

AP[®] SPANISH LITERATURE AND CULTURE

About the Advanced Placement Program[®] (AP[®])

The Advanced Placement Program[®] enables willing and academically prepared students to pursue college-level studies — with the opportunity to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both — while still in high school. AP Exams are given each year in May. Students who earn a qualifying score on an AP Exam are typically eligible, in college, to receive credit, placement into advanced courses, or both. Every aspect of AP course and exam development is the result of collaboration between AP teachers and college faculty. They work together to develop AP courses and exams, set scoring standards, and score the exams. College faculty review every AP teacher's course syllabus.

AP World Languages and Cultures Program

The AP World Languages and Cultures program features eight courses and exams and includes the following languages: Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Latin, and Spanish (both language and literature).

In today's global community, competence in more than one language is an essential part of communication and cultural understanding. Study of another language through its literature provides students with access to cultural perspectives and knowledge, encourages them to make connections and comparisons between cultures and literary works, and helps them develop the ability to think critically. The proficiencies acquired through the study of languages and literatures endow language learners with cognitive, analytical, and communication skills that carry over into many other areas of their academic studies.

AP Spanish Literature and Culture Course Overview

The AP Spanish Literature and Culture course uses a thematic approach to introduce students to representative texts (short stories, novels, poetry, and essays) from Peninsular Spanish, Latin American, and United States Hispanic literature. Students develop proficiencies across the full range of communication modes (interpersonal, presentational, and interpretive), thereby honing their critical reading and analytical writing skills. Literature is examined within the context of its time and place, as students reflect on the many voices and cultures present in the required readings. The course also includes a strong focus on cultural connections and comparisons, including exploration of various media (e.g., art, film, articles, literary criticism).

RECOMMENDED PREREQUISITES

While there are no prerequisites for this course, AP Spanish Literature and Culture is designed for students who have successfully completed at least three years of high school-level Spanish language study. While not a prerequisite, students may wish to complete the AP Spanish Language and Culture course before taking AP Spanish Literature and Culture, as the texts are presented in Spanish. In the case of native or heritage speakers, there may be a different course of study leading to this course.

Course Themes

The AP Spanish Literature and Culture course is structured around six themes:

- Las sociedades en contacto (Societies in Contact)
- La construcción del género (The Construction of Gender)
- El tiempo y el espacio (Time and Space)
- La creación literaria (Literary Creation)
- Las relaciones interpersonales (Interpersonal Relationships)
- La dualidad del ser (The Dual Nature of Being)

Themes promote the exploration of literature in a variety of contexts and develop students' abilities to make cross-textual and cross-cultural connections. The themes may be combined, as they are interrelated.

AP Spanish Literature and Culture Learning Objectives

At the core of the AP Spanish Literature and Culture course are learning objectives, which outline the expectations for what students should know and be able to do. These expectations are in accordance with the five goal areas (the "five C's") of the *Standards for Foreign Language Learning for the 21st Century*: Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities.

For Communication, students continue to develop proficiency in the three modes of communication:

- Interpersonal Communication (the active negotiation of meaning among individuals)
- Interpretive Communication (the appropriate cultural interpretation of meanings that occur in written or spoken form with no active negotiation of meaning)
- Presentational Communication (the creation of written or spoken messages in a manner that facilitates interpretation by an audience with no active negotiation of meaning)

For Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities, students gain knowledge and understand the relationships between products, practices, and perspectives of the cultures studied in literary texts and through other media.

Additionally, students continue to develop language proficiency across a full range of language skills, with special attention focused on language used in critical reading and analytical writing.

