

SPANISH I

Description of Course:

This course will introduce you to the Spanish language and various cultures of Spanish-speaking peoples in our community and the world. Many different approaches and methodologies will be utilized in class: Grammar-Translation and Total Physical Response are two of them.

Total Physical Response is a method widely used to promote effective input, interest, and muscle-memory. Like in the Grammar-Translation method, one learns many rules of language. Unlike the Grammar-Translation method, these rules are learned implicitly. Using the textbook to clarify the “rules” of Spanish is Grammar-Translation, and we will spend equal time doing both, although we will attempt to do this in Spanish as much as possible. Throughout the year, students will participate orally in class - reading or speaking aloud in Spanish. Acting, in-class and at-home reading, projects, field-trips, and guest speakers will be an integral part of this class.

Purpose of Course:

Students will learn Spanish phonology (sounds of language), morphology (the small pieces of language that make up words), syntax (sentence comprehension and decoding), and semantics (the study of meaning in language). Students will have the skills to read, write, understand, and speak Spanish upon the completion of this course. Students will have acquired an understanding of the various cultures that speak Spanish and the myriad ways that these languages are similar and different.

Text and Materials:

Students must purchase a Spanish-English/English-Spanish Dictionary. Look for a well-known publisher, a pronunciation guide, grammar tables, and verb tables.