spanish language structure and expression.

In addition, given the uniquely advantageous nature of a study abroad experience, this course has as its goals for the students the following objectives:

- to increase the level of the student's functional and communicative proficiency – knowing how to put to use the Spanish the student has learned, as well as when and where and for what purposes.
- to enhance speaking and listening skills, as well as pronunciation.
- to apply grammar and basic vocabulary to a living/learning situation.
- to broaden the students' cultural horizons.
- to provide students majoring in a variety of fields the opportunity to live and learn in a foreign

culture.

## II. FACULTY AVAILABILITY

**Spanish Language Institute instructor:** You will be able to consult extensively with your native instructor for extra explanations and help, both during your three-hour class and between classes throughout the day at the school.

**Spanish Language Institute Spanish Program Director:** You will be able to consult with the Spanish Director regarding concerns about placement level and general academic matters.

**SUNY Cortland Faculty Director:** The Cortland Faculty Director will be available every day, throughout the day, at the school. You will also receive her/his phone number in Cuernavaca, to be able to contact her/him at other times.

## III. REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

**Textbook:** *VISTAS*, Blanco, Dellinger, Donley & García. VISTA Higher Learning, 2001.  
(Available at the SUNY Cortland College Store, or possibly from the publisher.)

**NOTE: you must obtain this textbook in the U.S. and take it with you to Mexico!**

(The textbook will come packaged with a workbook, three CD ancillaries, and pocket dictionary -- you need only the textbook in Mexico, and you will probably want to take the pocket dictionary – or any other pocket dictionary.)

### **Materials:**

You should gather together here in the U.S. and take with you the following required items:

1. this course syllabus.
2. the *VISTAS* textbook.
3. a bilingual dictionary (Spanish-English/English-Spanish) (*the VISTAS pocket dictionary is fine*)
4. a three-subject notebook\*
5. pens and pencils\*

\*(Take these items with you. You won't have time to purchase any in Mexico before you need to start using them.)

## IV. SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

At the Spanish Language Institute, you will be attending classes daily, between the hours of 8:00 am and 2:00 pm. You will be taking three classes:

small-group language class:	3 hours
functional Spanish class:	1 hour

conversation class: 2 hours

There are two class schedules followed at the Spanish Language Institute, and depending which small-group language class you are placed into each week, you will be following either Schedule A or Schedule B, as outlined below:

<b><u>Schedule A</u></b>		<b><u>Schedule B</u></b>	
small-group language:	8-11 a.m.	conversation class:	8-10 a.m.
functional Spanish:	11-12 noon	functional Spanish:	10-11 a.m.
conversation class:	12- 2 p.m.	small-group language:	11- 2 p.m.

**Small-group language class** (3 hours daily)

The 3-hour small-group language class will contain no more than five students, and is designed to cover the same concepts studied at SUNY Cortland in SPA 201, in Chapters 11 through 14 in *VISTAS*. Participants taking SPA 201 will all be together in this class, possibly along with some other students at S.L.I. You can expect to have daily homework to complete, as well as tests on a weekly basis.

**Functional Spanish** (1 hour daily)

In the Functional Spanish class, SPA 201 students study and practice vocabulary and phrases for certain real-life situations and locations, and also study and practice idiomatic expressions in the Spanish language and in Mexican Spanish. Alternately, this class may be used to present and practice the vocabulary contained in the pertinent chapters in *VISTAS*. You can expect to have daily homework to complete.

**Conversation class** (2 hours daily)

Students are placed for their conversation class based on their current conversational proficiency in Spanish, assessed by means of an oral proficiency interview administered to each student by the staff of S.L.I. during our orientation at the school. In this class, you will apply grammar you have been studying in meaningful, communicative contexts, as well as expand your vocabulary and study and practice conversational expressions and topics. Alternately, this class may be used to present and practice the vocabulary contained in the pertinent chapters in *VISTAS*. You can expect to have daily homework to complete, including both writing assignments and preparation for in-class oral presentations and class discussion.

**Optional programs**

The Spanish Language Institute also offers another 1.5 hours of optional programs later in the afternoon, including videos, round-table discussions, grammar clinics, dancing and cooking classes. Students are encouraged to take advantage of some of these programs during our stay.

## V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

### **Small group language class:**

You will have three exams in this class, one at the end of each week. The third exam will be a comprehensive exam of the entire course content. Your final grade in this class will be the average of the three exams.

Students are expected to use Spanish at all times while at the school, both in class and during the breaks between classes, and this will be noted by your instructors and the Spanish Program Director of S.L.I. Based on this expectation, and at the discretion of the Spanish Director, points may be added to your small-group language class final grade for consistent use of Spanish.

### **Functional Spanish class:**

Each week, your instructor in this class will give an evaluation of your performance to the Spanish Program Director, based on your homework preparation, language performance in class, and your participation. Your final grade in this class will be a global score based on the weekly evaluations.

