



World Language Department

Recommended Course Sequences

Plan A: Preparation for Humanities Majors and for Highly-Selective Colleges and Universities.

At Gunderson, the following 4 Spanish or French courses are recommended for students planning to attend highly selective colleges such as Stanford, CAL, and USF:

Spanish 1-2	French 1-2
Spanish 3-4	French 3-4
Spanish 5-6 Honors	French 5-6
AP Spanish	AP French

Plan B: Preparation for 4-year Colleges

The UC system, the Cal State system, and most private colleges require 2 years of the same language and recommend that a third year be completed while in high school.

Spanish 1-2	French 1-2
Spanish 3-4	French 3-4
Spanish 5-6	French 5-6

Plan C: San Jose Unified School District Minimal Graduation Requirements:

Students not planning to attend college immediately after high school, are still required to complete 2 years of foreign language in order to graduate.

Spanish 1-2	French 1-2
Spanish 3-4	French 3-4

Department Faculty 2015-2016

Mrs. Deanna Duffy (Dept. Chair)

French 1/2
French 3/4
French 5/6

Mr. Sean McDonald

Spanish 1/2
Spanish 3/4

Ms. Marta Orendain

Spanish 3/4
Spanish 5/6 Honors

Mrs. Elizabeth Martinez

Spanish 1/2
Spanish 3/4

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Spanish 1-2 and French 1-2

This first-year college preparatory course provides students with the basics of the language. Students begin to speak, listen to, read and write in the language. Students are introduced to the five goals of foreign language instruction: communication, cultures, connections, comparisons, and communities. These goals are emphasized throughout the course as students learn basic vocabulary related to everyday needs and activities as well as grammatical forms and functions. Ability to communicate on a basic level is the standard of this course.

Spanish 3-4 and French 3-4

This second year college preparatory course continues to provide students with the opportunity to increase their ability to speak, listen, read and write in the target language. With this course, students complete the San Jose Unified School District graduation requirement for foreign language. Students improve on basic language skills and knowledge in order to be successful if further study of the language is desired. Students will continue to address the five goals of foreign language instruction: communication, cultures, connections, comparisons, and communities. These goals are emphasized throughout the course as students learn basic vocabulary related to everyday needs and activities as well as grammatical forms and functions. Accuracy in speaking and writing are emphasized in order to foster a high standard of oral and written communication.

Spanish 5-6 and French 5-6

This course reviews, reinforces and expands the grammar and communication skills learned in the previous levels, preparing the students to advance to the AP Language class. Accuracy in speaking and writing are emphasized in order to foster a high standard of oral and written communication. Through reading about and discussing literature, history, customs and geography, the students enhance their understanding of the cultures of the target language. Virtually all classwork and communication is in the target language.

Spanish 5-6 Honors

This course emphasizes the use of the Spanish Language for active communication and prepares the student to advance the students to the AP Spanish Language class. Fluency in the four modalities of language is developed throughout the course, leading to bilingualism and bi-literacy. Completion of this course ensures that the students have realized the five goals of the Standards for Foreign Language Learning: Communication, Cultures, Connections Comparisons, and Communities. The course is conducted in Spanish.

Spanish for Native Speakers 1-2

Designed for heritage speakers of Spanish, this course focuses on the development of Spanish literacy skills and communicative competence in the language. In this course, students will enrich their vocabulary and improve their formal writing skills. Instruction will be in the target language and students will work through units of study with an emphasis improving their understanding of the components of language.

Spanish for Native Speakers 3-4

This course continues to develop the reading and writing skills of heritage Spanish-speakers. Through literacy and leadership units focused on the Common Core for Spanish Language Arts, students increase their ability to understand complex texts and write effectively in academic settings. Also, through leadership opportunities and training in peer tutoring, students improve their bi-literate and bicultural skills.

AP Spanish Language and AP French language

This course provides highly motivated students with an intellectual challenge through the advanced study of Spanish or French literature and language. Students read, analyze and understand literary texts of all genres in the native language. Proficiency in the four language skills is developed to a degree that allows students to read with comprehension at sight and listen to native audio with comfortability. The students learn to formulate and express critical opinions and judgments orally and in writing. They also learn the technique of literary analysis using the appropriate critical terminology. The course culminates in the AP language exam, which contains written and spoken components.