

Course description: Advanced Placement Spanish Language is a two-semester 300 level college class with college level requirements. It covers the equivalent of a third-year college course in advanced Spanish conversation and composition. It encompasses aural/oral skills, reading comprehension, grammar, and composition. The objectives are: the ability to comprehend formal and informal spoken Spanish; the acquisition of vocabulary and a grasp of structure to allow the accurate reading of newspaper and magazine articles, as well as of modern literature in Spanish; and the ability to express ideas orally with accuracy and fluency. We will be studying the texts, Temas, AP Spanish and Una Vez Más. In May of 2015 students have an opportunity to earn college credit by taking the College Board Advanced Placement Examination in Spanish Language, a four hour long exam that includes listening comprehension, reading comprehension, a formal and informal essay, and two oral sections that are recorded.

Expectations for the class: In order to be successful, students need to have a grasp of correct Spanish grammar and verb tenses. ***This course assumes that when you discover that you have not mastered a specific tense or grammar item, you will take it upon yourself to learn it.*** You must be willing to look up tenses, grammar items and vocabulary words that you do not know. As acquisition of vocabulary is essential, you will be given a vocabulary list. You will be required to use the new vocabulary in your oral exams and in your writing.

Grading: 80% Assessments: (Tests, Quizzes, Compositions, Orals in the Lab, Projects, Listening Comprehensions)
20% Participation and Homework (In class work, reading, participation in Spanish, homework).

Late work will not be accepted. Learn to budget your time and utilize the syllabus to plan ahead for quizzes, tests and compositions. When possible, ***do your homework in advance*** so as to always be prepared. It is assumed that you will come to class with homework completed. I expect the best from you. Homework will be graded often, but randomly. Always keep homework until I check it. Midterm and Final exams will be A.P. Exams. On the day of the national exam in May, there will be a graded A.P. exam in my room. Anyone who chooses not to take the National Exam will take an equivalent exam that day in my room. After the A.P. exam, there will be additional work. The class does not end with the National A. P. Examination.

Participation in Spanish: You are expected to speak in Spanish at all times and will be graded daily on your participation in Spanish. If you speak in English without permission, points will be deducted from your participation grade.

Formal compositions will require you to consider two to three sources (written and aural) and then write a persuasive essay synthesizing the sources in a reflective, articulate, and grammatically correct paper of **200 words**. You may not directly quote from any of the sources, but you must refer to each of them in your paper. You will be required to produce an **outline** and a **vocabulary list** for each composition. Your grade will be based on your depth of thought about the topic, as much as on your organization, grammar, and vocabulary use. You must ***show fluency and accuracy in a variety of tenses, utilize new vocabulary and use the correct register throughout the composition*** in order to receive an A. All compositions will be done in the class in order to avoid plagiarism. All compositions will be timed. **Informal Compositions** will require correct register, correct grammar, a variety of tenses and new vocabulary.

Informal and Formal Orals: Will be recorded in the Lab on Audacity weekly. Evaluation will include use of new expressions, new vocabulary, pronunciation, fluency, correct grammar and correct intonation. Formal orals require that you speak for two minutes on a cultural topic.

You will be expected to develop and focus on the following:

- Discussing a wide range of ideas clearly and purposefully
- Questioning skills; the ability to agree/disagree with others' ideas without attacking the speaker personally
- Helping to answer questions that other students raise
- Participating fully with seriousness and enthusiasm
- Comprehension and utilization of Spanish inside and outside of class; critical thinking abilities, including:
- Connecting, comparing and contrasting passages and ideas
- Relating personal experience to current events, world issues, and reading selections
- Drawing conclusions about reading/listening selections as a whole, and sharing your ideas with the class
- Accessing background knowledge of current events and world issues and articulating your reactions