

LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH (L.O.T.E.)

The foreign language program is designed to meet the needs of students who demonstrate varying levels of proficiency. Unusual language experience or aptitude could accelerate language acquisition; therefore, the Language Department continuously evaluates students to ensure proper pacing and placement.

The study of foreign languages is an integral part of secondary education. It is clear that in the new millennium proficiency in a foreign language will be necessary in order to face the difficult challenge of our contemporary world. The increasing interdependence of all nations, the sensitivity of international relations and international trade have created a crucial need for foreign language proficiency.

The L.O.T.E. Department offers courses in six languages other than English. Mandarin Chinese, French, Hebrew, Latin, Spanish and American Sign Language are offered in three, four, and five unit sequences.

Spanish students will take a final examination at the end of grade 8. A determination will be made based on the final course grade as to whether students will be recommended for the three year Regents equivalency sequence or the four-year Regents equivalency sequence. Those students approved for the three-year Regents equivalency sequence will take the Regents equivalency exam at the end of the tenth grade. Students approved for the four-year Regents equivalency sequence will take the Regents equivalency exam at the end of 11th grade. Generally, students who start their first foreign language in the ninth grade will be in the four-year Regents equivalency sequence. Students, who start their second foreign language in grade 9 will be in the three-year Regents equivalency sequence.

A chart below identifies typical sequences of study for students of varying ability levels in foreign language.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE SEQUENCES

LANGUAGE	MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADES	HIGH SCHOOL GRADES
AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE	X	I, II, III*,IV
CHINESE	6, 7,8	9, 10*, 11, 12AP 1, 9, 10, 11
FRENCH	6, 7, 8	9, 10*, 11, 12, AP I, 9, 10*, 11
HEBREW	6, 7, 8	9, 10*, 11, 12 I, 9, 10*, 11 10*, 11, 12, Seminar
LATIN	6,7,8	9,10*, 11, AP I, 9, 10*, 11
SPANISH	6, 7, 8 6, 7, 8 I	9, 10*, 11, 12 9, 10*, 11H, AP II, 9, 10*, 12 I, II, 9, 10* I, 9, 10*, 11H or 12

*Regents equivalency Examination is administered at the end of this course

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL)

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL) I***

ASL is a visual/gestural language with its own grammatical structure that is composed of precise hand shapes, facial expressions, movements, and body language. In this one year introductory level course, students will be introduced to this visual-gestural language that serves as a means of communicating with Deaf People.

1 unit of credit

No prerequisite

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL) II***

Designed for students who have successfully completed ASL I. Continued development of visual-gestural skills and the study of culture within the deaf community will be emphasized.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: ASL I

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL) III***

This course is designed for students who have successfully completed ASL II. Emphasis will be placed on advanced vocabulary and structure. Students must take the Regents equivalency Examination at the end of ASLIII.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: ASL II

***Some colleges do not accept American Sign Language as a recognized second language.

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE IV*

ASL IV will continue to develop expressive and receptive skills. Advanced fingerspelling and colloquialisms will be covered. Students will read a Deaf Culture novel and report on it in ASL for their video portfolio.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite-ASL III

***Some colleges do not accept American Sign Language as a recognized second language.

CHINESE (Mandarin)

MANDARIN CHINESE I

This is a foundation course for the student with little or no background in Mandarin dialect and/or reading knowledge of Chinese characters. The basics of pronunciation, simple conversation, and character writing will be introduced. Students will study Chinese culture.

1 unit of credit

No prerequisite

MANDARIN CHINESE 9

A continuation of Chinese I, with further development of both conversational and reading skills. Appreciation for Chinese culture continues to be developed.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: Chinese 1 or Chinese 8

MANDARIN CHINESE 10

This course seeks to develop more advanced speaking and writing skills in Mandarin. Chinese culture will also be explored. This course will culminate in a comprehensive exam, which fulfills the NYS Regents requirement.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: Chinese 9

MANDARIN CHINESE 11

This class will continue to develop all four language skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening. In addition, special attention will be paid to the study of traditional and modern Chinese culture as well as the study of characters.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: Chinese 10 and Department recommendation

CHINESE 12/ADVANCED PLACEMENT

This course develops a high level of proficiency in Chinese. Conversational ability is directed toward extended discourse, comprehension of texts on a wide variety of topics, and competent reaction orally and in writing to materials presented for listening and reading.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: Chinese 11 and Department recommendation

FRENCH

FRENCH I

This is a beginning audio-lingual course which emphasizes basic communication skills in the foreign language. It is an introduction to French culture.

