

# World Languages and Cultures

## Essential questions:

- How does learning about other cultures benefit us as individuals and our society as a whole?
- What linguistic structures and vocabulary are required for effective communication in and understanding of a second language?
- How does language reflect the essence and perspective of a people and their culture?

Learning a foreign language is an exciting way of understanding, relearning, and renaming the world around us and viewing it through a new cultural perspective. In all the modern language classes, from the beginning, we teach through a blend of activities that mirrors the six strands of the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines by which the National Standards are measured. These guidelines are comprehensibility, comprehension, language control, vocabulary usage, communication strategies, and cultural awareness. The goal at all levels is to build on and refine, in a systematic manner, what has already been learned. Ultimately, the students will internalize the language and use it as a tool to communicate sensitively and spontaneously with others.

## **The Show-Me Standards**

### **Rationale for Foreign Language Study**

Missouri children need second language fluency in order to be competitive in the 21st century. Students of foreign languages score statistically higher on standardized tests conducted in English. Students who average four or more years of foreign language study scored higher on the verbal section of the SAT than those who had studied four or more years in any other subject area (1992 report consistent with College Board profiles of previous years.) Students of foreign languages have access to greater numbers of career possibilities and develop a deeper understanding of their own language and other cultures. Some evidence also suggests that children who receive second languages instruction are more creative and better at solving complex problems. Benefits to society are many: Missourians fluent in other languages enhance our economic competitiveness abroad, improve global communication, and maintain national, political, and security interests.

#### **CHINESE I**

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9th - 12th Grade

Credit - 1

Full Year

Chinese 1 will introduce the students to the basic components of Mandarin Chinese through theme-based content and activities. Pinyin Romanization, simplified forms of Chinese characters and basic grammar patterns, as well as functional everyday expressions will be taught within the living context of Chinese culture. Topics will start from self-introduction and develop to students' immediate surroundings such as school, family and daily life. Cultural components will be taught through movies, video clips, songs, calligraphy, crafts, cooking, festival celebrations and geographic context. The ultimate goal is to motivate students to become interested in and committed to the learning of Chinese language and culture.

#### **CHINESE II**

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9th - 12th Grade

Credit - 1

Full Year

#### **Prerequisite: Chinese I**

Chinese II is designed for students who have studied Chinese for one year at CHS or two years at WMS. In this course, students will be guided away from mechanical, classroom-style language learning at the beginning level and develop their language proficiency through more complex grammar and more spontaneous conversation. Authentic reading, listening and visual materials such as maps, traffic signs, menus, forecasts, shopping ads and hospital signs on online newspapers and TV will be incorporated into the class. Students will develop their cultural understanding and appreciation through frequent comparisons of different regions in China as well as between China and the United States of America.

## **CHINESE III**

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9th - 12th Grade

Credit - 1

Full Year

### **Prerequisite: Chinese II**

Chinese III is designed for students who have successfully completed the first two years of Chinese. In this course, students will continue to develop their language proficiency through more complex grammar, idiomatic language and more exposure to authentic Chinese materials. Students will develop their cultural understanding and appreciation through discussion of contemporary social issues in China as well as the comparison of the life of teenagers in China and the United States. Topics include academic, extracurricular, and social aspects of school; teenagers' freedom and responsibilities; and diverse family structures in contemporary Chinese society.

## **CHINESE IV**

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9th - 12th Grade

Credit - 1

Full Year

### **Prerequisite: Chinese III**

Chinese IV is designed for fourth-year students of Chinese to prepare them for advanced study. During this year we will explore a changing China in a changing world, the impact of change on traditions, education, the environment, and the way Chinese people live. Students will continue to develop their language proficiency through analysis and discussion of selected authentic readings, writing compositions, participating in debates and delivering in-depth oral presentations. Films, TV shows and music videos will be used to enhance their cultural understanding and language abilities.

