

AP Spanish Course Summary
Department: World Languages

Semesters 1 & 2

The following syllabus has been authorized by the College Board AP Course Audit process. This means that the syllabus meets or exceeds the expectations colleges and universities have for the AP subject being taught. The syllabus was reviewed by experienced college and university faculty, who have confirmed that it outlines how the course provides a college-level learning experience for the students taking the course.

There are varying purposes and uses of world languages. In order to meet every student's need for studying world language, our school district's World Language Standards Committee determined it most appropriate to follow the guidelines set forth in the National World Language Standards "5 C's" or those developed by ACTFL.

We use the "5 C's" structure so that students will learn how to communicate in languages other than English using a variety of methods (e.g., face-to-face, written, and through reading). This in-depth study will also include knowing and understanding various cultures of the languages studied. Learning another language and its culture provides connections to students that they would not experience as monolingual students. Students will be expected to compare and contrast various world languages and cultures providing them with a deeper understanding of their own culture and language. Students will also be able to expand and apply their learning in various contexts to include home, school, community and around the world, in culturally appropriate ways.

Standard 1: Communication

The communication standard is an absolute necessity in our changing world in order to communicate appropriately within each culture and with other cultures. Listening, speaking, reading, writing, expression and interpretation are all integral parts of communication in which students must become proficient.

Standard 2: Culture

The culture standard provides opportunities for students to develop insight, awareness regarding ways of life, beliefs, and views of others and why they behave as they do. Students will be able to compare the products and practices of their own culture to those of other cultures, while respecting and understanding one another in the process.

Standard 3: Connections

The connections standard is important in order to provide an opportunity for students to explore interdisciplinary areas through various world languages.

Standard 4: Comparison

The comparison standard helps students include people of other languages/cultures/views and helps develop critical thinking. Students will learn how their own language and culture is perceived by individuals from other cultures and languages.

Standard 5: Communities

The communities standard helps students realize the value of learning another language and culture in order to communicate effectively in a global society. Our program empowers students with the necessary communicative competencies for the 21st century.

Rationale: Language acquisition, cultural awareness, listening skills, speaking skills, reading skills, and writing skills get intense attention in the AP Spanish Language course as students prepare for the AP Exam. Students will review vocabulary learned in previous levels and will continue to expand their vocabulary with a focus on enrichment and enhancement. Students will also study more idiomatic expressions that will improve their speaking and writing abilities. Students will review grammar and learn new grammar concepts they hadn't studied previously, working toward mastery of both new and old. In addition, students will learn other nuances of the language. The reading materials are short stories, poems, essays, dramas, and short novels by a variety of Hispanic authors. Students will learn valuable reading strategies to help them understand selections without the use of dictionaries since dictionaries are not allowed in the actual AP Exam. Students will do formal and informal writing on a variety of topics utilizing the enhanced vocabulary, idiomatic expressions, many of the verb tenses they are reviewing and they will incorporate integrated skills. Students will be expected to use only Spanish in the classroom for discussions, grammar reviews, vocabulary study, and formal or informal practice exercises.

Students will take 2 practice AP Exams in order to acquaint themselves with the expectations of the real exam. The result of this course is a challenging and comprehensive experience which teaches language in context, provides a thorough review of vocabulary and grammar, and polishes the student's communicative abilities in the language.

Since the goal of the AP Spanish Language Course is to increase the student's proficiency in the language, the course will be taught entirely in Spanish and students will be expected to use only Spanish for all communication purposes.

Texts and Sources:

Una Vez Ma's, Repaso detallado de las estructuras gramaticales del idioma español, by James H. Couch, Rebecca D. McCann, Carmel Rodriguez-Walter, Angel RubioMaroto; Longman Publishing Co., 1993.

AP Spanish: Preparing for the Language Examination, by Jose M. Diaz, Margarita Leicher-Prieto, Gilda Nissenberg; Pearson Prentice Hall Publishing Co., 2007.

Spanish 4 Years, Advanced Spanish with AP Component, by Janet F. Hiller; AMSCO School Publications, 2001.

Abriendo Puertas, Antologia de literatura enTomo 1, by Nextext, McDougal Littell, Inc., 2003

Abriendo Puertas Lenguaje. by Judy Armen, McDougal Littell, Inc., 2007

An additional possible source:

Galeria de Arte y Vida, by Margaret Adey, Louis Albin; Glencoe McGraw-Hill Publishers, 1997

Supplemental Materials include videos about Spanish and Mexican artists; videos about Spanish and Latin American authors; videos of certain literary works; cultural videos

