

**AP Spanish Language and Culture**  
**Tamaqua Area High School**  
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### **Course Overview**

The goal of the AP Spanish Language and Culture course is for students to develop a strong command of the Spanish language and expand proficiency in Interpretive, Interpersonal, and Presentational communication. The class will be conducted almost exclusively in Spanish, and students will be required to utilize Spanish within the confines of the classroom. In addition, students will increase their knowledge of different cultures of the Spanish-speaking world. By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand a variety of authentic written texts from instructional and informal letters to literary texts and newspaper articles.
- Understand authentic spoken material in formal and informal presentation modes, being able to ascertain the main idea and explicate supporting details.
- Express themselves in an informal manner by writing letters, memos, e-mails, participating in conversation, responding to messages, and speaking freely in class to explain, inquire, give opinion, and argue.
- Express themselves in a formal manner by integrating texts in written and spoken discourse for a variety of audiences.

### **Development of Skills**

#### *Listening Skills*

- Listening skills will be covered in a variety of ways throughout the course.
- Listening skills will be built gradually by allowing students to listen multiple times with specific listening prompts or goals in the beginning of the year and eventually listening only once to each selection with no prompt.
- In the early part of the year, students will be permitted to discuss the listening within the class to help each other with meanings, themes, and details.
- A brief listening from an authentic source may be used as a class warm-up to spark free conversation and thematic discussion.

#### *Reading Skills*

- Throughout the course, students will be reading from all authentic sources, including newspapers, magazines, literary texts, and the Internet. These readings will serve to inspire conversation, short writing prompts, and give reference for essay topics.

#### *Writing Skills*

- Students develop writing skills in a variety of modes throughout the course including Internet/e-mail dialogue, letter-writing, opinion writing, reading with writing response, and data based essays.
- Throughout the year, students will develop skills by beginning with easier, more informal writing assignments to build style and confidence. Assignments will gradually increase in difficulty by adding the use of written or audio sources to provide evidence to the writing. Written assignments will also be part of some exams.

#### *Speaking Skills*

- Speaking skills will be developed first and foremost by the use of Spanish only within the classroom environment. Students will be instructed from the beginning of the course that

Spanish will be the official language of the classroom and that use of English can result in grade deduction.

- Students will make presentations about a variety of topics to the class. These presentations will be recorded to allow students the opportunity to hear their own voice and register to make corrections for future presentations. Presentations will gradually build to include authentic text and audio samples for resource.
- Students will participate in recorded conversations with classmates to practice their dialog skills.

### **Course Materials:**

- Notebook:  
All students are REQUIRED to keep a three-ring binder of all handouts and information for the class. Students must bring their notebooks to class every day. Random notebook checks may be done at the discretion of the teacher. Failure to bring your notebook and class materials to class will result in a deduction from your participation grade.
- Notebook Spanish / English dictionary
- AP Spanish Workbook (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition), Jose Diaz. Prentice Hall. (classroom resource)
- *Abriendo puertas: Antología de literatura en español, Tomo 1.* Evanston, Illinois: McDougal Littell, 2003. (classroom resource)
- Cervantes de Saavedra, Miguel. *Don Quixote de la Mancha.* (Adapted by William T. Tardy). Chicago, Illinois: National Textbook Company, 2000.

### **Student Evaluation**

Grades will be based on a “Percentage of Total Points” system. In this system, assignments, quizzes, projects, exams, presentations, dialogues, and class participation will be assigned specific point values. The amount of points earned through the marking period will accumulate to be divided by the total possible to calculate the quarter average.

**Tests:** Comprehensive exams will be given at the end of each unit. Each exam will contain the following sections: listening, reading, grammar, and writing. Exams must be completed within the 42-minute class period during which the test is given. Students will be given advanced notice regarding the date of each exam. Therefore, all students will be expected to take the exam on the assigned day. Students who are absent on the day of a test will make up the exam immediately upon return. **100 points** per test.

The mid-term exam and final exam will each count for 10% of the final course grade. Both are in AP format.

**Quizzes:** Students will be given two main types of quizzes in each unit of study: vocabulary and grammar. Quizzes will be given frequently, and most will be announced in advance. For all vocabulary quizzes, the teacher will orally read the chosen words in English, and students will be required to provide their answers in Spanish. **30-50 points.**

**Homework:** All homework assignments will be collected at the beginning of the class. Therefore, no late homework assignments will be accepted. When students are absent, they are required to check the homework folder immediately upon their return to acquire any handouts/assignments that were missed. Any work missed due to absence will be due the day after the student returns. **20-30 points.**

**Projects:** At least one major project will be assigned during each unit of study. Both individual and group projects will be given throughout the year. Projects will be culture-

based. Students will receive detailed rubrics when the project is assigned. All projects are due on the assigned date. No late projects will be accepted. **50 points.**

**Oral Assessments:** In addition to written exams, students will be given an oral assessment in each unit. Assessments may be individual or in groups and may be done in front of the class or using recorders. Students will be graded upon the following categories: content, vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, and fluency. **40-50 points.**

**Notebook:** Students are required to maintain a 3-ring binder to organize notes, homework, vocabulary, practice exams, and writing assessments. **100 points** per marking period.

**Essays:** Students will write a variety of informal and formal essays. This may include persuasive, informative, and timed-writing activities. Formal essays will include authentic listening and reading sources. **50 points** and are scored using AP scoring guidelines.

**Participation:** Active participation is essential for success in this class. Points will be awarded during class each day and will be totaled at the end of each quarter in order to be factored into the grade accordingly. Points will be based upon the students' exclusive use of Spanish and ease of communication. Use of English will result in the loss of points.

## Course Planner

The AP Spanish Language and Culture course is organized by themes and essential questions.

### Units of Study:

- Unit 1: La identidad de una persona
- Unit 2: El significado de la familia y la comunidad
- Unit 3: La influencia de la tecnología
- Unit 4: La belleza del mundo
- Unit 5: El camino de la vida
- Unit 6: El futuro de nuestro mundo

### AP themes to be covered include:

- Las identidades personales y públicas
- Las familias y las comunidades
- La ciencia y la tecnología
- La belleza y la estética
- La vida contemporánea
- Los desafíos mundiales

### Some words from Señora Hascin:

Este es el último año de español en la escuela secundaria. Entonces, este año vamos a trabajar muy duramente para usar todas las cosas y habilidades que hemos desarrollados durante los años pasados. Vamos a trabajar como clase para mejorar nuestros niveles de comunicación y entendimiento de español. Por lo tanto, haremos muchas actividades diferentes para hablar muchísimo y desarrollar la confianza. Estoy muy emocionada para empezar un año nuevo con un grupo fabuloso de estudiantes.