1 unit of credit

No prerequisite

FRENCH 9

This course is designed for students who began their study of French in grade 6, completed French grade 8, or completed French I/IA as a second foreign language. While the development of audio-lingual skills continues to be stressed, increasing emphasis is placed on the acquisition of proficiency in reading and writing. Cultural study will be enlarged with selected materials from contemporary magazines, short stories, poems and visuals.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: French in grade 8 or French I

FRENCH 10

Designed for students who have successfully completed French 9. Language concepts will move from the concrete to the abstract. Students will continue to develop audio-lingual skills while reading and writing will be stressed on a more advanced level. Selections from contemporary literature will be discussed and students will be introduced to modern poetry with Prevert.

Cultural understanding will evolve with increasing mastery of the language.

Selected issues on contemporary French society will be discussed with the aid of periodicals and newspapers. Students must take the Regents equivalency Examination at the end of French 10.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: French 9

FRENCH 11

Designed for students who have completed French 10. Continued emphasis will be placed on conversational and syntactical skills and on usage and understanding of the foreign language at an advanced level. Students successful in this course may take AP French with a department recommendation.

Linguistic, cultural, historical and contemporary aspects of francophone civilization will be explored through literary selections and a variety of newspapers and magazines. Audio lingual skills will be further developed in the language laboratory through the use of dramatic stories on tape.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: French 10 and Department recommendation

FRENCH 12

This course is specifically designed as an advanced conversation course in French. Problems of contemporary society will be discussed through the study of selected essays by significant writers, sociologists and journalists of modern France.

French television programs, films, as well as a variety of audio-lingual materials will be utilized to foster individual oral mastery of the French language.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: French 11

ADVANCED PLACEMENT FRENCH

WHO SHOULD TAKE A.P. FRENCH?

You should consider taking A.P. French Language if you have a firm grasp of the fundamentals of the language and a high degree of competence in listening comprehension, reading, speaking and writing. The abilities to think critically and to do literary analysis are necessary for success in the course. The prospective A.P. student should have an "A" average in all previous courses. In addition, you must be able to do independent study outside the classroom for utilization in class. A willingness to concentrate on developing a greater degree of proficiency, an ability to give oral reports and constant daily participation in class are requisites.

WHAT IS STUDIED?

Advanced Placement in French Language is the equivalent of a third year college level course in advanced composition, grammar and conversation. Since the A.P. examination puts equal weight on each of the four language skills (25% speaking, 25% auditory comprehension, 25% reading comprehension and 25% writing), all four skills will be utilized and stressed in the study of literature, advanced composition, advanced grammar and the mastery of extensive vocabulary.

You will use a variety of texts that include the study of selected works from Camus, De Beauvoir, Sartre, and the analysis of contemporary issues, as seen by French essayists and sociologists. Course content will not be limited to conventional texts, but might be based on any of the broad areas of intellectual interest shared by students and teacher. Materials

are drawn from diverse sources including cassettes, films, newspapers and magazines. You will prepare for the A.P. examination with samples of past A.P. exams.

WHAT WILL BE EXPECTED OF ME?

Over the summer, prior to the start of the A.P. course, you will be expected to do readings, write papers and record your speaking on cassettes. During the year, you will be required to submit various papers, work weekly in the language laboratory and prepare oral presentations. You must be prepared to complete a minimum of six - eight hours of preparation outside the classroom per week and to complete the reading and writing assignments.

The program for the year will be given to you during the first week of school so that you may organize and prepare your assignments well ahead. You will be prepared and required to take the A.P. exam in May. Grades will be determined solely on the mastery of the A.P. curriculum.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: French 11 Department recommendation.

Those not receiving the department recommendation will be required to meet with counselor, chairperson of the Foreign Language Department, and parents to ensure full awareness of the high level of commitment and skill required to succeed in French A.P.

