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Course description:

The language ab initio courses are language learning courses for beginners, designed to be followed over two years by students who have little or no previous experience of learning the target language. The main focus of the courses is on the acquisition of language required for purposes and situations usual in everyday social interaction. Language ab initio courses aim to develop a variety of linguistic skills, and a basic awareness of the culture(s) using the language, through the study of a core syllabus and language-specific syllabuses.

The topics studied include the individual, education and work, town and services, food and drink, leisure and travel, the environment, and health and emergencies. Grammatical structures include the following tenses: present, preterite, imperfect, present perfect, future, condicional, imperative (tú and Ud), gerund, conditional, and present subjunctive with verbs of hope along with other structural elements.

At the end the language B course ab initio candidates are expected to demonstrate the ability to:

- Communicate information and some basic ideas clearly and effectively in a limited range of situations
- Understand and use accurately the essential spoken and written forms of the language in a limited range of situations
- Understand and use a limited range of vocabulary in common usage
- Use a register that is generally appropriate to the situation
- Show an awareness of the culture(s) related to the language studied.

EXPECTATIONS:

- Students will communicate entirely in Spanish for the duration of each class period. It is imperative that students communicate with the teacher if at any time they feel concerned about the material being covered and/or the pace of the class.

- Students will keep an open mind while learning about different cultures and dialects (as there are many linguistic differences from region to region) and contribute to a positive learning environment

- Since students enter this course at various levels with different vocabulary students will be responsible for their own learning by keeping a “dictionary” of new words and reviewing key grammar elements as necessary.

- All students will score a 5 or above on the Spanish B exam.
ASSESSMENTS:

Diploma Program Assessment in Year 2

Ab Initio:
External Assessment:
70% Written Component
Paper 1. 90 minutes; Text Handling 40% (Reading 32%, Written Response (40 word minimum) 8%)
Paper 2. 90 minutes; Written Production 30% (Short Writing Task from the choice of two, min 60 words = 10%, Extended Writing Task from the choice of three, Min 120 words = 20%)

Internal Assessment:
30% Oral Component
15% Individual Oral (10 min divided into 2 parts (1) a presentation based on a visual stimulus linked to one of the topics studied in class with follow-up questions (2) a general conversation between teacher and student on topics covered in the class)
15% Interactive Oral

Non-IB Assessment:
In alignment with the objectives and aims of the course, the following formative assessments will be used in class:
- Quizzes
- Written assignments (article responses, journal entries, essays, blogs, etc)
- Informal oral interaction (dialog, topic discussions, oral presentations, role plays, etc)

In alignment with the objectives and aims of the course, the following are examples of summative assessments that may be used in class:
- Unit Tests
- Written essays
- Presentations (Debate, Skit, Role Play, Spontaneous Conversations, etc.)
- Review assignments

GRADING:

A student’s grade will be calculated based on the summative assessments on the following criteria:
Writing – Language, (10) Communication Skills (10), Presentation (10) and Speaking – Language (10), Communication Skills (10), Interaction (10).

It is imperative that students recognize that their success in this class and on the Spanish B ab initio exams depends heavily on their efforts to practice the target language and that all activities, assignments, and formative assessments will help prepare students for summative assessments and the Spanish ab initio exam.