

Peachtree Academy Syllabus: Spanish 3

General Information:

Instructor:	Ms. Jessica Swords
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Website:	www.jessicaswords.weebly.com
Tutoring:	By Appointment

Brief Biography:

I was born in New Jersey and raised in Georgia. I graduated from Winder-Barrow High School in Barrow County and decided to enroll in college to study the wonderful language of Spanish. I received my Associate Degree in the language from Gainesville State College and went on to pursue my Bachelor's at the University of North Georgia, where I majored in Spanish and minored in English. Grad school is a possibility in my near future because I am not one to stay away from the student atmosphere for long. My interests are music, where I like to dwell in the times of Classic Rock listening to the poetry of Jim "The Lizard King" Morrison from the band The Doors, the culture of Latin American music and dances, and the modern art of lyricist and musical artist Brooke Fraser; art, where I like to paint during the small amount of spare time I have; reading, where C.S. Lewis is a standard for great writing and apologetics; animals, where I care for the zoo I have obtained over the years, as well as doing a bit of fostering here and there; politics, where I follow, research and study every politician before casting a vote with the sound of Liberty ringing in my spirit; and faith, where The Lord's promise is fulfilled through my triumphs and trials.

Text and Materials:

Required materials are the textbook *¡Avencemos!*, *Como agua para chocolate* by Laura Esquivel (ISBN978-0-385-72123-3), a three-ring binder with dividers (preferably 5 in order to stay organized), notebook paper, writing material, 3x5" index cards (to be restocked throughout the year), and a pocket dictionary, such as Webster's Spanish-English Dictionary.

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Course Description:

Spanish 3 is the succeeding Spanish language course designed to review and build on the skills covered in Spanish 1 and 2 in regards to speaking, listening comprehension, reading and writing, as well as familiarize students with aspects of the target culture. There will be more focus on conversation, composition and literature.

Course Objectives:

This course is designed to provide students with the ability to begin learning the fundamentals of reading, writing, speaking and listening to Spanish and also enlighten students in the Latin American and Spanish Culture. This is to help prepare students in College Preparatory programs for college level material. My objective as a teacher is to get each student prepared for college-level work.

Course Content:

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Because learning a new language takes practice and dedication, students will have homework to turn in every class except on days when tests are given. The first 15 minutes of each class will be dedicated to reviewing homework and making sure the student understands the material. Quizzes will be given the last 10 minutes of class in order to ensure participation on materials covered in class. In some cases, students will be given a reading assignment as the homework in order to prepare for the next day of class. Be prepared in case of pop quizzes! Tests will be given at the end of each level in the textbook. I am also incorporating a Language Lab during 8th period for students who feel they need extra help to come in for tutoring, as well as have a mandatory time log each week to get practice speaking and listening. The purpose of this is to immerse students into the language as much as possible.

Grading Assessment:

Participation (class work, discussion, speaking, etc.):	25%
Homework:	15%
Quizzes:	10%
Projects:	20%
Exams:	30%
Total:	100%

Grade Equivalents:

A = 90 – 100 B = 80 – 89 C = 75 – 79 D = 70 – 74 F = Below 70

Class Policies

Attendance:

Because of the nature of learning another language, attendance necessary and required in order to do well in any Foreign Language course. You must attend class in order to be prepared for tests and quizzes and be able to learn the proper rules of grammar and pronunciation. As a courtesy, please inform the instructor if you know you will be absent on any certain day. While a student will not be penalized for missing class, please note that the student's quiz grade may be reflected in frequent absences, as a quiz will be given daily in order to ensure class participation. In order to maintain the integrity of makeup assignments, the instructor reserves the right to confirm any written documentation turned into the office regarding a student's absences in order to determine on a case-by-case basis how the student will need to go about making up any assignments. The Peachtree Student Handbook states that any makeup work will be allowed to turn in late in the number of days the student is absent; however, should a student fail to meet this requirement, the assignment will automatically default into the "Late Work" category and is subject to reduced credit. Any student with a perfect attendance will be allowed to drop his or her lowest test grade, replaced with the highest test grade.