## **FRENCH I**

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9th - 12th Grade

Credit - 1

Full Year

This course is designed to acquaint the student with a working knowledge of the sounds, spelling, vocabulary and structure of the French language. Speaking is emphasized as students learn to carry on simple conversations about a variety of everyday topics such as shopping, school, leisure-time activities, and food. Students learn to relate events and express opinions in the present and the future. The language lab is used to help with pronunciation. Students get an introduction to the city of Paris and the diversity of the Francophone world. Reading and writing activities will be introduced, along with the study of basic French grammar. The course requires daily homework, class participation, oral and written quizzes, unit tests, and various projects for cultural enrichment.

## **FRENCH II**

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9th - 12th Grade

Credit - 1

Full Year

### **Prerequisite: French I**

In French II, students continue to develop basic listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Basic grammatical concepts and topics of vocabulary are still being presented at this level while incorporating previously learned material. Students are expected to understand the main ideas of conversations spoken by native speakers, as well as be able to speak, read and write on topics related to themselves in everyday life situations, family and friends, celebrations, and French schools using the present, past and near-future tenses. Students will also continue to broaden their knowledge and understanding of the French-speaking world. The course requires daily homework, class participation, participation in listening activities, oral and written quizzes and tests, and various projects for cultural enrichment.

## **FRENCH III**

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9th - 12th Grade

Credit - 1

Full Year

### **Prerequisite: French II or the Wydown 6-8 French sequence**

The French III course is a full year of in-depth study of more advanced grammatical concepts which will enable students to gain greater proficiency in the four basic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Emphasis will be placed on the writing of organized paragraphs. Students will also become more familiar with some of the most significant events and historical figures in the history of France, from the Roman era to the 17th century and the Modern Art movement in France. Students will read several excerpts of literature in various genres representative of the eras studied, they will present projects based on culture as well as history, and they will recite poetry. Students will be graded on oral class participation, class preparation, participation in language laboratory activities, oral and written quizzes and tests, and various projects for cultural enrichment.

## **FRENCH IV**

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10th - 12th Grade

Credit - 1

Full Year

### **Prerequisite: French III**

French IV continues in the same textbook used in French III. The focus of this year is to build the skills necessary for advanced study. This course helps students, over time, to build confidence and proficiency in their listening and speaking ability in French. Activities have also been designed to help students to increase their reading proficiency to the point where they feel comfortable doing research in French and reading authentic short stories. Similarly, students will do tiered writing assignments to help them to improve their writing; writing help will be individualized to student needs. Along the way, students will continue to learn additional tenses and grammatical concepts. The cultural focus of this course is the historical roots of modern French culture. Students will have the opportunity to explore and present on a topic related to modern, popular culture in France. Several films are used that tie into the units of study.

## **ADVANCED FRENCH**

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11th - 12th Grade

Credit - 1

Full Year

### **Prerequisite: French IV**

Advanced French helps all students to take their French to the next proficiency level; in addition, for some students this is the first course in a two-year sequence that is designed to prepare students to take the AP French Language and Culture exam. Students are expected to be able to understand, speak, read, and write in French. A wide variety of reading materials and an intensive grammar review will help students refine their language skills. Readings range from short stories and poetry to articles on current events. Students improve writing skills through essays, some of which are conferenced and revised. Oral work includes work on storytelling skills, debate and improvising. Films and music videos are used to improve listening comprehension and for cultural knowledge. Students will be graded on oral class participation, written assignments, presentations and projects, written and oral examinations, and a portfolio.

## **AP FRENCH LANGUAGE**

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11th - 12th Grade

Credit - 1

Full Year

### **Prerequisite: Advanced French**

The Advanced Placement French Language and Culture program is intended for those students who have chosen to further develop their second language proficiency and is designed to prepare students to take the AP French exam in May, if they so choose. Students are expected to be able to communicate, present, understand and interpret in French over certain cultural themes while using advanced grammatical structures and vocabulary. The course encompasses aural/oral skills, reading comprehension, grammar, vocabulary, and composition. A wide variety of reading, listening, and speaking materials and an intensive grammar review will help students refine their language skills. Readings range from short stories and poetry to articles on contemporary issues and current events. The novel *Les jeux sont faits* is read and discussed in the spring. Students are expected to improve writing skills through frequent essays, some of which are conferenced and revised. They also practice speaking and listening skills through frequent use of a variety of sources including past AP exams. Films and music videos are used to improve listening comprehension and for cultural knowledge. Students will be graded on oral class participation, written assignments, presentations and projects, and written and oral examinations.

