

Dr. Charles FLEIS

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Room 325

231-269-3325, option 9

Course Description: **World Languages** is a basic introduction to the Latin-based “cousin languages” of Spanish & French. Additionally, some time will be given to discussion of other world languages’ origins and their alphabets or writing systems for comparison/contrast. Additionally, there is a strong emphasis placed on the cultures of the peoples who speak these 2 key world languages. As is true in most language learning, we will practice the 4 key skills: speaking & listening, reading & writing, plus important cultural aspects. *[We follow the State of Michigan’s Department of Education Standards, which are based around the National Standards created by American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages: Communication; Cultures; Connections; Comparisons; and Communities.]*

Topics Covered: Key units of study & activities are:

- ✓ **cultural history** – what is the origin or these 2 cousin languages? What is the history of how they expanded across the globe? How do they influence the modern world?
- ✓ **maps** – Where in the world are these languages used and why? Spanish will have a map quiz on the 20 key Spanish-speaking countries. As there are 60+ French-speaking countries or regions, students do cultural presentations where it is spoken to teach the class.
- ✓ **alphabet** – alphabets and sounds are studied. To assess, I spell words and students write them.
- ✓ **numbers** – we learn 0-39 in both languages. I say the number and students write the numerals.
- ✓ **basic introductory vocabulary** – we study vocabulary for basic, introductory conversations. The students use this to write and perform brief skits in the language as a conclusion.
- ✓ **cultural contexts:** proper use of formal and informal speaking; a variety of focused regional studies; and fun videos about language usage and (mis)translation.

8th Grade: An accelerated general review is done to refresh former students and to introduce new students to the class and its topics. After that, we expand the previous culture and vocabulary knowledge. We learn other vocabulary to use for small skits and activities.

Classroom Guidelines: also, reference the Classroom Expectations page.

- **Arrival:** Be on time. Sit in assigned seat. Come prepared or get a tardy (pencil, notes, papers, etc.).
- **Attitude:** Be positive. Be productive. Use class time wisely.
- **Beverages:** Nothing other than water is allowed unless it is in a sealed container.
- **Respect:** All classroom materials; everyone’s ability to learn; each other; & yourself.
- **Phones:** No cellphones/electronic devices (unless approved for a class project).
- **Cheating:** NO! BAD! Plagiarism, Google Translate or similar are considered cheating.
- **Responsibility:** YOU are responsible for your learning. Manage your class grade.
- **Communication:** Language (written & spoken) is communication. It is the key!
- **Extra Help:** It is always available. Let me know, sooner than later, if you need extra help.

Schedule a time to meet with me. I am here to help you succeed!

Making the Grade:

Grading

All grades are posted on PowerSchool. The cumulative grading system calculates a student's grade in a class that counts each new assessment points as it is assigned throughout the semester. Check your grades daily, and stay aware of your assignment scores **and** missing assignments.

GRADING SCALE			
A	93-100	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	E	59 ↓

a) **Classroom Performance and Attendance:** Given the communicative emphasis of this course, students are expected to attend class regularly. It is imperative that students be punctual, have their homework prepared, and willingly participate in class. 5 points are assigned weekly for the student's general overall attitude and willingness to participate.

b) **Classwork and Other Assignments:** Classwork will be given daily. This may include, but is not limited to, exercises from worksheets, extra handouts, listening activities, speaking activities, project assignments, and online activities.

c) **Assessments:** These may be given on paper or electronically.

QUIZZES will be given periodically, they are brief and are to spot-test a specific learning concept or two. They will focus on vocabulary and comprehension primarily. They may also test listening comprehension. Cultural lessons will be assessed in a quiz. An official quiz will be announced at least 2 class days in advance. Pop quizzes will calculate under (b).

SKITS will be assigned with a specific rubric to know requirements and grade expectations. There is a grade for writing the skit and one for performing it. Partners are graded individually for the work they do.