HEBREW

HEBREW I

A beginning level course emphasizing the development of the four language skills: understanding, speaking, reading, and writing.

1 unit of credit

No prerequisite

HEBREW 9

A continuation of Hebrew I. In addition to more advanced grammar and word study, emphasis will be placed on oral comprehension exercises of intermediate difficulty. Selected and adapted works related to Israeli culture will be read.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: Hebrew I, 8 or departmental approval

HEBREW 10

A thorough review of spoken and written contemporary Hebrew and introduction to classical Hebrew structures will be made. Continued development of oral fluency and the ability to read extensively will be stressed. Cultural studies will include readings, lectures and reports on classical and contemporary mores. The Regents equivalency Examination will be required at the end of this course. Israeli students will be required to do projects, demonstrations and news reports.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: Hebrew 9 or departmental approval

HEBREW 11

This course will explore Israeli culture through the use of dialogues, interviews and library/internet sources. Students will be able to choose those areas of interest to them; i.e., Israeli poetry including Amichai and Rachel, literature, current events, or journal articles. Individual reports and papers will be required. Some contemporary Israeli films will be studied and discussed.

Continued emphasis will be placed on all language skills at an advanced level.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: Hebrew 10 or departmental approval

HEBREW 12

A continuation of Hebrew 11, this course will be offered to students who are interested in studying the different aspects of Israeli life through problem solving techniques. Contemporary authors, newspapers, periodicals, and films will be studied in this course. Emphasis will be placed on oral performance in the foreign language at a level of sophistication appropriate to advanced study.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: Hebrew 11 or departmental approval

HEBREW SEMINAR

This course will be offered to students having successfully completed Hebrew 12. Works of several major contemporary authors and thematic studies of Israeli culture will be selected by students. In addition, students will be expected to do numerous oral and written projects during each semester. Independent projects will be authorized and planned cooperatively with the teacher.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: Hebrew 12 or departmental approval

LATIN

LATIN I

This introductory course is designed for students interested in learning Latin and its culture, including mythology and Roman history. Students will strengthen their knowledge of English vocabulary and grammar, important components of standardized testing, such as the SAT exams.

1 unit of credit

No prerequisite

LATIN 9

This course is a continuation of Latin 8 or Latin I. Emphasis is placed on vocabulary acquisition, translation, the principals of grammar and syntax, reading and writing, and etymology. A survey of Classical Mythology as well as an overview of Ancient Roman history is also covered. Class projects include writing and performing a one-act play based on a myth as well as contributing comics, riddles, and poems to the Latin magazine. Text: Latin Via Ovid

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: Latin 8

LATIN 10

This course, an anthology of Roman authors, will review all elementary and advanced grammar, as well as introduce syntax particular to certain writers. Emphasis is placed on reading comprehension and translation. Readings include selections both from the prose of Caesar, Livy, Cicero, Sallust, and from the poetry of Ovid, Catullus, and Vergil. A detailed survey of Roman Republican and Imperial politics will also be covered. Class projects include a mock trial of Brutus. This course will culminate in a comprehensive exam, which fulfills the NYS Regents requirement.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: Latin 9

LATIN 11

This course is a continuation of Latin 10. It is designed to meet the needs of the student who desires to continue the study of Latin, but is not ready for an AP class. Emphasis is put on poetry and Latin poetics, as exhibited in the work of Catullus, Vergil and Ovid. Advanced study of Latin grammar and syntax is a significant component of this course.

Honors by distinction

Students will be given the opportunity to earn honors credit within their Latin class.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: Latin 10

ADVANCED PLACEMENT LATIN: VERGIL'S AENEID

A detailed study of an author or two with emphasis on the translation and interpretation of selections from Latin poetry. About two thousand lines are required to be read and understood. Topics covered include literary criticism, meter, grammar, and literary devices. An ability to translate about thirty lines per night and to write brief, clear essays that explain any aspect of the passages are vital to success. Passages must be prepared nightly and reviewed during class.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: Latin 11 and Department

Recommendation

SPANISH

SPANISH I

An introductory level language course which emphasizes the development of the four language skills: ability to speak, understand, read and write elementary Spanish. Introduction to Spanish culture. This course is for students who have no previous experience with Spanish.

