



Course Description: AP Spanish Language and Culture

The AP Spanish Language & Culture course emphasizes communication (understanding and being understood by others) by applying interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational skills in real-life situations. This includes vocabulary usage, language control, communication strategies, and cultural awareness. The AP Spanish Language & Culture course strives not to overemphasize grammatical accuracy at the expense of communication. To best facilitate the study of language and culture, the course is taught almost exclusively in Spanish. The AP Spanish Language & Culture course engages students in an exploration of culture in both contemporary and historical contexts. The course develops students' awareness and appreciation of cultural products (e.g., tools, books, music, laws, conventions, institutions); practices (patterns of social interactions within a culture); and perspectives (values, attitudes, and assumptions)

AP Spanish Language & Culture Course Framework

The three modes of communication—Interpretive, Interpersonal, and Presentational—defined in the World Readiness Standards for Learning Languages, are foundational to the AP Spanish Language & Culture course. The AP course provides students with opportunities to demonstrate their proficiency in each of the three modes in the Intermediate to Advanced range, as described in the ACTFL Performance Descriptors for Language Learners. As such, the course has been designed to provide advanced high school students with a rich and rigorous opportunity. The AP Spanish Language & Culture course is comprised of the following components:

- **Skills-** At the core of the AP Spanish Language & Culture course are course skills identifying what students should know and be able to do to succeed in the course. Students should develop and apply the described skills on a regular basis over the span of the course.
- **Themes-** The course is based on six required course themes that help teachers integrate language, content, and culture into a series of lessons and activities. Within each theme are recommended contexts and overarching essential questions that engage students, guide their classroom investigations, and promote the use of language in a variety of contexts. The themes of the course are: Families and Communities; Personal and Public Identities; Beauty and Aesthetics; Science and Technology; Contemporary Life; and Global Challenges
- **Modes-** Throughout the course, students demonstrate their abilities in the interpretive mode by engaging with written, print, visual, audiovisual, and audio texts; in the interpersonal mode by speaking with and writing to others; and in the presentational mode by speaking to and writing for an audience.
- **Task Models-** Each unit found in the Course and Exam Description features several of the task models that students will encounter on the exam, which build in difficulty and complexity over time to the level that matches the exam's expectations. These task models include a variety of different stimuli: promotional material, letters, charts, email replies, literary texts, articles, audio reports, interviews, and instructions.

Prerequisite: Completing Spanish 4 with at least a B or heritage/native speaker

Textbook: Triangulo Aprobado by Barbara Gatski and John McMullan

High Bluff Academy is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). The above course is approved by the University of California system (A-G) and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

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