

AP Spanish Language Course Syllabus 2013-2014

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Course Overview

The AP Spanish Language and Culture course is a rigorous course that is taught exclusively in Spanish and approximately equivalent to a 5th or 6th semester university course. The course requires students to improve their proficiency across the three modes of communication (interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational). The course focuses on the integration of authentic resources including online print, audio, and audiovisual resources, as well as traditional print resources that include literature, essays, and magazine and newspaper articles with the goal of providing a rich, diverse learning experience. Students communicate using rich, advanced vocabulary and linguistic structures as they build proficiency in all modes of communication toward the pre-advanced level as defined in the *ACTFL Performance Guidelines for K-12 learners*.

Organization

The course is divided into thematic units which are further based on recommended contexts and guided by essential questions. Corresponding cultural elements are integrated into the study of the units, and activities are directed with those cultural connections in mind. Discussion of the topics completely in Spanish is a requirement for this course. It is assumed that students have previously been exposed to advanced language structures in the courses leading up to the AP Spanish Language and Culture course; however, review of the mechanics is done within the contextual framework of each unit as needed.

Ongoing Assignments:

- **Oral Participation Grade** –students will start the semester with a 70 and will earn two points per oral contribution during class or small group discussions. (summative)
- **Discussion** – students will lead a discussion for a small group of students one time during the school year. (summative)
- **Diario de Vocabulario** – students are required to purchase a small journal in which they will write down new vocabulary that they come across during in and out of class readings. (summative)
- **Tabla de Noticias** – students regularly connect to authentic resources outside the classroom by reading and summarizing 3 articles per week to support all units all the time. (12 articles = double formative)
- **Conexión Cultural** – students are provided with a cultural comparison question once per month and must record their response to the question by calling my google voice number and leaving a message. (formative)
- **Homework** – every 10 assignments is a quiz grade and will be tracked with a stamp sheet. Examples of homework include reading / listening activities, wordles to activate prior knowledge of vocabulary, and grammar review.(formative)

Assignments per unit:

- **Unit Exam** – students will be assessed on essential unit vocabulary, grammar reviewed, reading, and listening. Reading and listening sections mimic the ap exam format. (summative)
- **Email** – students will write at least 1 in class email per unit that mimics the ap exam format. (summative)
- **Persuasive Essay** – students will write one synthesis essay per unit that mimics the ap exam format. (summative)
- **Oral Presentation** – students will make one oral presentation per unit in the language lab or in front of the class that prepares students for the oral presentation on the ap exam.(summative)
- **Blog** – students will reflect on one question per unit on the online blog. (formative)
- **Quizzes** – students will be regularly assessed on essential unit vocabulary and grammar review. (formative)

Grading Calculations:

Course Average = 50% First Semester Course work + 50% Second Semester Course work

Course Work = 75% Summative + 25% Formative

Grading Policy:

A = 90 – 100 B = 80 – 89 C = 70 – 79 Failing = Below

AP Exam Format 2013-2014: Go to www.apcentral.collegeboard.com for a complete exam description.

The AP Spanish Language and Culture Exam will be given on Tuesday, May 6, 2014.

Section		Number of Questions	Percent of Final Score	Time
Section I: Multiple Choice				Approx. 95 minutes
Part A	Interpretive Communication: Print Texts	30 questions		Approx. 40 minutes
Part B	Interpretive Communication: Print and Audio Texts (combined)	35 questions	50%	Approx. 55 minutes
	Interpretive Communication: Audio Texts			
Section II: Free Response				Approx. 85 minutes
	Interpersonal Writing: Email Reply	1 prompt	12.5%	15 minutes
	Presentational Writing: Persuasive Essay	1 prompt	12.5%	Approx. 55 minutes
	Interpersonal Speaking: Conversation	5 prompts	12.5%	20 seconds for each response
	Presentational Speaking: Cultural Comparison	1 prompt	12.5%	2 minutes to respond