1 unit of credit

No prerequisite

SPANISH II

This course is open to students who have successfully completed one year of Spanish and who have been recommended for the four-year Regents equivalency sequence. An audio-lingual approach is used with additional emphasis in reading and writing skills. Cultural study will be enlarged with selected materials from short stories, magazines, visuals, and student oral presentations.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: Spanish I or Spanish 8

SPANISH 9

This course is designed for students who began their study of Spanish in Grade 6, completed Spanish 8 and scored high in the placement exam in Grade 8 or completed Spanish II. While the development of audio-lingual skills continues to be stressed, increasing emphasis is placed on the acquisition of proficiency in reading and writing. Cultural study will be enlarged with selected reading materials and visuals.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: Spanish 8/II

SPANISH 10

Spanish 10 is a heterogeneously grouped class that prepares students for the Regents equivalency exam at the end of the year. This class combines students who have successfully completed Spanish 9. All four language skills are emphasized-listening, speaking, reading and writing. The curriculum also focuses on the culture and literature of all Spanish speaking countries. This course will culminate in a comprehensive exam, which fulfills the NYS Regents requirement.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: Spanish 9

SPANISH 11

This course is designed for students who have successfully completed Spanish 10. Students will continue to develop their communication skills in a curriculum based on their interests and preferences. Individual and group projects will be assigned regularly.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: Spanish 10

SPANISH 11H

This course is designed for students who have successfully completed Spanish 10 and have intentions of continuing to Spanish AP in the 12th grade. Continued emphasis will be placed on conversational and syntactical skills, and on usage and understanding of the Spanish language. Linguistic, cultural, and literary aspects of Hispanic civilization will be explored and conversational proficiency will be emphasized.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: Spanish 10, minimum of 90 average for course,
90 on Regents equivalency Exam and
Department recommendation

SPANISH 12

This course is designed to continue the development of all four skills: speaking, listening, reading, and writing at an advanced level. Spanish 12 will include units of study in Hispanic history, politics and customs. Films, current newspapers, magazines and the internet will be used to enhance cultural awareness, as well as to improve language proficiency. Students will also analyze and create original works and develop projects using the language lab.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: Spanish 11/11H or Spanish 10,
if enrolling as a senior.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT SPANISH

WHO SHOULD TAKE A.P. SPANISH?

You should consider taking A.P. Spanish if you have a firm mastery of auditory comprehension, speaking, reading and writing skills. The abilities to think critically and to do literary analysis are necessary for success in this course. The prospective student for A.P. Spanish should have an "A" average in all previous Spanish courses. In addition, you must be able to do independent study outside of class for utilization within the classroom. A willingness and an ability to give oral presentations in front of the class and constant daily participation in class are requisites.

WHAT IS STUDIED?

Since the A.P. exam puts equal weight on each of the four language skills (25% speaking, 25% writing, 25% reading comprehension and 25% writing), all four skills will be utilized and stressed in the study of literature, advanced composition, advanced grammar and the mastery of extensive vocabulary. You will use a variety of texts including Latin American short stories, selected excerpts and poetry from the 19th and 20th century Peninsula writers, a college grammar text and a plethora of teacher made materials. All texts, materials and explanations are in Spanish. The emphasis is on using Spanish as a tool to study literature and to develop advanced speaking, auditory comprehension and writing competencies.

WHAT WILL BE EXPECTED OF ME?

You will be required to have assignments turned in on time and to be prepared daily. Assignments are given well in advance and it is your responsibility to organize your time wisely. You must be prepared to spend from six-to eight hours of outside preparation per week to adequately complete all reading and writing assignments. Students will be responsible for learning thematic vocabulary on their own and will receive a weekly quiz. Students will also write essays on philosophical and social topics. Extensive work will be done in the language laboratory on listening and speaking skills.

You will be required to prepare for and take the A.P. exam in May. The difficulty of the exam is equivalent to the third year of foreign language study at the university level. A summer reading will be assigned with an essay and packet due the first day of school.

1 unit of credit

Prerequisite: Spanish 11H Department
recommendation.

Those not receiving the department recommendation will be required to meet with counselor, chairperson of the Foreign Language Department, and parents to ensure full awareness of the high level of commitment and skill required to succeed in A.P. Spanish.