OSP03: AP Spanish

Course Description
This course is intended for students who wish to develop a strong command of the Spanish language (acquiring proficiency in integrating language skills and synthesizing written and aural materials), including formal writing, interpersonal and presentational speaking/writing, and aural comprehension through authentic and level-appropriate audio/video recordings. The use of Spanish-language newspapers, radio broadcasts, video clips, and literary works form the foundation of the course. Language and culture are taught simultaneously through the use of these materials. The class is conducted in Spanish and includes frequent writing, presentations, and integration of skills with a rigorous review of grammatical structures.

Course Topics
- Travel
- Immigration
- Adolescence
- Food
- People and personalities
- Sports
- Technology
- Environment
- Arts
- Literature and poetry

Texts
*Abriendo paso: Lectura.*
Díaz, José M. and María F. Nadel.

*¡A toda vela! 2nd ed.*
Herrera, Carmen and Paul Lamontagne.

Major Assignments
Each semester, the final letter grade will be determined on the basis of the following types of assignments in Spanish:
- Participation in class discussions
- Compositions and formal oral presentations
- Journal writing
- Listening/writing assignments
- Conversational prompts (recorded and/or with instructor)
- Linguistic-cultural contacts
- Presentations based on news from Spanish-speaking countries
- End of semester conversation/interview with instructor
- Quizzes on grammar and readings
- Mid-semester examination
- Final semester examination
Sample Assignments

Composition: Historic struggle
Write a 2-3 page essay that explains and reviews a historic struggle that took place in a Spanish-speaking country (e.g., war of independence; political struggle; religious conflict; or conflict between ethnic, racial, and social classes). Your task is to choose a conflict in a Spanish-speaking country and 1) explain its history and 2) consider the results had the struggle/conflict gone another way. Furthermore, you need to present the nature and significance of the conflict, argue about the outcome of the conflict, and expose its consequences.

Linguistic-cultural contact: Interview with a native Spanish-speaker
In preparation for the interview, you will need to obtain advance information on the person you are interviewing (e.g., where s/he is from, where s/he grew up, and her/his origins). The person you interview must be someone who grew up in an environment where Spanish was the predominant language. Keep in mind that this conversation is not unilateral, but should be a rewarding exchange between you and the interviewee. To that end, please ask your interviewee to ask you questions that will enrich the conversation and understanding of similarities and differences between both of you.