## **FRENCH CINEMA AND CONVERSATION**

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12th Grade

Credit - 1

Full Year

### **Prerequisite: Advanced French or AP French (or French IV for seniors with permission of instructor)**

French Cinema and Conversation is a class for seniors who would like to pursue their French studies without the pressure of taking the AP French exam in the spring. The class explores units on social, political and historical themes through extensive use of French film and short works of literature. Students will further their understanding of the issues and cultural practices in contemporary France. Unlike other courses in the sequence, this course prioritizes comprehension skills and oral proficiency and does not address new grammatical concepts. This class will also help students extend their skills in researching in French as they produce a variety of presentations and projects in French. This class will be conducted entirely in French.

## **LATIN I**

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9th - 12th Grade

Credit - 1

Full Year

Latin was the language of the ancient Romans. Not only has it left an influential literature, but it also has had far-reaching effects upon both English and the Romance Languages of Europe. The basic introductory Latin course allows students to begin learning classical Latin through the graded reading program of the Cambridge Latin Course. Students develop their reading skills through a gradual widening of vocabulary and sentence patterns in interesting stories about a Roman family in Pompeii up to the time of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. The stories are based meticulously upon Latin literary sources, Roman history and archaeology. Following the exploration of Pompeii, the journey then continues to Roman Britain and Alexandria. Throughout the course, students study the connection of Latin words with English vocabulary. Additional readings, films, and discussions complement and enhance the Cambridge readings.

## **LATIN II**

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9th - 12th Grade

Credit - 1

Full Year

### **Prerequisite: Latin I**

Latin II is a continuation of the Cambridge Latin Course. The level of Latin reading is increasingly complex in sentence structure and the volume of vocabulary increases markedly. Narratives focus on the Roman military and life in the city of Rome. As the story returns to Britain, much focus is given to the living conditions of Roman soldiers during the occupation. Once in Rome, intrigue, deception, and politics are major themes that follow the character Salvius in his dealings with the emperor and his own clients. Throughout the exploration of the Latin language, students will also study connections of Latin words with English vocabulary.

## **LATIN III**

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10th - 12th Grade

Credit - 1

Full Year

### **Prerequisite: Latin II**

The Cambridge Latin Course advances to the beginnings of Latin literature in the third year. The level of Latin readings calls for the most difficult and challenging syntax so as to equip the student for reading the complicated literary language of Latin. Stories involve the heart of Roman society in the capital city: the Senate, the Forum, imperial politics and intrigue, and Stoic philosophy. Some of the early literary readings may include the epigrams of Martial, the letters of Pliny the Younger, and selections from Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. Other Latin writers may be studied according to the interests and needs of the class.

## **LATIN IV – INTRODUCTION TO LATIN LITERATURE**

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11th - 12th Grade

Credit - 1

Full Year

### **Prerequisite: Latin III**

In Latin IV, students undertake the reading, analysis and critical interpretation of works of Latin literature. In the first semester, the students study the late Roman republic through the poetry of Catullus and Horace, and the brilliant legal rhetoric of Cicero. The focus of the second semester is Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, a delightful epic poem full of Classical mythology. With selections drawn from a variety of authors and works throughout the year, the students deepen their understanding of Latin vocabulary, syntax, and style while using these skills to further their knowledge of Roman culture and history.

## **LATIN V - ADVANCED LATIN LITERATURE**

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12th Grade

Credit - 1

Full Year

### **Prerequisite: Latin IV**

In the highest level of Latin offered, students continue the reading, analysis, and critical interpretation of works of Latin literature. Emphasis will be placed on equipping students for upper-level Latin literature courses at the college level. The primary focus first semester is Julius Caesar's *de bello Gallico*, his own account of his military conquests in Gaul. The second semester is spent studying Vergil's epic *Aeneid*. Throughout the year, students study themes such as mythology, military strategy, and propaganda in the late Roman republic and the early empire.