Excellent Online Resources:

The Official AP Spanish Language Course Website: (Visit this site for a complete course description, tips, rubrics, etc.)

http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/public/courses/teachers_corner/3499.html

Dictionary:

www.wordreference.com - excellent dictionary with conjugation charts and semantic discussion boards

www.rae.es - Royal Spanish Academy's Spanish only dictionary

Grammar and Vocabulary:

www.quizlet.com - make personal vocab flashcards and play games with the words

www.studyspanish.com

www.conjuguemos.com

www.quia.com

<http://www.colby.edu/~bknelson/SLC/index.php>

<http://www.indiana.edu/~call/ejercicios.html>

<http://www.trinity.edu/mstroud/grammar/>

<http://www.spaleon.com>

<http://www.bowdoin.edu/~eyepes/newgr/>

<http://www.ver-taal.com> - good grammar exercises plus video and listening comp activities

<http://www.nationalspanishexam.org/index.php/exam-preparation/online-practice-exercises> - hundreds of free exercises for practicing vocabulary and grammar specifications for the National Spanish Exam

Audio and Audiovisual:

<http://www.laits.utexas.edu/spe/index.html> - Spanish Proficiency Exercises - Videos of native speakers talking about various topics

<http://www.notesinspanish.com/> - free podcasts

<http://www.audiria.com> - free podcasts

<http://zachary-jones.com/zambombazo/> - Zach Jones - excellent culture video, music, news, articles, etc. for students learning Spanish

<http://lab.chass.utoronto.ca/rescentre/spanish/> - free podcasts by country/dialect

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/radio/spanish/> - United Nations Radio in Spanish - this is one of my favorite

<http://www.rtve.es/radio/radio-exterior/> - radio from Spain

<http://radio.nuevos horizontes.org> - weekly Spanish radio program about economy, health, and Latin culture

<http://www.itv.com/portal.htm> - Pick a Spanish speaking country and watch what's on TV.

Written and Print:

www.bbcmundo.com - British Broadcasting Corporation - news and video in Spanish - this is one of my favorite

<http://www.univision.com> - news and video

www.thepaperboy.com - online newspapers by country

www.prensaescrita.com - online newspapers by country

<http://www.unesco.org/new/es> - United Nations educational, scientific, and cultural organization

<http://elpais.com> - newspaper from Spain, America edition also available

<http://www.abc.es> - newspaper from Spain

<http://www.lasexta.com> - news and video from Spain

<http://www.elnuevoherald.com> - newspaper from Miami

<http://www.nacion.com> - newspaper from Costa Rica

<http://www.biografiasyvidas.com> - biographies of famous people

Course Plan:

Semester I

I. El Individuo y su Identidad

Theme: Las Identidades Personales y Públicas

Contexts Covered:

- Alienation and Assimilation / La enajenación y la asimilación
- Heroes and Historical Figures / Los héroes y los personajes históricos
- National and Ethnic Identities / La identidad nacional y la identidad étnica
- Personal Beliefs / Las creencias personales
- Personal Interests / Los intereses personales
- Self-Image / La autoestima

Essential Questions:

- ¿Cómo se expresan los distintos aspectos de la identidad en diversas situaciones?
- ¿Cómo se desarrolla la identidad de una persona a lo largo del tiempo?
- ¿Cómo influyen la lengua y la cultura en la identidad de la persona?

Connections also to the themes of: Los desafíos mundiales, La vida contemporánea, Las familias y las comunidades

II. Los Efectos de la Tecnología

Theme: La Ciencia y la Tecnología

Contexts Covered:

- Access to Technology / El acceso a la tecnología
- Effects of Technology on Self and Society / Los efectos de la tecnología en el individuo y en la sociedad
- Health Care and Medicine / El cuidado de la salud y la medicina
- Innovations / Las innovaciones tecnológicas
- Natural Phenomena / Los fenómenos naturales
- Science and Ethics / La ciencia y la ética

Essential Questions:

- ¿Qué impacto tiene el desarrollo científico y tecnológico en nuestras vidas?
- ¿Qué factores han impulsado el desarrollo y la innovación en la ciencia y la tecnología?
- ¿Qué papel cumple la ética en los avances científicos?

