

AP Spanish Language and Culture

Course Overview

The AP Spanish Language and Culture course emphasizes communication (understanding and being understood by others) by applying interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational skills in real-life situations. This includes vocabulary usage, language control, communication strategies, and cultural awareness. The AP Spanish Language and Culture course strives not to overemphasize grammatical accuracy at the expense of communication. To best facilitate the study of language and culture, the course is taught almost exclusively in Spanish. The AP Spanish Language and Culture course engages students in an exploration of culture in both contemporary and historical contexts.

The course develops students' awareness and appreciation of cultural products (e.g., tools, books, music, laws, conventions, institutions); practices (patterns of social interactions within a culture); and perspectives (values, attitudes, and assumptions). The AP Spanish Language and Culture course is comparable to an advanced level (5th- and 6th-semester or the equivalent) college Spanish language course. Emphasizing the use of Spanish for active communication, it encompasses audio/oral skills, reading comprehension, grammar, and composition. With dedication, persistence, and hard work, you will be able to communicate in the target language at an acceptable level.

Prerequisites

The AP Spanish course is a college level course. The intensity, quality, and amount of materials can be compared to a third-year college course. Spanish 1, 2, and 3 or equivalent is required.

Course Length

2 semesters

Course Themes

The AP Spanish Language and Culture course is structured around six themes:

1. Beauty and Aesthetics
2. Contemporary Life
3. Families and Communities
4. Global Challenges
5. Personal and Public Identities
6. Science and Technology

Themes facilitate the integration of language, content, and culture and promote the use of the language in a variety of contexts. The themes may be combined, as they are interrelated.

Learning Objectives

The AP Spanish Language and Culture course provides students with opportunities to demonstrate their proficiency at the Intermediate to Pre-Advanced range in each of the three modes of communication described in the ACTFL Performance Descriptors for Language Learners. Students are expected to:

- Engage in spoken interpersonal communication
- Engage in written interpersonal communication
- Synthesize information from a variety of authentic audio, visual, and audiovisual resources
- Synthesize information from a variety of authentic written and print resources
- Plan, produce, and present spoken presentational communications
- Plan and produce written presentational communications.

Course Outline

Semester I

Unit 1: Introducción al curso según “The College Board®”

Essential Questions:

- How can I benefit from taking the AP Spanish Language course?
- What is the Exam structure?
- What is expected in taking the exam?
- How can I improve my communication ability in Spanish?
- How can the course help me understand the differences and similarities that are evident in the various Hispanic cultures as well as my own culture?
- How will I benefit from second language acquisition in my future endeavors?

Unit 2: Global Challenges /Los desafíos mundiales

Essential Questions:

- What environmental, political, and social issues pose challenges to societies throughout the world?/• ¿Cuáles son los desafíos sociales, políticos y del medio ambiente que enfrentan las sociedades del mundo?
- What are the origins of those issues?/¿Cuáles son los orígenes de esos desafíos?
- What are possible solutions to those challenges?/¿Cuáles son algunas posibles soluciones a esos desafíos?

Unit 3: Science and Technology / La ciencia y la tecnología

Essential Questions:

- How do developments in science and technology affect our lives?/¿Qué impacto tiene el desarrollo científico y tecnológico en nuestras

vidas?

- What factors have driven innovation and discovery in the fields of science and technology? /¿Qué factores han impulsado el desarrollo y la innovación en la ciencia y la tecnología?
- What role do ethics play in scientific advancement? /¿Qué papel cumple la ética en los avances científicos?

Unit 4: Contemporary Life / La vida contemporánea

Essential Questions:

- How do societies and individuals define quality of life? /¿Cómo definen los individuos y las sociedades su propia calidad de vida?
- How is contemporary life influenced by cultural products, practices, and perspectives? /¿Cómo influyen los productos culturales, las prácticas y las perspectivas de la gente en la vida contemporánea?
- What are the challenges of contemporary life? /¿Cuáles son los desafíos de la vida contemporánea?

Semester II

Unit 5: College Board AP Spanish Language Exam Practice

Essential Questions:

- ¿Cuáles áreas del examen AP necesito más práctica para poder mejorar?
- ¿Cómo definen los individuos y las sociedades su propia calidad de vida?
- ¿Cómo influyen los productos culturales, las prácticas y las perspectivas de la gente en la vida contemporánea?
- ¿Cuáles son los desafíos de la vida contemporánea?

Unit 6: Personal and Public Identities / Las identidades personales y públicas

Essential Questions:

- How are aspects of identity expressed in various situations? /¿Cómo se expresan los distintos aspectos de la identidad en diversas situaciones?
- How do language and culture influence identity? /¿Cómo influyen la lengua y la cultura en la identidad de una persona?
- How does one's identity develop over time? /¿Cómo se desarrolla la identidad de una persona a lo largo del tiempo?

Unit 7: Families and Communities / Las familias y las comunidades

Essential Questions:

- What constitutes a family in different societies? /¿Cómo se define la familia en distintas sociedades?
- How do individuals contribute to the well---being of communities? /¿Cómo contribuyen los individuos al bienestar de las comunidades?

- How do the roles that families and communities assume differ in societies around the world? / ¿Cuáles son las diferencias en los papeles que asumen las comunidades y las familias en las diferentes sociedades del mundo?

Unit 8: Beauty and Aesthetics / La Belleza y la Estética

Essential Questions:

- How are perceptions of beauty and creativity established? /¿Cómo se establecen las percepciones de la belleza y la creatividad?
- How do ideals of beauty and aesthetics influence daily life? /¿Cómo influyen los ideales de la belleza y la estética en la vida cotidiana?
- How do the arts both challenge and reflect cultural perspectives? /¿Cómo las artes desafían y reflejan las perspectivas culturales?