PROJECTS are assigned for cultural presentations or other general knowledge learning. They too have specific rubrics that demonstrate requirements and grade expectations. Typically, these are individual.

Late work:

Most of the daily assignments given in this course are designed to be completed in class. If you do not complete the assignment during class time, then **YOU** are required to finish it before the next class date. If the work is due at the end of the hour and you do NOT complete it, then you will receive a late and lose 5% off your earned grade. After a week, you will lose 10%. You will lose another 10% for each additional week that an assignment is late.

Absence Make-up work:

If a student knows of a planned absence, then, please, advise as soon as possible so that missed work can be discussed. In the event of any absence, upon return, a student will have 2 days-time (per day missed) to complete any missing work and receive full credit. After that, the late-work policy will apply. Staying on track is important to the learning process.

Re-do work for assessments (quizzes, quests, tests - not exams):

Re-do work will be allowed either with the Bear Buck Policy **or** if the student receives less than a C- (70%). The student is allowed to re-do an assessment with the understanding that the best score that can be earned is a B- (82%). This is to provide further opportunities to learn properly certain subject material and to recover poor grades. Understanding the assessed material is necessary to continuing in the course. Language is like Math. A student must understand the previous concepts in order to be successful in later concepts. Unfortunately, due to the time and effort involved, re-do work is not allowed for projects or skits. In special circumstances, accommodations are made for these.

REQUIREMENTS:

OTUS – Study materials are posted in OTUS. This includes notes, worksheets, study guides, rubrics and assignments, online practice links (QUIZLET), etc. Always check OTUS if you have missed class or if you need to study and your class folder is at school.

FOLDER/NOTEBOOK – Nearly all information on quizzes, skits and projects are composed from practices and examples done in class. Therefore, it is important to keep ALL notes and work gathered and in order. All important papers are printed on colored papers. It is important to keep these collected and organized by chapter and section. This is typically noted in the upper left corner of a paper. This helps students to know where materials are for working and studying.

WRITING TOOL – As work is done daily in class. It is necessary to have a pencil (preferred for erasing and editing) or an ink pen for taking notes and completing assignments.

5 points: sign below, fill in requested information, cut off, and return to Dr. Fleis by Friday, the 6th.
I have read the syllabus' information. I have asked for clarifications. I understand my obligations.

student's signature

student's printed name

guardian's signature

guardian's printed name

World Languages 7th or 8th
class name & grade

date

Dr. Charles Fleis - BMS - World Languages Classroom Expectations

1) **Respect**: a pillar in any classroom, especially in languages.

- a) Respect yourself, your classmates, your teacher, your school and the property therein. Plus, respect your own power to learn.
- b) Always listen attentively. Offer helpful information. Provide the support to others that you wish to receive.
- c) Kindness reigns supreme.

2) **Responsibility**: what you are supposed to do to be successful in class

- a) Come to class on time, be positive and be prepared to learn productively.
- b) Complete work as required. Prepare properly for all classwork from exercises to exams. Always write your name, date, class and tasks on all assignments.
- c) DO YOUR OWN WORK. DO NOT use Google Translate or a neighbor (they won't be there to help you on quizzes & tests).
- d) If you are going to miss class, notify the school, then check the OTUS and, if the work is unclear, email the teacher. Have all work prepared to submit upon return.
- e) Keep all notes, practices and quizzes in a neat, orderly manner so that you can more easily prepare to succeed on tests.

3) **Results**: grades are earned, not given. You learn it when you earn it!

- a) Offer active, productive and positive participation in class (in-class activities)
- b) Submit homework on time that is completed in a good, honest, thoughtful and effortful manner.
- c) Study regularly - a must in language learning. Give the necessary effort in your studying for the grade that you wish to earn. Do this on everything from practices to tests.

Together, in doing these, we will have an exciting, enjoyable and productive time together as we learn another language and the cultures of the people who speak it.