Connections also to the themes of: Los desafíos mundiales, La vida contemporánea, Las familias y las comunidades, La belleza y la estética, Las identidades personales y públicas

III. El Valor de la Familia y la Comunidad

Theme: Las Familias y las Comunidades

Contexts Covered:

- Customs and Values / Las tradiciones y los valores
- Education Communities / Las comunidades educativas
- Family Structure / La estructura de la familia
- Global Citizenship / La ciudadanía global
- Human Geography / La geografía humana
- Social Networking / Las redes sociales

Essential Questions:

- ¿Cómo se define la familia en distintas sociedades?
- ¿Cómo contribuyen los individuos al bienestar de las comunidades?
- ¿Cuáles son las diferencias en los papeles que asumen las comunidades y las familias en las diferentes sociedades del mundo?

Connections also to the themes of: Los desafíos mundiales, La vida contemporánea, La belleza y la estética, Las identidades personales y públicas, La ciencia y la tecnología

IV. Cómo se define la Belleza?

Theme: La Belleza y la Estética

Contexts Covered:

- Architecture / La arquitectura
- Defining Beauty / Definiciones de la belleza
- Defining Creativity / Definiciones de la creatividad
- Fashion and Design / La moda y el diseño
- Language and Literature / El lenguaje y la literatura
- Visual and Performing Arts / Las artes visuales y escénicas

Essential Questions:

- ¿Cómo se establecen las percepciones de la belleza y la creatividad?
- ¿Cómo influyen los ideales de la belleza y la estética en la vida cotidiana?
- ¿Cómo las artes desafían y reflejan las perspectivas culturales?

Connections also to the themes of: La vida contemporánea, Las identidades personales y públicas

Semester II

V. Nosotros y Nuestro Mundo

Theme: Los Desafíos Globales

Contexts Covered:

- Economic Issues / Los temas económicos
- Environmental Issues / Los temas del medio ambiente
- Philosophical Thought and Religion / El pensamiento filosófico y la religión
- Population and Demographics / La población y la demografía
- Social Welfare / El bienestar social
- Social Conscience / La conciencia social

Essential Questions:

- ¿Cuáles son los desafíos sociales, políticos y del medio ambiente que enfrentan las sociedades del mundo?
- ¿Cuáles son los orígenes de esos desafíos?
- ¿Cuáles son algunas posibles soluciones a esos desafíos?

Connections also to the themes of: La vida contemporánea, Las identidades personales y públicas, La ciencia y la tecnología, Las familias y las comunidades

VI. ¿Quiénes somos y cómo es nuestra vida?

Tema: La Vida Contemporánea

Contexts Covered:

- Education and Careers / La educación y las carreras profesionales
- Entertainment / Entretenimiento y la diversion
- Travel and Leisure / Los viajes y el ocio
- Lifestyles / Los estilos de vida
- Relationships / Las relaciones personales
- Social Customs and Values / Las tradiciones y los valores sociales
- Volunteerism / El trabajo voluntario

Essential Questions:

- ¿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?

Connections also to the themes of: Los desafíos globales, Las identidades personales y públicas, La ciencia y la tecnología, Las familias y las comunidades, La belleza y la estética

Sample Classroom Activities:

Interpersonal Speaking – student led discussion groups, whole class discussion, think pair share activities, socratic circle or inside outside discussion groups, class debates, surveys with www.polleverywhere.com, language lab activities

Interpersonal Writing - online blog, in class email writing, in class reflection questions

Presentational Speaking – language lab activities, jigsaw presentations of readings and research, formal oral presentations in language lab, in class project presentations with Prezi and other media

Presentational Writing – persuasive essays using multiple sources