

**Michael E. DeBakey High School for Health Professions**

LOTE Department

Teacher: Laurie León

LLEON1@houstonisd.org

Room 233 / Conference period: A4

Tutorials (by appointment):

Tuesdays 3:35 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**AP Spanish Syllabus Fall/Spring 2024- 2025**

**COURSE OVERVIEW \***

The AP Spanish Language and Culture course is a rigorous course taught **exclusively in Spanish** that requires students to improve their proficiency across the three modes of communication (interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational).

The course focuses on the integration of authentic resources including online print, audio, and audiovisual resources, as well as traditional print resources that include literature, essays, and magazine and newspaper articles with the goal of providing a rich, diverse learning experience.

The AP Spanish course provides willing and academically prepared students with the opportunity to earn college credit and/or advanced placement and, most importantly, to achieve advanced fluency in Spanish, which will result in great advantages not only academically, but professionally in the increasingly competitive job market.

By taking an AP course, students also demonstrate to college admission officers their abilities to perform successfully on rigorous college courses.

The AP Spanish course concludes with a college-level assessment (**on May 15th, 2025, at 8 a.m.**). Most four-year colleges and universities in the United States and universities in 60 countries recognize AP in the admission process and grant students credit placement or both based on successful AP Exam scores (visit [www.collegeboard.org/apcreditpolicy](http://www.collegeboard.org/apcreditpolicy) to view AP credit and placement policies at more than 1,000 colleges and universities).

Scoring a 3 or higher on an AP Spanish Exam means more than just the successful completion of a course; it is a gateway to success in college.

**IMPORTANT:** The AP Spanish course **is not intended to focus on teaching grammar concepts.**

Students enrolled in the AP Spanish course are expected to show mastery of concepts covered in levels 1, 2, and 3.

## **AP Spanish Language and Culture - College Board Exam Structure:**

### **Section I**

#### **Part A:** Interpretive Communication - Print texts

30 multiple-choice questions

Weight: 23% - time 40 minutes

#### **Part B:** Interpretive Communication: Print and audio texts combined and audio texts

35 Multiple-choice questions

Weight: 27% - Time: 55 minutes

### **Section II- Free-response questions**

**Total time:** 88 minutes - **Weight:** 50%

**Question 1: Email Reply** - 15 minutes (12.5%)

**Question 2: Argumentative Essay** - 55 minutes (12.5%)

**Question 3: Conversation** – 18 minutes (12.5%)

**Question 4: Cultural Comparison** – Time: 6 minutes (12.5%)

## **AP Spanish Course - Thematic Units**

### **Thematic Unit 1: El individuo y su identidad**

Theme: Personal and Public Identities / Las identidades personales y públicas

Contexts Covered:

- Alienation and Assimilation / La enajenación y la asimilación
- Heroes and Historical Figures / Los héroes y los personajes históricos
- National and Ethnic Identities / La identidad nacional y la identidad étnica
- Personal Beliefs / Las creencias personales
- Self-Image / La autoestima

## **Thematic Unit 2: Los efectos de la tecnología**

Theme: Science and Technology / La ciencia y la tecnología

Contexts Included:

- Access to Technology / El acceso a la tecnología
  - Effects of Technology on Self and Society / Los efectos de la tecnología en el individuo y en la sociedad
  - Health Care and Medicine / El cuidado de la salud y la medicina
  - Innovations / Las innovaciones tecnológicas
- Natural Phenomena / Los fenómenos naturales
- Science and Ethics / La ciencia y la ética

## **Thematic Unit Three: El valor de la familia y la comunidad**

Theme: Families and Communities / Las familias y las Comunidades

Contexts Included:

- Customs and Values / Las tradiciones y los valores
- Education Communities / Las comunidades educativas
- Family Structure / La estructura de la familia
- Global Citizenship / La ciudadanía global
- Human Geography / La geografía humana
- Social Networking / Las redes sociales

## **Thematic Unit 4: Global Challenges / Los desafíos mundiales**

Contexts:

- Economic Issues / Los temas económicos
- Environmental Issues / Los temas del medio ambiente
- Philosophical Thought and Religion / El pensamiento filosófico y la religión
- Population and Demographics / La población y la demografía
- Social Welfare / El bienestar social
- Social Conscience / La conciencia social