### **Conversation class:**

Each week, your instructor in this class will give an evaluation of your performance to the Spanish Program Director, based on your homework preparation, language performance in class, and your participation. Your final grade in this class will be a global score based on the assessment of your instructor.

S.L.I. final grades are reported to the Cortland Faculty Director after our return to the U.S.

Your final grade for the study abroad program will be a letter grade (A - E), based on the average of the final grades for your three classes at S.L.I., combined according to the relative number of class hours. This grade will be computed and assigned by the SUNY Cortland Faculty Director.

### **Additional program requirement: EXCURSIONS**

SUNY/Cortland requires the students in the Cuernavaca program to participate in two guided excursions offered through the Spanish Language Institute. One is to the pre-Hispanic archeological site of Teotihuacán, and the other to Mexico City, to visit the city's historic main square (to see the murals of Diego Rivera in the Palacio Nacional and an overview of the Catedral Metropolitana and the ruins of the Templo Mayor) and also the world-famous

National Museum of Anthropology.

**Further note: EXCURSIONS:** **For your information:** The Spanish Language Institute offers a variety of other excursions that will take place during our stay (weekday afternoon or weekend day excursions), and students are encouraged to avail themselves of this opportunity. Some are to sites of historic or cultural interest, while others are to tourist, shopping, or recreational sites. Budget \$90 to \$120 for other excursions (not including the Acapulco weekend excursion).

## **VI. COURSE EXPECTATIONS & POLICIES**

### **1. Attendance and Prompt Arrival at School**

Attendance is required for every day of classes of the program. There are no unexcused absences.

Attendance on a daily basis is vital in a study-abroad program of short duration like this one. Of course, true illness is an excused absence, but remember, even if you are absent for illness, missing one day of classes is like missing two weeks of a semester! Your daily attendance will be checked by the faculty director and with individual instructors. You are also expected to arrive promptly for the 8 a.m. start of the school day.

During the class day, you are always required to be in class. You may not skip class and go sun yourself or sleep in some other part of the campus, nor may you leave classes and the school to conduct personal business, such as changing or receiving money.

The course policy for lates and absences is as follows:

#### **PENALTIES: LATES AND ABSENCES:**

- Five times late to school more than 10 minutes = one day of unexcused absence.
- Over one hour late to school = one day of unexcused absence.
- One day of unexcused absence: -1/3 letter grade (B- to C+)
- Two days of unexcused absence: -1 entire letter grade (B- to C-)
- If you miss three (3) days unexcused, you will automatically fail the course.

**In sum, if you cannot discipline yourself to consistent daily attendance and prompt daily arrivals, you do not belong in this program !!**

2. **Notebook and Homework:**

You are expected to take notes on a daily basis in your classes, just as you would in courses in the U.S. at your home campus.

For this purpose, purchase a three-subject spiral notebook here in the U.S., to have in hand and ready to use right away in Cuernavaca. Put each class in a different section of the notebook. Also, keep all your class handouts, returned homework and exams in their respective sections of the notebook.

3. **Participation**

Consistent participation and effort to use Spanish are crucial and indispensable to your continued skill development in Spanish, and to getting the most out of your study abroad experience. Given the small size of the classes and the communicative nature of much of the instruction, you will probably find yourself actively participating in class on a regular basis anyway. This is just a reminder to have you do so. Don't be bashful or inhibited!

We all make mistakes or think we sound funny, but that's how we learn. Don't waste this wonderful opportunity abroad by "clamming up"! And use your Spanish in your homes!

Your host families are ready, willing and waiting to converse with you and to get to know you. Sometimes, though, out of politeness, they wait for you to make the first move. So, speak up, and let them know by conversing with them that you're open and interested in getting to know them and that conversational practice with them is important to you. It almost goes without saying that you will progress with your Spanish skills as much at home and outside of class as you will in class -- but only if you make the effort. So, speak up and participate, and have a wonderful time at it!

4. **SUNY Cortland College Policies: CHEATING & PLAGIARISM**

EXCERPTS FROM THE COLLEGE HANDBOOK, 2000-2002

CHAPTER 340, "Academic Dishonesty"

340.01 . . . It is . . . the professional responsibility of all faculty to explain the importance of honesty and respect for knowledge in order to ensure an academic environment that encourages integrity . . . it is the responsibility of students to protect their own work from inappropriate use by others . . . Academic integrity is absolutely essential to ensure the validity of the grading system and maintain high standards of academic excellence. In addition, all members of the academic community must exhibit behavior exemplifying academic honesty and encourage such behavior in others.

340.02 . . . Each student is expected to present his or her own work. All papers, examinations, and other

assignments must be original or explicit acknowledgement must be given for the use of other persons' ideas or language. . .

340.03 . . . The person reporting an instance of alleged academic dishonesty shall complete and forward to the Provost's Office the Disclosure and Notification of an Academic Dishonesty Change form. . . If the filer of the notification form is a faculty member, whenever possible she/he shall discuss the incident with the student prior to forwarding the form to the Provost's Office.