

AP Spanish Language & Culture 2020
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“The AP Spanish Language course should help prepare students to demonstrate their level of Spanish proficiency across three communicative modes: Interpersonal, Interpretive and Presentational, and the five goal areas outlined in the Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the 21st Century (Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities). The course is meant to be comparable to fifth and sixth semester (or the equivalent) college and university courses that focus on speaking and writing in the target language at an advanced level.”

From: http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/public/repository/ap07_spanish_coursedescript.pdf

The AP Spanish Language class is a preparatory class for the AP exam. The date for the exam this year is **Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 8:00 am**. Different universities offer different credit for AP grades; you should look up your chosen college(s) and see what the requirements are so that you know exactly what you hope to accomplish.

The AP curriculum is very demanding. Students wishing to receive a passing score of 3 or higher on the exam must recognize that they will have to do much work out of class immersing themselves in the language. There will be practice tests throughout the year in class, and the students will have a choice between Saturdays in the spring semester to come and practice the entire test-- all students are expected to participate in one of those Saturday practices. There are great benefits from taking this class, but with it also comes a great responsibility to organize time well, be committed to the course work, and to be properly organized in the materials studied.

Class Fees: I suggest that you pay all fees online if possible.

The AP exam will cost approximately \$93. This money is due to the office at the beginning of school. There is a class fee of \$20, taken up by me or paid online. for the AAPPL test, which will be taken in the spring by all Honors and AP Spanish students at AHS. Passing this exam at an “Intermediate” level will be the Foreign Language requirement you need to reach in order to receive the state “Seal of BiLiteracy” mark on your diploma at graduation (there are English class requirements to this as well).

Class Materials

All students will be expected to have ipads, fully charged, every day. Necessary books will be online, with a hard copy in the classroom should you desire to use one. This year we will likely be keeping handling paper to an absolute minimum, but you might want to have some to write on in order to take a photo and turn in on Schoology.

Our main prep materials are textbooks through Vista Higher Learning. You will have an account for the “Temas” book and the “AP Prep” book. Make sure you remember your password; you will use this site often, both in and out of class.

For this class, you should organize your material and keep up with it. Materials will be available in Schoology. If you like OneDrive notebooks, these are basically the breakdown categories:

- 1) Vocabulary
- 2) Grammar
- 3) Writing

Remember that you must organize your information, keep up with it in a manner you understand, and be able to access it.

There are some assignments that are standing for each week. Some of these are:

--- Each week you will have a vocabulary list, with a vocabulary quiz at some point in the week (** to be decided at this point). Each week, you must create sentences for each vocabulary list, which will be due once a week (** day to be decided). There is a rubric for the sentences; you must perform at the highest level to receive the top percentage for this assignment.

-- Weekly podcasts: Each week you must listen to an approved podcast in Spanish and take detailed notes on it. You may choose between the Notes In Spanish “Advanced” podcasts and the BBC Mundo podcasts linked from my page or multiple podcasts/ videos from the vertaal.com site, and possibly other sites that are similar (some students really got into Spanish-language “TED Talks” videos last year). In your notes, you should follow these guidelines in order to receive full credit:

1) you should have 3 “summarizing” sections: “1st listening,” “2nd listening,” and “3rd listening.” You should summarize what the podcast you listened to was about, telling me what you heard in the subsequent listenings that you didn’t get the first time or two.

2) You should also make a note of any vocabulary words that you either needed to look up for definition or you figured out through context.

3) Finally, you need to write, in Spanish, a personal response to the topic (if you did multiple **ver-taal** listenings or something similar, you can choose one topic to discuss at length, or you can give me a briefer response of each of the 3 you listened to). I want an opinion or a response that hopefully includes some type of comparison from your own experiences with what you heard.

*you might find it beneficial to listen several times throughout the week rather than all at once.

Grading scale: A= 93-100 / B = 85-92/ C = 75-84 / D = 70- 74 / F = 69

*Please keep up to date by regularly checking your grades on-line by checking PowerSchool. Since this is an AP class, 5 points will be added onto each 9 weeks grade and both semester exams.

There will be tests (frequently grammar reviews) and quizzes (frequently vocabulary); also homework or classwork assignments that have to do with reading/ listening comprehension exercises from the “Temas” or “AP Prep” textbooks as well as vocabulary practice and the weekly podcast response; and essays, shorter writings, response on a “discussion board” on Schoology, and oral presentations -- possibly at differing values as per the discretion of the teacher.

Make Up Procedures/Late Work

Note: **AP students are not expected to have incomplete or missing grades. Your success in this class will depend on your commitment to your studies.

It is the student's responsibility to make up all missing assignments. You should always check with me any time you are absent to see what assignment, quiz, or test you may have missed and to schedule a time to make it up. If you are present on the day of a test that was announced on a day you were present, you must take the test, no matter if you missed the day before. Late work will adhere to AHS' late work policy: you have 2 physical days to turn in late work, with a value of 10% taken off for each day late.

Expectations

This is a weird year. I'm not 100% sure what this will all look like, but I have every confidence that we can be successful no matter what platform or situation we find ourselves using. I will be here to support you in whatever way I need to be. Please remember that, as always, to be successful in honors and AP level classes, you must focus not only on the grades you would like to earn, but also on other factors such as attitude and willingness to participate. You should use self-discipline in class; please don't make me discipline you or have to ask you to participate in class. I expect you to present yourself either in class or online as pleasant, eager to learn and to participate in class activities, and to work well with others. If I must take action, the steps will be to conference with the student first, then involve a guidance officer and/or make a call to the parent, then write a referral. Outlandish behavior or cursing will be punished by an immediate referral. I hope and expect never to have to take these actions in this class.

My goal is to make this class as enjoyable as possible for you and to make you feel engaged and involved this year, whether we are all together in class or Zoom-ing together for class. My goal is also to prepare you for real-life speaking situations-- learning a foreign language is an exciting and fun prospect, as is learning about other cultures and peoples. I love this class! And I love watching what you do with it. Many of my former students go on to spend a semester abroad in Spain or some other Spanish-speaking country, which I believe is one of the best opportunities to learn that you will find in your entire lifetime. I hope to help prepare you to use your language in real-life situations and perhaps even to encourage you to consider international travel as an additional way to extend your knowledge.

I am looking forward to the year with you and am committed to making this year meaningful and beneficial for you. I hope you are excited about this class as well.

Sra. Robinson