## **Thematic Unit 5: Contemporary Life / La vida contemporánea**

Contexts:

- Education and Careers / La educación y las carreras profesionales
- Entertainment / El entretenimiento y la diversión
- Travel and Leisure / Los viajes y el ocio
- Lifestyles / Los estilos de vida
- Relationships / Las relaciones personales
- Social Customs and Values / Las tradiciones y los valores sociales
- Volunteerism / El trabajo voluntario

## Thematic Unit 6: Beauty and Aesthetics / La belleza y la estética

### Contexts:

- Architecture / La arquitectura
- Defining Beauty / Definiciones de la belleza
- Defining Creativity / Definiciones de la creatividad
- Fashion and Design / La moda y el diseño
- Language and Literature / El lenguaje y la literatura
- Visual and Performing Arts / Las artes visuales y escénicas

\*Source: The College Board. <http://apcentral.collegeboard.com>

### Resources

- <https://apclassroom.collegeboard.org/31/home>
- Handouts and worksheets provided by the teacher throughout the year.
- Canvas will be the main platform where students will have access to the Spanish class resources, assignments, information about deadlines and other announcements.
- Textbooks: AP Spanish Preparing for the language and Culture Examination, and Triángulo Aprobado.

Join the class in AP Classroom:

<https://myap.collegeboard.org/>

### AP Spanish Language and Culture

Section	Join Code
<a href="#">2024 - 2025 A1 - AP</a>	LP3LJ3 
<a href="#">2024 - 2025 B4 - AP</a>	VPE3YD 

Items needed every class:

HISD Laptop  
Three-ring binder  
Headsets  
Lined paper  
Pencils (to complete work)  
Red pens (to make corrections)

## Grading Plan

Test/ Projects = 50 %

Homework = 15 %

Quizzes / Classwork = 35 %

**Quizzes and Projects are not eligible for retakes.**

**Extra credit is not offered in this class**

- The teacher will submit grades every week on the student's gradebook in [HISD Connect by PowerSchool](#). This information is available 24/7. Students and parents are encouraged to monitor grades at least once a week and notify the teacher of any errors if found.
- Students will ask questions about their assignments DURING school hours (preferably during the class period) to make sure the teacher can assist them before an assignment's deadline.
- Questions asked during non-school hours will likely be answered on the next school day.
- Students MUST report any problem in completing an assignment **before the deadline**; otherwise, the assignment will be considered late.
- Students will contact the teacher at [LLEON1@houstonisd.org](mailto:LLEON1@houstonisd.org).

### Late Work Policy and Make-Up Policy

- The student should complete assignments/assessments by the due date. Late assignments are graded based on a scale of 70 points unless due to an excused absence.
- A missed assignment or assessment must be completed within 3 school days; otherwise, the grade will be zero.
- A student who has been unable to complete assignments/assessments due to an excused absence (i.e.: illness or other special circumstances as determined by DeBakey HSHP policy) should complete them within three school days counted from the day the student has returned to school. After 3 school days, the grade will be zero.
- If absent, a student is responsible to find out what work needs to be completed by checking the Spanish class page in Canvas.
- If a student is unable to access the Spanish class's webpage or has problems while completing an assignment; he/she should notify the teacher at [LLEON1@houstonisd.org](mailto:LLEON1@houstonisd.org) or during class. **The student MUST report any problem before the deadline has passed; otherwise, the assignment will be considered late.**

## **Cheating Policy**

Cheating is academic dishonesty. Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty shall be subject to disciplinary penalties and grade penalties on assignments or tests. Academic dishonesty includes copying the work of another student, allowing work to be copied, writing notes on desk tops or other surfaces, using cell phones during examinations, taking pictures of assessments and/or sharing with others, plagiarism, unauthorized communication between students during an examination, making untrue statements or giving misleading information or impressions, and any other situation that involves students attempting to mislead or acquire information to gain academic advantage.

## **Cell Phones and Electronic Devices**

Cell phones, personal devices, headphones, and earbuds are not to be out, visible, nor used during class time and during transitions between classes. Cell phones are not to be used during class time unless the teacher has specifically allowed it for instructional purposes. In addition to disciplinary action, the unauthorized use of electronic devices may result in confiscation. A \$15 administrative fee payable to HISD will be charged if the device is claimed within the 30 days. Devices not claimed will be sent to Property Management for disposal. As of publication, students may only use cell phones during the lunch period when on campus.

**IMPORTANT:** If a student uses a phone during testing, the consequences for cheating will apply. Students who possess cell phones during state and national testing will have their exams voided.

## **Retake Policy**

- If a student receives a failing grade on a test, he/she may request a retake for a maximum average of 70 points.
- The retake grade will be calculated by averaging the grades of the first and second tests. If such an average is higher than 70, the final grade will automatically default to 70.
- Quizzes are not eligible for retakes.
- Common Assessments or Final Exams are not eligible for retakes.
- The retake must be completed within 5 school days after the results of the first test have been communicated to the student or on the day and time indicated by the teacher.
- Retake opportunities should only be scheduled outside of regular class time.

## **Tutorials (by appointment only)**

- Tuesdays afternoon (3:35 p. m. - 4:30 p. m.). At the teacher's discretion, tutorial days may be changed throughout the year. The teacher will notify students when it happens.
- To schedule a tutorial, students should email their teacher at [LLEON1@houstonisd.org](mailto:LLEON1@houstonisd.org) at least 24 hours in advance.

# CLASSROOM RULES

1. Be on time
2. Be prepared
3. Be attentive
4. Be respectful
5. Ask for help
6. Keep food and drinks out of class (except for bottled **water**)
7. Take care of your restroom /water needs during passing time. Any medical condition that causes a student to go to the restroom frequently should be reported to the school nurse to request special accommodations if applicable.
8. Refrain from using electronic devices (cell phones, cameras, music players, tablets, etc.) unless authorized by your teacher. Unauthorized devices will be taken up and given to the administration according to the DHSHP policy.
- 9. Don't chew gum!**
10. ALWAYS follow your teacher's instructions.
11. Always follow the [DeBakey HSHP Student Code of Conduct](#).



**These are NOT ALLOWED in Ms. Leon's classroom.**

**WHY?** They spill too easily and disrupt classroom instruction.  
Only water bottles with screw caps are permitted. No exceptions!



**NO CHEWING GUM!**

**NOTE TO PARENTS – PLEASE READ**

**How to monitor your child's progress in the Spanish course:**

There is no need to wait until you receive a progress report or report card by mail to learn about your child's progress. You can obtain a detailed report on your child's grades and attendance at any time by accessing [HISD Connect by PowerSchool](#) (please note that, per HISD policy, teachers are not allowed to send progress reports electronically).

Monitor your child's grades at least once a week, and communicate any concerns via email to [LLEON1@houstonisd.org](mailto:LLEON1@houstonisd.org)

Learn your child's log in information to Canvas, to have access to lesson plans and announcements for my class.

Report any condition temporary or permanent that interferes with your child's performance or attendance to school administrators and teachers.

Verify that your contact information in [HISD Connect by PowerSchool](#) is current and accurate to receive communications from our school.

A successful learning journey can only be possible with the active participation of teachers, students and parents or guardians.

I look forward to working with you on your child's academic journey.

Sincerely,

Ms. Leon

## Letters of Recommendations for College Admissions

Before requesting a letter of recommendation from Ms. Leon, make sure you have met the following qualifications in her Spanish course:

- A cumulative grade of 85 or above.
- A conduct code of “E” (Excellent) in every cycle.
- No more than 2 unexcused absences each semester.
- No more 2 unexcused tardies each semester.

Your recommendation letter should be requested at least 4 weeks before its deadline. Otherwise, your request will be denied even if you have met all the criteria.

Please note that teachers are under no obligation of writing you a letter of recommendation. Receiving one is a privilege, not a right.

Plan accordingly.

Ms. Leon

**PARENT - STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ STUDENT ID: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing this paper, you are indicating that you have read **thoroughly and understood:**

- (1) Ms. Leon’s Spanish class syllabus
- (2) Class rules & expectations
- (3) Grading plan.

In the event of any change to any of the items mentioned above, Ms. Leon will notify students and parents/guardians in writing.

_____	_____	_____
Student name (print).	Student signature	Date
_____	_____	_____
Parent or Guardian name (print).	Parent or Guardian signature	Date
Parent or guardian ’s email address: _____		
Parent or guardian’s phone number: _____		

**This paper should be signed and returned to Ms. Leon on:**

**Monday, August 19<sup>th</sup> , 2024**