

Department: World Languages

Course Name: Advanced Placement (AP) Spanish Language

Course Description: This course is designed for students who are motivated to succeed on the AP Spanish Language and Culture exam and who may wish to continue Spanish study in college or use Spanish in their future careers. To succeed in this course, students should have a strong command of a wide range of verb tenses (present, perfect, conditional, preterite, imperfect, future, subjunctive, etc.) and be able to communicate detailed ideas in both speaking and writing. A broad vocabulary and willingness to expand it will be essential, especially in relation to the six major AP themes: families and communities, personal and public identities, beauty and aesthetics, science and technology, contemporary life, and global challenges. The course is primarily conducted in Spanish, and students are expected to use their knowledge and context to understand and communicate ideas, rather than relying on online translators or dictionaries. They will practice reading, listening, speaking, and writing in Spanish to develop fluency, express complex ideas, and respond thoughtfully in a variety of real-world and academic situations. Summer work in AP Spanish is assigned to help students review key grammar, vocabulary, and cultural themes so they can start the year ready to read, write, listen, and speak in Spanish at a college-level pace.

Content

Grammar: Primarily review of previously learned grammar, topics are selected as needed to align with the chosen authentic materials.

Vocabulary: Vocabulary lists are drawn from authentic reading materials, periodicals, class discussions, and videos. Students will also build a personal word bank based on their work, beginning with summer assignments.

Skills:

- Communicate fluently and accurately in Spanish across interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational contexts, including personal, academic, social, and global topics
- Interpret and analyze authentic Spanish-language materials, such as news articles, literature, films, podcasts, and media from Spanish-speaking cultures
- Express and support opinions, develop arguments, and synthesize information from multiple sources both orally and in writing
- Narrate, describe, compare, and explain using a wide range of verb tenses and moods, including present, preterite, imperfect, future, conditional, present perfect, and subjunctive
- Participate in extended conversations, discussions, and debates on cultural, societal, and global issues relevant to Spanish-speaking communities
- Write detailed essays, analytical responses, persuasive texts, and source-based compositions using appropriate grammar, vocabulary, and organization
- Compare and contrast cultural practices, perspectives, and products across Spanish-speaking regions and their own experiences
- Demonstrate understanding of cause-and-effect relationships, hypothetical situations, and abstract or complex ideas in spoken and written Spanish
- Synthesize information from audio, visual, and written sources to respond to real-world and academic prompts
- Develop critical thinking and cultural analysis skills through engagement with authentic texts, media, and contemporary issues in the Spanish-speaking world
- Apply vocabulary and grammar knowledge independently to convey ideas, respond to prompts, and communicate effectively in unfamiliar contexts

Text and Materials:

- Draggett, Parthena, et al. Temas: AP Spanish Language and Culture. Vista Higher Learning, 2024.
- <https://myap.collegeboard.org>
- Sample websites used as authentic sources of current events: Elmundo.es, Elpais.es, Eltiempo.com, YouTube.com

Methods of Instruction:

- Teacher-led explanations and demonstrations of advanced grammar, verb usage, and vocabulary in context
- Guided practice with complex sentence construction, verb conjugations, and integrated grammar exercises
- Interactive speaking activities, including debates, discussions, presentations, simulations, and role-plays on cultural, social, and global topics
- Listening comprehension exercises using authentic audio and video materials from Spanish media, podcasts, interviews, and films
- Reading practice with literature, essays, articles, news reports, and other authentic texts from Spanish-speaking cultures
- Writing practice including essays, compositions, creative writing, summaries, and analytical responses
- Project-based and collaborative learning, such as research projects, multimedia presentations, skits, or cultural explorations
- Cultural and thematic explorations through film, literature, media, current events, and comparative discussions
- Integration of AP resources, including the official AP Spanish Language and Culture website, AP Classroom practice tasks, past exam prompts, and scoring guidelines
- Timed speaking and writing exercises modeled on AP exam tasks to build fluency, accuracy, and exam readiness
- Independent and group work to encourage critical thinking, application of grammar and vocabulary, and peer learning
- Formative assessments including in-class exercises, exit tickets, and oral/written check-ins to provide ongoing feedback

Methods of Evaluation:

- Oral assessments: debates, discussions, presentations, and simulated AP speaking tasks
- Listening assessments: comprehension exercises using authentic Spanish media, podcasts, videos, and AP-style audio prompts
- Reading assessments: comprehension questions, analysis of authentic texts, literature, news articles, and AP-style reading passages
- Written assessments: essays, analytical compositions, creative writing, summaries, and AP-style writing prompts
- Homework and practice assignments: vocabulary exercises, grammar practice, reading responses, and AP Classroom tasks
- Projects and collaborative tasks: research projects, multimedia presentations, skits, cultural analyses, and thematic explorations
- Formative checks: in-class exercises, exit tickets, oral/written check-ins, and teacher feedback for ongoing progress monitoring
- Cumulative and AP-aligned assessments: unit tests, end-of-term exams, and full AP-style practice exams integrating reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills