



Spanish Communication and Literature- Honors Syllabus 2013-2014

Course Description:

This course is designed with the rigor and relevance for students wishing to take the Advanced Spanish Placement course the following year or as a prerequisite for SPANISH V. It presents a comprehensive overview of advanced Spanish grammar where the focus is on accuracy of written and oral communication. Students are expected to speak entirely in Spanish. Writing assignments vary from short letters to persuasive essays. Students will also read literature and current event articles from a variety of Hispanic authors and are expected to discuss and critique all the material in the Spanish language. Additionally, there are two listening audio books that students study without a script. This course is recommended for Immersion students, near-native speakers, and native speakers of Spanish. The purpose of the class is to prepare students for the AP SPANISH course. Due to the demanding nature of this course, students who are highly motivated and ready for the rigorous academic challenge should take the course. There are summer assignments.

Course Content:

Objectives:

- To comprehend the target language at an intermediate speed
- To converse about a variety of relevant topics in Spanish
- To understand the printed language
- To communicate about a variety of relevant topics using written accuracy
- To appreciate the culture of the target language

Grammar:

- Accents, Punctuation, and Spelling
- Abbreviations
- Adjective agreement
- Adverbs
- Regular and Irregular Verbs
- High Frequency Verbs and Expressions
- Preterit Tense
- Imperfect Tense
- Future Tenses
- Conditional Tense
- Perfect and Progressive Tenses
- Por vs. Para
- Impersonal Verbs
- Negatives and Expressions
- Direct, Indirect, Reflexive, Reciprocal Pronouns
- Transitional words

Culture and Literature:

- Selected literary legends, novels, novellas
- History, art, culture, customs, and music of Spanish speaking world
- Culturally appropriate non-verbal communication of the Spanish speaking world

Required Textbooks and/or Other Reading/Research Materials

The following books will be the primary texts used throughout the year. Additional articles and internet sites will be used to supplement the books as needed.

Repaso by Ronni L. Gordon, Ph.D and David M. Stillman, Ph.D. McGraw-Hill, 2004.

Sendas Literarias I & II by Ruth A. Barraza and Aída Walqui-van Lier. Heinle & Heinle, 1996.

Las hermanas Coloradas by Garcia Pavon. Alinea, 1994.

Course Requirements:

Students are expected to complete all projects, assignments and tests. Students must also participate in oral class activities such as communicative or paired activities, role-play and dialogues. Students are required to maintain an organized 3-ring binder.

Grade Components/Assessments:

Grades will be based on the following categories:

Homework 5%

Oral Assessments 20%

Quizzes/Tests 45%

Projects/writing 30%

Participation is a critical component of foreign language learning. Therefore, students are expected to participate in class as often as possible. They will receive a grade for participation approximately every 10 class days. The grade will be out of ten points. Below is the grading scale:

Actual tallies	Participation grade
10+ tallies	10/10
9 tallies	9.5/10
8 tallies	9/10
7 tallies	8.5/10
6 tallies	8/10
5 tallies	7.5/10
4 tallies	7/10
3 tallies	6.5/10
2 tallies	6/10
1 tallies	5.5/10
0 tallies	5/10

Each marking period is worth 20% of a student's overall grade. The midterm and final exam are each worth 10% of a student's overall average:

Quarter 1	20%
Quarter 2	20%
Midterm	10%
Quarter 3	20%
Quarter 4	20%
Final	10%

Required Summer Reading/Assignments:

Las hermanas Coloradas by Garcia Pavon. Alinea, 1994.