## **SPANISH I**

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9th - 12th Grade

Credit - 1

Full Year

This course is designed to provide students with a beginning knowledge of the Spanish language and the culture of various Spanish-speaking people of the world. Students will learn to listen to and comprehend spoken Spanish, to pronounce Spanish correctly, and to express themselves in Spanish on a variety of subjects. Reading and writing will be included. A sizable vocabulary of a practical and modern nature will be acquired by the end of the first year. The course requires daily homework, class participation, participation in language laboratory activities, oral and written quizzes, unit tests, and various projects for cultural enrichment.

## **SPANISH II**

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9th - 12th Grade

Credit - 1

Full Year

### **Prerequisite: Spanish I**

This course is a continuation of Spanish I and serves as the second year for beginning students. It may be appropriate for incoming 9th graders from the long-sequence elementary/middle school Spanish program who are in need of additional preparation before enrolling in Spanish III. Students will continue their study of the Spanish language and the cultures of the Spanish-speaking people of the world. Students will learn to listen to and comprehend spoken Spanish, to pronounce Spanish correctly, and to express themselves in Spanish on a variety of subjects. Reading and writing will be included. The course requires daily homework, class participation, participation in language laboratory activities, oral and written quizzes, unit tests, and various projects for cultural enrichment.

## **SPANISH III**

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9th - 12th Grade

Credit - 1

Full Year

### **Prerequisite: Spanish II**

This course is a continuation of Spanish II and serves as the third year for beginning students. Students will continue their study of the Spanish language and the culture of various Spanish-speaking people of the world. Students will learn to listen to and comprehend spoken Spanish, to pronounce Spanish correctly, and to express themselves in Spanish on a variety of subjects. Reading and writing will be included. The course requires daily homework, class participation, participation in language laboratory activities, oral and written quizzes, unit tests, and various projects for cultural enrichment.

## **INTERMEDIATE SPANISH**

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9th - 12th Grade

Credit - 1

Full Year

### **Prerequisite: Long-sequence Spanish program in elementary and middle schools**

Intermediate Spanish is a course specifically designed to further develop the linguistic skills of incoming 9th graders who have participated in our long-sequence program. The course builds on the thematic spiral of the curricula from the elementary and middle school levels. Students will continue their study of the Spanish language and culture using the first twelve chapters of the Buen Viaje textbook. The themes studied in the course will engage students in a wide variety of activities designed to increase all language proficiency skills. The course is mostly taught in Spanish and will prepare students to express themselves using a variety of complex grammatical structures and vocabulary. Students will be evaluated on oral class participation, daily assignments, projects and comprehensive chapter examinations.



## ADVANCED SPANISH

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10th - 12th Grade

Credit - 1

Full Year

**Prerequisite:** Intermediate Spanish or Spanish III

This course is the sophomore component of our long-sequence Spanish program. Students will continue their study of the language and culture of Spanish-speaking countries with the second half of *Dos Mundos*, and *Conexiones 2nd edition* selected units, both college-level texts. Students will participate in a wide variety of experiences and activities to improve their skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing while deepening their understanding of language and culture. By the end of the course, they will have an introduction to many advanced grammatical structures in Spanish. These linguistic structures will allow students to express themselves on a variety of complex and interesting topics. The course will be taught in Spanish.

## ADVANCED SPANISH HONORS

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10th - 12th Grade

Credit - 1

Full Year

**Prerequisite:** Intermediate Spanish plus teacher recommendation or Spanish III plus teacher recommendation

This is an accelerated course and requires teacher recommendation for enrollment. Students will use the text Nuevas Vistas and will engage in a variety of activities and projects that are designed to increase their proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing while deepening their understanding of language and culture. These activities include: reading authentic texts such as magazine articles, short stories, excerpts of novels, and poetry; listening to conversations by native speakers on a variety of topics; writing informal and formal compositions; discussing, debating and presenting. In addition, students will complete a comprehensive review of advanced grammatical structures in Spanish. These linguistic structures will allow students to express themselves on a variety of complex and interesting topics. This course will be taught in Spanish.

