

Department: World Languages
Course Name: Honors Spanish IV

Course Description:

This course is an advanced treatment of Spanish available to selected students after three years of study. It serves as both an introduction to college-level Spanish and as a prerequisite to the Advanced Placement Spanish Language course. Students in Honors Spanish IV begin to use their language skills in more sophisticated ways as they explore literary and cultural topics, but they also devote time to basic vocabulary building and to the study of structural topics. This course is conducted entirely in Spanish. Students suitable for this course must be very comfortable not only with the grammar from level I, II and III, but also with listening, speaking, and writing in a Spanish-only environment. A minimum grade of B+ in Spanish III and/or the recommendation of the teacher is required for entrance into this course.

NO SUMMER WORK

Content:

Grammar:

All indicative verb tenses
Combining past tenses
Ser vs. estar
Impersonal constructions
Passive voice
Commands
Present/present perfect subjunctive and uses
Imperfect/pluperfect subjunctive
Past participles as adjectives
Uses of the conditional tense
Si clauses
Impersonal “se”
Reported speech

Thematic Vocabulary:

Lifestyle, fashion and music
Families and communities
Feelings and emotions
Science and technology
Biodiversity
Immigration, identity and belonging
Industry and economy
Art, architecture and literature
Cultural conditions
Vocabulary from readings and culture
Vocabulary from class discussions

Culture/Literature:

Spanish and culture of speaking countries with a focus on Peru, Paraguay, Caribbean, Guatemala, Columbia

Current events and online news
Selected literature passages with historical background as it pertains to that period in the excerpt
Selected paintings (Picasso)
Selected popular music

Skills:

Speak with greater proficiency in a conversational setting about a familiar topic of personal, literary, or cultural value or in an extended address to others
Listen more effectively and with greater comprehension
Make accurate use of grammatical principles when writing or speaking in Spanish and to develop themes or ideas logically through well-constructed essays
Read literary or cultural selections below the surface with a mature understanding of implied as well as literal meaning
Make use of more sophisticated language and to rely less on English cognates

Text and Materials:

Readings and exercises from various sources including:

- Reporteros Level 4. Klett World Languages, 2024.
- Selected readings
- Elpais.com

Methods of Instruction and Proficiency Assessment:

Conversational exchange: teacher-student or student-student
Direct explanation: lecture
Review, revision of homework activities
Discussion
Individual projects
Cooperative activities: partner dialogues, partner assignments
Games
In class writing of short essays and reflections

Methods of Evaluation:

Tests
Quizzes
Written expression in a variety of formats
Listening and reading comprehension
Oral participation
Oral presentations
Projects