



CIEE in Monteverde, Costa Rica

Course name:	Spanish Language - Intermediate I
Course number:	SPAN 2001 MOCR
Programs offering course:	Science and Society Language, Literature and Culture
Language of instruction:	Spanish
U.S. semester credits:	3
Contact hours:	60
Term:	Fall 2019

Course Description

This course is designed for students with two to four semesters of college-level Spanish. The primary objective of this intermediate course is to allow students to achieve maximum communicative competency in the Spanish language and immersion in Spanish life. In this course, intermediate Spanish language students will gain a broader cultural, lexical and grammatical foundation for their language studies.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate linguistic and communicative competences of intermediate Spanish language students.
- Write clear and well-structured descriptive or narrative texts on subjects familiar to them.
- Hold an argumentative conversation based on simple topics.
- Use idiomatic expressions and identify and eliminate some Anglicisms in their speech.
- Understand the characteristics of Central American Spanish in different socio-cultural immersion contexts.
- Command a deeper understanding of the Spanish grammar, syntax and vocabulary.

Course Prerequisites

This course is designed for students with two to three semesters of college-level Spanish, or the equivalent as determined by a placement test.

Methods of Instruction

Communicative student-centered task-based approach. The structure of each week is as follows:



- The tasks will be organized by Weekly Topics, so that each session of a week is related to the others.
- At the end of each week, students will have to do a written and oral presentation and a mini test/written assignment with a focus on the grammatical/lexical content covered along the week.
- Students will be provided with extra material as homework to reinforce the grammatical and lexical aspects seen in the classroom.
- Each of the presentations and tests will count for the final grade.

Course Material

Material will be provided by CIEE teacher: CIEE material, resources on the Internet; booklet with key grammar points and other relevant information.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Participation 20%
2. Daily Homework 10%
3. Oral Presentations in class and Weekly Projects 25%
4. Weekly Tests 20%
5. Final Test (Oral and Written) 25%

Course Requirements

Final Test

The four language skills (oral and written expression, oral and written comprehension) will be tested through written comprehension and guided production activities, as well as oral discussion on proposed subjects.

Homework

Students will be given written homework on a daily basis to reinforce the grammatical and lexical aspects covered in the classroom that will be checked by the instructor in class every day. Homework will include both text completion exercises, answering questions and writing texts (250-300 words). Failing to complete their daily homework will result in a lower final grade of the course.

Oral Presentations and Written Weekly Projects

At the end of each week, students will have to present and deliver a presentation of their weekly project. Both the delivery of the presentation and the written project will be assessed. Failing to complete their oral and written weekly projects will result in a lower final grade of the course. Each report should be 350 words.

Weekly Assessments



At the end of each week, students will have to sit a mini-test where they will be assessed on the grammatical and lexical content of the week. Each of the weekly assessment will count for the final grade.

Participation

Participation is valued as meaningful contribution in the digital and tangible classroom, utilizing the resources and materials presented to students as part of the course. Meaningful contribution requires students to be prepared in advance of each class session and to have regular attendance. Students must clearly demonstrate they have engaged with the materials as directed, for example, through classroom discussions, online discussion boards, peer-to-peer feedback (after presentations), interaction with guest speakers, and attentiveness on co-curricular and outside-of-classroom activities.

Each student is expected to actively participate in class, and this is absolutely necessary to the effective functioning of the course as well as to individual progress. Participation and the investment of an appropriate amount of time in the preparation of each session will be taken into account in the determination of final grades.

Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program, and all unexcused absences will result in a lower participation grade for any affected CIEE course. Due to the intensive schedules for Science and Society programs, unexcused absences that constitute more than 10% of the total course will result in a written warning.

Students who transfer from one CIEE class to another during the add/drop period will not be considered absent from the first session(s) of their new class, provided they were marked present for the first session(s) of their original class. Otherwise, the absence(s) from the original class carry over to the new class and count against the grade in that class.

For CIEE classes, excessively tardy (over 15 minutes late) students must be marked absent. Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursion or event, as well as to Internship, Service Learning, or required field placement. Students who miss class for personal travel, including unforeseen delays that arise as a result of personal travel, will be marked as absent and unexcused. No make-up or re-sit opportunity will be provided.

Attendance policies also apply to any required class excursion, with the exception that some class excursions cannot accommodate any tardiness, and students risk being marked as absent if they fail to be present at the appointed time.



Unexcused absences will lead to the following penalties:

<i>Percentage of Total Course Hours Missed</i>	<i>Equivalent Number of Science and Society Semester classes</i>	<i>Minimum Penalty</i>
Up to 10%	1 content classes, or up to 2 language classes	Participation graded as per class requirements
10 – 20%	2 content classes, or 3-4 language classes	Participation graded as per class requirements; written warning
More than 20%	3 content classes, or 5 language classes	Automatic course failure , and possible expulsion

Weekly Schedule

Note: This schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor to take advantage of current experiential learning opportunities. Each lesson is 2h 30mins. Up to a maximum of 3 out the classroom-guided activities will take place when needed, to put in practice the structures seen in the classroom within a real context and maximize students' exposure to real linguistic situations.

Week 1

Class 1:1 Knowing people

The scope of the course and instructions method will be presented. Students will give and ask for personal information. They will also express aspects of themselves: their interests, tastes, affinities, similarities, differences, etc.



Class 1:2 How does Monteverde fit your interests

Students will talk about their hobbies and leisure time and will rate those activities. Different immersion activities offered by the community will be presented. Finally, they will compare their routine in Monteverde with the one in the States, evaluating pros and cons.

Class 1:3 Lifestyle of Monteverde

Students will get familiarized with some aspects of lifestyle of Monteverde. Through typical lexical expressions they will describe places and habits in the city.

Class 1:4 Important landmarks in Monteverde

Important landmarks and their history will be presented to students. Through this information they will be able to narrate stories about the past in Monteverde and they will create a scrapbook of the most interesting places and activities in Monteverde.

Reference material: CIEE Material specially designed for the course. Brochures and websites. Monteverde cultural agenda.

Week 2

Class 2:1 Spanish manners at the table

Students will be presented the most common lexical expressions to make requests using courtesy strategies and to make a polite complain at a bar or restaurant.

Through the imperative mood, they will prepare a tutorial on Spanish manners and useful tips at the table and at a restaurant.

Class 2:2 Spanish meals

Students will talk about their eating habits and the food they like/dislike, justifying their decisions. They will also get familiarized with different Spanish meals and the way



they are cooked. Through the use of commands, they will give instructions to prepare meals.

Class 2:3 **Healthy lifestyle**

Students will discuss about what is considered a healthy lifestyle and methods to avoid illness. They will elaborate a healthy meal plan for the week. Finally, in small groups, they will create an awareness campaign.

Class 2:4 **Lifestyle in Monteverde**

In groups students will present their awareness campaigns on healthy lifestyle and will answer questions from other groups and the teacher. They will also make a mini-test.

Reference material: CIEE Material specially designed for the course. Brochures and websites.

Week 3

Class 3:1 **What kind of traveller are you?**

Students will get familiarized with information about tourism in Costa Rica . By using past tenses, time expressions and linking words, they will share information about their travelling experiences in this country.

Class 3:2 **Interviewing people**

Students will interview a partner about his/her stay in Monteverde: e.g. places visited, food, best moments, etc. They will get familiarized with some expressions to show interest in what the other person is saying. Finally, students will share information with the class.

Class 3:3 **Life Changing**



Through making a list of ways they have changed since they live in Monteverde, they will describe the impact of this experience in their lives. They will also justify their answers by using connecting expressions (cause and consequence).

Class 3:4 Sharing anecdotes about staying in Monteverde

Students will present a real or invented anecdote about their stay in Monteverde and will answer their partners and teacher's questions. They will also make a mini-test.

Reference material: CIEE Material specially designed for the course.

Week 4

Class 4:1 Suggesting plans

Students will find out what's on in Monteverde, and express their opinions, views and wishes on different cultural activities and alternative plans. Through the use of subjunctive mood, they will make invitations and suggest plans to their classmates. They will be presented different expressions to accept or refuse invitations, making excuses.

Class 4:2 Experiencing Monteverde

Students will share information about their cultural experiences in Monteverde, and they will be able to recount other students' experiences.

Class 4:3 Planning a trip

Students will get familiarized with places to plan a 4-day trip in Costa Rica and in small groups they will decide the best options, justifying their choices.

Class 4: 4 Writing in a travel blog

In small groups, students will write an entry in a travel blog to recommend places to visit and activities to do there. They will also make a mini-test.



Reference material: CIEE Material specially designed for the course. Brochures and websites.

Week 5

Class 5:1 Products and services in Monteverde

Students will be presented different shops, products and services available in Monteverde. They will give their opinion on possibilities of quality, prices, service, etc. They will make a role playing of typical situations at a shop.

Class 5: 2 Customer complaints

Students will participate in discussions about the utility of a product or services offered in Monteverde. They will also be able to make a complaint about a product or service they have bought.

Class 5: 3 Advertisement

Students will recognize and understand complex texts as ads, new, articles about products and services. In small groups, they will design and write their own commercial on a feature, services or product typical from Monteverde.

Class 5: 4 Letters to expose a problem

Students will write a letter to expose a problem related to a product or a service and they will demand compensation. They will also make a mini-test.

Reference material: CIEE Material specially designed for the course. Brochures and websites.

Week 6

Class 6:1 Planning the last days



Students will create a bucket list of things they still want to do before leaving Monteverde. They will share their list with the group, justify their opinions and they will tally for the most popular answers.

Class 6:2 Plans and hypotheses

Students will make a statement about future plans and they will formulate hypotheses about what they will be doing after the course.

Class 6:3 Revising contents

Students will be encouraged to revise the contents and express doubts. They will make a mock exam for practice.

Class 6:4 Final Evaluation

Reference material: CIEE Material specially designed for the course.

Course Material

Learning material will be provided by CIEE Monteverde: various handouts, a booklet with key grammar points and other relevant information; resources on the Internet.

Biesanz, M.H., R. Biesanz & K.Z. Biesanz. 1998. *The Ticos: Culture and Social Change in Costa Rica*. Lynne Rienner Publishers, 307 pp.

Coates, A. G. 1999. *Central America: A Natural and Cultural History*. Yale University Press, 296 pp.

Locher, U., J. Sanchez, G. Mayorga, C. Mesa-Lago, S. Marquardt, K. Bowman, P. Palmer, S. Chant, M. Mata- Montero, S. Palmer, I. Molina. 2004. *The Costa Rica Reader: History, Culture, and Politics*. Duke University Press, 383 pp.

Mitchel, M.G. and S. Pentzer. 2008. *Costa Rica: a global studies handbook*. Global Studies. Latin America & the Caribbean. ABC-CLIO, Inc, Santa Barbara, California, USA. 398 pp.

Online Resources



Costa Rica Hoy <https://www.crhoy.com>

Costa Rican Guide to Learn Spanish

<http://www.costaricaspanish.net/tiquismos-costa-rican-street-spanish/>

Español en Costa Rica, Instituto de Investigaciones Lingüísticas

<http://inil.ucr.ac.cr/linguistica/espanol-de-costa-rica/>

Estado de la Nación <https://www.estadonacion.or.cr>

La Nación: Noticias de Costa Rica <https://www.nacion.com>