# Spanish 4 AP Language and Culture Course Syllabus

Course Description

## The AP Spanish Language and Culture course prepares students to demonstrate an intermediate high to advanced low level of proficiency. This course does not focus on grammatical accuracy at the expense of communication; it emphasizes the ability to communicate by applying interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational skills in real-life situations. This includes vocabulary usage, language control, communication strategies, and cultural awareness. The course also 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). To best facilitate the study of language and culture, the course is taught almost exclusively in Spanish.

Unit Overviews

## Families and Communities

In this unit of study, students will explore how families shape values and traditions. Students will consider changes in family structure and the evolving concept and role of families in contemporary societies. Students will also examine the differences in family relationships across cultures.

**Personal and Public Identities**

In this unit of study, students will explore the different aspects of a person’s identity and issues related to self-image. They will discuss the relationship between ethnic and national identity and explore the concepts of alienation and assimilation.

**Beauty and Aesthetics**

In this unit of study, students will investigate how the concepts of beauty and creativity are defined within a culture. They will explore how the arts challenge and reflect cultural perspectives, and influence values in a community.

**Contemporary Life**

In this unit of study, students will investigate the contemporary challenges related to education and careers. Students will consider the impact of education on society. Students will also explore the relationship between culture and lifestyle and personal interests.

**Global Challenges**

In this unit of study, students will investigate how economic developments and environmental challenges often impact society. They will explore how individuals can positively or negatively influence the world around them and suggest possible solutions that address contemporary global challenges.

**Science and Technology**

In this unit of study, students will consider how the access to technology affects society, changes the quality of life, and creates new ways for individuals to connect with others. They will also explore how developments in science, healthcare, and technology can create and resolve challenges in contemporary society, and/or affect the values and ethics of a community.

**Major Evaluation Overviews**

Interpretive Communication Quiz:

* An Interpretive Communication Quiz is an assessment of students’ ability to comprehend a variety of authentic print and/or audio texts. For this task, students will have to identify the main ideas and supporting details, determine the meaning of vocabulary words in context, identify the author’s point of view or the target audience, and demonstrate knowledge of the cultural or interdisciplinary information contained in the text.

Interpersonal Speaking:

* An Interpersonal Speaking evaluation assesses the students’ ability to have and maintain a semi-spontaneous conversation. For this task, students will participate in 5 exchanges in a simulated conversation (20 seconds for each response).

Interpersonal Writing:

* An Interpersonal Writing evaluation assesses the students’ ability to initiate, maintain, and close **formal** written exchanges. For this task, students will have 15 minutes to read and reply to an email message.

## Presentational Speaking:

* A Presentational Speaking evaluation assesses the students’ ability to communicate through a spoken presentation.

For this task, students will deliver a 2-minute presentation in response to a prompt in which students compare a cultural feature of a Spanish-speaking community with which they are familiar to their own community or another community.

## Presentational Writing:

* A Presentational Writing evaluation assesses the students’ ability to produce an argumentative essay. For this task, students will write an argumentative essay based on 3 sources, including an article, a table, graph, chart, or infographic, and a related audio source.