

AP SPANISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE SYLLABUS

Course Overview

The AP Spanish Language and Culture course is a rigorous course taught exclusively in Spanish that requires students, through the use of the Spanish language, to improve their proficiency across the three modes of communication. 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.

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.

Real-Life Language and Culture

Students are required to engage in real-life activities outside the classroom to enrich their Spanish language and culture experiences. They complete entries that interest them throughout the year for their Language and Culture Portfolio. Options include but are not limited to: interviewing Spanish-speaking members of our community about their cultures and traditions; attending an art exhibit, musical show or play; preparing a meal while following recipes written in Spanish; regular correspondence through email, Skype or Face Time with heritage speakers in a Spanish-speaking country; viewing of important events involving target language speakers, such as a president's acceptance speech or a national celebration of a country's independence; and visits to university campuses for special events, or visiting area businesses and learning about opportunities with Spanish. Students will maintain a blog about their experiences.

Ongoing Assignments

- *Keep a blog of cultural connections made outside of class. Student must participate in one cultural connection each month and post a blog describing the experience, comparing and contrasting it to our culture, and expressing feelings about the experience.
- *Read three other blog entries each week and respond through canvas
- *Participate in classroom discussions, small group discussions, debates, and presentations. Students will be evaluated based on participation and use of the Spanish language. Risk taking will be rewarded.
- *Locate two current events each week from authentic sources dealing with one of the thematic units. Students will explain the current event to the class or small group and lead a discussion about the cultural connections.
- *Each week half of the students will write an email to respond to a prompt and the other half will read those emails and write a response following AP format.
- *Attend the tertulia after school where we have native Spanish-speakers come in and discuss a cultural topic each week.
- *Keep a reflection log online through Canvas
- *Write a persuasive essay each unit according to the AP format
- *Leave one message per unit through google voice. Topics will vary by unit.

*Brainstorm with the class to create a list of new vocabulary words for each unit. Students will be responsible for knowing and using these words.

Sample Classroom Activities:

*Interpersonal Speaking: class debates, impromptu conversations, speed dating conversations from topic/setting cards, interviews, think pair share activities, practice oral conversation activities from recordings in AP format

*Interpersonal Writing: online blogs, email responses through Canvas, practice email activities in AP format, reflection questions

*Presentational Speaking: formal oral presentations on cultural topics, in class presentations using technology, multimedia project presentations

*Presentational Writing: persuasive essays synthesizing multiple sources, peer editing. Essays are evaluated for content, organization, cultural relevancy, range and appropriateness of vocabulary, and grammatical accuracy.

Online Resources:

http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/public/courses/teachers_corner/3499.html This is the official College Board AP Spanish website. There are many important resources at this site

Audio and Audiovisual:

<http://clear.msu.edu/teaching/online/ria>

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

<http://www.bbcmundo.com>

www.unmultimedia.org/ United Nations Multimedia

www.un.org/radio/es/ Radio Naciones Unidas

<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 favorites

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

<http://www.radioteca.net>

www.yabla.com Yabla

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

www.cnn.com/espanol CNN en español

www.elpais.com

<http://audiria.com/>

<http://cadena3.com/>

<http://contenido.com.mx/>

http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/spanish/programmes/estudio_834/

<http://www.20minutos.es/>

<http://www.elmundo.es>

<http://www.elnuevoherald.com/>

<http://www.eluniverso.com>

<http://www.ivoox.com>

<http://www.lagaceta.com.ar/>
<http://www.lasexta.com/noticias/>
<http://www.masvoces.org>
<http://www.nacion.com/>
<http://www.rae.es> (La Real Academia Española)
<http://www.rnw.nl/espanol/radioprogramme/informativo-internacional> (Noticiero)
<http://www.spanishnewsnetwork.com/>
<http://www.telecinco.es/informativos/>
<http://www.un.org/spanish/News/>
<http://www.unesco.org>
<http://www.univision.com/>
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/radio/spanish/>
<http://www.ver-taal.com/>
<http://www.rtve.es>
<http://zachary-jones.com/zambombazo>

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
<http://prensaescrita.com> Prensa Escrita
http://cvc.cervantes.es/ensenanza/actividades_ave/aveteca.htm
<http://www.ciudadseva.com/>
<http://www.ecos-online.de/la-revista>

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.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

Text Resources:

Barbara Gatski & John Mc Mullan. 2013. Triángulo Aprobado. 5th Edition Wayside Publishing. Sandwich, MA.

Díaz, Jose M., Margarita Leicher-Prieto, and Glenn J. Nadelbach, 2007. A.P. Spanish Preparing for the Language Examination 3rd. Edition Pearson Prentice Hall Boston MA

Díaz, José, M., Nadel, María F., Collins. Stephen J. Abriendo Paso Gramática Pearson Education, 2007 Boston MA

Díaz, José, M., Nadel, María F., Collins. Stephen J. Abriendo Paso Lectura Pearson Education, Boston MA

Barbara Gatski & John Mc Mullan. 20. Triángulo. 4th Edition Wayside Publishing. Sandwich, MA.

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 étnica 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

Student Evaluation

Quizzes: Will be given frequently covering vocabulary and grammatical structures

Unit Tests: Will cover all modes of communication. Tests will include listening, reading, writing, and speaking skills.

Projects: Includes group and individual presentations

Oral Assessments: Includes individual speaking as well as paired or group, class participation

Writing Assessments: Formal persuasive essays, blog entries, Canvas logs and emails, etc.