CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Name of the course: Communication and Culture Module Intermediate Level
Course code: SPN-200
Hours: 4 hours per week
Requirement: To be enrolled in Intermediate I (SPN 201) or Intermediate II (SPN 202)

Course Description:

The course is aimed at those students with a basic level of communicative competence in Spanish, who wish to supplement intensive language courses through an emphasis on the development of oral skills and knowledge of the cultural elements of the target language. The course will be taught twice a week, in sessions of two hours for a month.

General objective

At the end of the course the student will have developed greater security and skill to communicate in socio-cultural contexts of the target language and culture.

Specific Objectives:

1. Ask and give information about means of transportation (schedules, prices, advantages and disadvantages of each means, expressions related to transportation)
2. Make weekend plans (budget, places to visit, access to those places, itineraries)
3. Describe and comment on the food of the main gastronomic areas of the country (expressions related to food).
4. Tell anecdotes
5. Give orders, recommendations or advice.
6. Develop the linguistic ability to repeat dialogues, tongue-twisters, tirades.
7. Discuss issues related to Costa Rican culture
9. Interview natives and comment on the results of the interview.

Contents:

1. Idiomatic expressions related to each topic to be addressed.
2. Narration of anecdotes, stories and legends.
3. Description of food, characters and historical events of Costa Rica.
4. Comparisons between features of the Costa Rican culture and features of the students’ culture.
5. Opinions on the Costa Rican culture.
6. Travel planning
7. Dramatizations of situations that occur within the target culture.
8. Interviews with native people of the target culture.

**Methodological guidelines**

The base methodological framework for the course is the communicative approach, in which the transmission of content is a priority.

Through the selection of materials developed for a specific educational objective and the implementation of varied and participatory activities, like dramatizations, interviews, visits, narrations, debates, contests, students are offered the opportunity to develop their communicative competence in Spanish as a second language immersed in the Costa Rican culture.

**Learning strategies: (pending)**

**Evaluation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral presentations (3)</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interview reports</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dramatizations</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debate</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Attendance:**

Students with more than one absence will fail the course, unless they present an official document as justification. Students will get a score of 0 for any task evaluated in class in their absence (presentations, evaluations, field visits, etc). In this case, make up for the assignment will take place immediately after their return. Regarding timeliness, if students add four late arrivals (15 minutes after starting the class) will be counted as an absence.

**Electronic devices:**

The use of mobile phones, smart phones and other mobile communication devices is disruptive and is therefore prohibited during class. Please turn off all devices and put them away when the class begins. Devices can be used only when the professor assigns a specific activity and allows the use of devices for search on the Internet or recording. Those who fail to comply with this rule should leave the classroom for the remainder of the class.
Behavior code:

Professors have the right to expel the student from class in the following cases:

1. Disruptive behavior in the classroom.
2. Being under the influence of alcohol.

Basic bibliography

- Teaching materials from Intermediate I and II

Recommended bibliography

- Zayas-Bazán, Eduardo; Bacon, Susan M. ¡Arriba! Comunicación y cultura. Prentice Hall, Inc.
- Claudet, Pierre Thomas. La cultura del pobrecito. Editorial UCR.
- Giebler Simonet, Alf A. A lo tico. Costarricensemos y otras vainas. Diseños Precisos, S.A.
- Quesada Pacheco, Miguel Ángel. Diccionario histórico del español de Costa Rica. Editorial Universidad Estatal a Distancia.
- Ross González, Marjorie. Entre el comal y la olla. Fundamentos de gastronomía costarricense. Editorial EUNED.