## SPANISH CONVERSATION

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11th - 12th Grade

Credit - 1

Full Year

**Prerequisite:** Spanish III or three equivalent years

This class is designed to complement our other beginning-level courses and will review and reinforce indicative, preterite, imperfect and future verb tenses, plus work on evolving conversation skills and pronunciation. The global citizenry component of the course will focus on Latin Americans and will examine the roots of contemporary Latin American culture and highlight traditional cultural topics and issues in daily life in the Spanish-speaking world. Short articles and videos will be the basis for discussion on these topics, with a focus on vocabulary expansion and structured conversation exercises both in groups and pairs.

## CURRENT SOCIAL ISSUES IN THE SPANISH-SPEAKING WORLD

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11th - 12th Grade

Credit - 1

Full Year

**Prerequisite:** Advanced Spanish or above

This course features interesting topics, an effective and uniquely sequenced review of selected grammatical points, and a thorough integration of language and culture. Chapters reflect current social issues of concern to today's students, providing students with many opportunities to make connections with topics they are discussing in other courses. Each unit synthesizes the development of language skills and cultural awareness through the active use of film, art, music, and literature from the Spanish-speaking world. Activities are designed to foster involvement, participation and exchange in discussion, composition, cumulative projects and oral presentations.

## POPULAR CULTURE IN CONTEMPORARY SPAIN

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11th - 12th Grade

Credit - 1

Full Year

**Prerequisite:** Advanced Spanish or above

This course focuses on the popular culture of contemporary Spain. The class will be conducted entirely in Spanish and use television, films, music and periodicals as primary sources in addition to the text, *España contemporánea*. Students will discover and discuss the historical, social, and political forces that shape current-day Spain. They will study topics such as the Spanish Civil War, the family of the XXI century, the changing role of women, and the role of today's youth. Students will write short papers, make individual and group presentations in a variety of formats, and conduct independent research. The activities in this course are designed to promote comprehension of authentic texts/speakers, oral proficiency, and cultural understanding of the practices, perspectives and products of Spain.

## CINEMA AND LITERATURE FOR SPANISH CONVERSATION

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11th - 12th Grade

Credit - 1

Full Year

**Prerequisite:** Advanced Spanish Honors or above plus teacher recommendation

Cinema and Literature for Spanish Conversation is a course designed to compare, contrast and analyze the contemporary literature and cinema in the Spanish-speaking world. In this course, students will explore how literature and cinema shape socio-political views of Latin America and Spain. The activities in this course are designed to promote active participation, cultural awareness, critical thinking and in-depth analysis of the controversial events in Latin America and Spain. The literary readings have been selected and organized according to their thematic content. The students will read a compilation of short stories, novel excerpts, plays and poetry. The films have been carefully chosen for their artistic qualities and for the wide variety of themes and cultures they portray.

## **AP SPANISH LANGUAGE**

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11th - 12th Grade

Credit - 1

Full Year

**Prerequisite:** Adv. Spanish Honors plus teacher recommendation or Current Social Issues plus teacher recommendation

The Advanced Placement Spanish Language and Culture program is intended for those students who have chosen to further develop their second language proficiency. The AP Spanish Language and Culture course prepares students to demonstrate their level of proficiency across the three communicative modes: Interpersonal, Interpretive and Presentational. The course is meant to be comparable to third year (fifth or sixth semester) college and university courses that focus on speaking and writing in the target language at an advanced level. Students use several textbooks and authentic materials containing a wide range of thought-provoking communicative activities including: extensive grammar review, literary analysis and reading materials to widen students' cultural awareness of the Spanish-speaking world. Students will be evaluated on oral class participation, a wide variety of written assignments, projects, presentations and comprehensive examinations.