Assignments & Late Work:

All documents and announcements needed for this class will be uploaded to my teaching website at www.jessicaswords.weebly.com under the student's class. If there are any announcements, I will be sure to also notify students and parents via email. Please check RenWeb for all OFFICIAL homework assignments. All homework is due the following class day unless indicated otherwise. Any changes to due dates will be posted and students and parents will be

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notified. A student is allowed ONE late assignment up to two school days (not class days) to receive no grading penalty. After that, any homework assignment that is turned in late will be 25 points off for each day. Any assignment that is more than 3 class days late will not be accepted unless the student hands in a written doctor's excuse—NO EXCEPTIONS! Any tests/quizzes that are missed will only be allowed according to the Peachtree Academy makeup work policy outlined in the handbook. ***For repeated absences during days where there is an announced test and/or quiz, the student may be referred to the administration for revisionary purposes in order to maintain the integrity of the assessment process.***

Class Behavior:

Behavior considered to be disruptive in this classroom include sleeping, tardiness, interrupting others' work, talking out of turn, speaking disrespectfully to others (including the instructor, any faculty/staff member, and other students), obscene language, or other behaviors that may be considered disruptive. Please remember that this is a high school course, and therefore should be approached with maturity and respect.

Academic Dishonesty:

If they are not your words, do not turn them in. You are NOT allowed to use a translator, as that is considered cheating. I will be able to tell if a student has used an online translator in order to do assignments. The work you hand in must be your own. Any plagiarism or work not done by the student will result in a zero for the assignment. This also includes sharing answers and/or discussing the material without permission from the instructor. Any assignment where plagiarism or any time of cheating occurs will result in a zero for the assignment and not eligible to make up until a parent-teacher conference has been made with the teacher and the high school principal. Repeat offenses will result in an "F" for the course.

Electronic Devices:

Students are allowed to bring their electronics to school for ***academic purposes only!*** No iPods, mp3 players, palm pilots, laptops, or any electronic device is allowed to be in use during class unless it is used specifically for class-related work. This means no Facebook, Myspace (if anyone even uses this anymore), personal email, gaming, online shopping, downloading, movies/videos, etc. are permitted during class time. First time offenders will be given a warning. Second time offenders will be told to put their electronic away for the rest of class and the principal and parents will be notified. Please see the student handbook for the school's policy for repeat offenders. During tests, cell phones and any other messaging devices will be turned off and put away. If one is seen during quizzes and/or tests, the device will be taken up and a zero will be given for the assignment. ***Cellphones will not be allowed in the classroom at all!*** If a student is caught with a cellphone for any reason, the phone will immediately be taken from them and they will receive an infraction and will not be able to receive their phone back until the end of the day. The next time, the student will be referred to the office and their phone will be given to the administration. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Extra Tutoring:

Any student struggling in this class is highly encouraged to come in for extra tutoring. Because of availability conflicts, please make an appointment with me if you feel you need extra help. Students who are border-line at the end of the semester still have the chance to pass the course.

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Make sure you are getting all of the extra help you can get, so do not be afraid to ask questions and be sure to take advantage of tutoring hours.

Extra Credit:

Extra credit will be offered throughout the semester and will be applied to the student's weekly participation grade (unless indicated otherwise). Students will be notified during class of any changes to extra credit assignments or any additional extra credit assignments. Requirements for eligibility to receive the extra credit are: all mandatory assignments must be attempted, completed and turned in on time for the week—NO EXCEPTIONS; all extra credit assignments must also be turned in on time; students must attend class and/or tutoring regularly; no extra credit will be awarded if students have continuous unexcused absences.

Parent-Teacher Conferences:

Parents are always welcome to come to me when they feel their student may be struggling on any subject matter. If this is the case, please email me and make an appointment to come and meet with me and the high school principal. Because the students and the lessons I have prepared are my main focus during school hours, I will not be able to meet during the times between 7:45am and 3:15pm. I am, however, willing to come in early and meet before school, or stay late and meet after school by appointment.

Note:

Please remember that things may change as I develop the course. This includes, but is not limited to, this syllabus, policies, tutoring system, etc. I am working on a Course Calendar where students can keep track of what to expect each class in regards to materials and topics covered. I will email parents and make the announcement in class to students should any changes to the syllabus or class policies be made.

Academic Contract:

This syllabus may be considered as a binding contract between me, the instructor, and the parents and students. By signing the page below, you are acknowledging that you have read and do understand the policies, and that you agree to abide by the terms outlined in this syllabus.

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SYLLABUS AGREEMENT FORM

I, _____, (print name) have read the syllabus and class outline and understand the classroom policies, expectations and rules as stated in the syllabus and outline. By signing this form I agree to comply with the policies listed and accept the outline for this class. I also understand that the instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus as she feels is necessary at any time without any notice with the agreement to inform students and parents of such a change.

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

****Turning in this signed syllabus will be your first homework assignment****
