

PHILOSOPHY OF THE WORLD LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

The Lemont High School World Languages Department believes students should develop the following characteristics:

- Ability to communicate in the target language in order to function in a variety of situations and for multiple purposes
- Make connections with other disciplines and acquire information and diverse perspectives in order to use the language to function in academic and career-related situations
- Acquire linguistic and cultural competencies in order to become effective global citizens

Courses offered within the World Languages curriculum offer students the opportunity to study American Sign Language, French and Spanish. Courses help students communicate and interact with cultural competence so that they can participate in multilingual communities at home and around the world. Students use the target language to investigate, explain and reflect on the nature of language through comparisons of the target language and their own. All courses offered by the World Languages Department are appropriate for college-bound students.

Based on their abilities and course level, students shall be able to understand and communicate in the target language through:

- Reading and understanding the main ideas of authentic texts, both fiction and nonfiction
- Listening to and interpreting authentic target language from a variety of sources
- Acquiring information through questioning and problem solving techniques
- Employing language functions to express descriptions, narratives and viewpoints

Grading Standards: Student grades are determined by their performance on interpretive and interpersonal examinations. Students enrolled in third- or fourth-year courses have the option of enrolling for honors credit; those students enrolled in the highest level of a language may have the opportunity to earn Advanced Placement credit.

American Sign Language Functional Communication

Grades Course Open To: 9-10-11-12 **Credit:** 1.0

Prerequisite: None

Description: This course provides students with introductory interpersonal skills in American Sign Language. The focus is on building functional communicative skills, as students benefit from direct instruction related to vocabulary, forming signs, communication processes, and understanding the norms of the deaf community. Students who may not yet be ready for a World Languages class have the opportunity to begin acquiring the skills and perspective of a second language.

World Languages

American Sign Language I

Grades Course Open To: 9-10-11-12 **Credit:** 1.0

Prerequisite: None

Description: This course focuses on the study of American Sign Language and allows students to gain mastery of introductory level communication skills when speaking with a member of the deaf community. Students receive direct instruction related to vocabulary, forming signs, communication processes, and understanding the norms of the deaf community.

American Sign Language II

Grades Course Open To: 9-10-11-12 **Credit:** 1.0

Prerequisite: Grade of C or better in American Sign Language I or teacher consent; students also may be placed into the course based on their performance on a placement exam and consent of the Division Chair

Description: This course continues the process of developing American Sign Language communication skills, as the basic skills of watching and signing are expanded. Hand shape, location, orientation, movement and facial-body expression are practiced in order to improve proficiency. Deaf cultures and norms are studied. Students learn skills that are valuable for travel and employment opportunities.

American Sign Language III

Grades Course Open To: 10-11-12 **Credit:** 1.0

Prerequisite: Grade of C or better in American Sign Language II or teacher consent; students also may be placed into the course based on their performance on a placement exam and consent of the Division Chair

Description: This course expands upon the language communication skills developed in American Sign Language I and II. It continues to emphasize watching and signing in American Sign Language. Communication strategies and language patterns continue to be stressed as students demonstrate and develop their communicative proficiency through the completion of real world, thematic tasks. Additionally, this course focuses on the importance of cultural competency, which includes prominent historical figures and advocates for the deaf community. The skills and understandings learned will be valuable for travel and employment opportunities, and also will begin preparing students for advanced American Sign Language study.

American Sign Language IV

Grades Course Open To: 10-11-12 **Credit:** 1.0

Prerequisite: Grade of B or better in American Sign Language III or teacher consent; students also may be placed into the course based on their performance on a placement exam and consent of the Division Chair

Description: This course expands upon the language communication skills developed in American Sign Language I, II and III. It focuses on the synthesis and application of communication skills developed in previous levels of study, and continues to emphasize watching and signing in American Sign Language. Course materials are composed of authentic resources, furthering the cultural competencies learned in previous levels. Students continue developing their language proficiency skills as they delve deeper into American Sign Language language patterns. The skills and understandings learned are valuable for travel and employment opportunities, as well as advanced American Sign Language study. American Sign Language is the primary means of communication.

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French I

Grades Course Open To: 9-10-11-12 **Credit:** 1.0

Prerequisite: None

Description: This course begins the process of developing French language communication skills. This course teaches the basic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in French. Basic language patterns, pronunciation and vocabulary are practiced in class and at home. The course includes the study of Francophone cultures and traditions. The skills and understandings learned will be valuable for travel and employment opportunities, and the course also should help students improve their English language skills.

French II

Grades Course Open To: 9-10-11-12 **Credit:** 1.0

Prerequisite: Grade of C or better in French I or teacher consent; students also may be placed into the course based on their performance on a placement exam and consent of the Division Chair

Description: This course continues the process of developing French language communication skills. This course continues to expand upon the basic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in French. Language patterns, pronunciation and communication strategies are practiced in order to improve proficiency. The course includes the study of Francophone cultures and traditions. The skills and understandings learned will be valuable for travel and employment opportunities, and the course also should help students improve their English language skills.

French III

Grades Course Open To: 10-11-12 **Credit:** 1.0

Prerequisite: Grade of C or better in French II or teacher consent; students also may be placed into the course based on their performance on a placement exam and consent of the Division Chair

Description: This course expands upon the language communication skills developed in French I and II. It continues to emphasize reading, writing, speaking and listening in French. Communication strategies and language patterns continue to be stressed as students demonstrate and develop their communicative proficiency through the completion of real world, thematic tasks. Additionally, this course focuses on the importance of cultural competency, which includes prominent historical, literary and artistic figures in the Francophone World. The skills and understandings learned will be valuable for travel and employment opportunities, and also will begin preparing students for advanced French study.

French III Honors

Grades Course Open To: 10-11-12 **Credit:** 1.0 - Honors credit

Prerequisite: Grade of A in French II or teacher consent; students also may be placed into the course based on their performance on a placement exam and consent of the Division Chair

Description: This course is designed for highly advanced students who have the ability and interest in a quicker-paced French course that expands upon the language communication skills developed in French I and II. It emphasizes accuracy in reading, writing, speaking and listening in French. Communication strategies and language patterns continue to be stressed as students demonstrate and develop communicative proficiency through the completion of real world, thematic tasks. Additionally, this course focuses on the importance of cultural competency, which includes prominent historical, literary and artistic figures in the Francophone World. The skills and understandings learned are valuable for travel and employment opportunities, and also will begin preparing students to take the AP French Language exam at the end of their fourth year of French study.

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French IV

Grades Course Open To: 10-11-12 **Credit:** 1.0

Prerequisite: Grade of B or better in French III or teacher consent; students also may be placed into the course based on their performance on a placement exam and consent of the Division Chair

Description: This course focuses on the synthesis and application of communication skills developed in previous levels of study, and continues to emphasize communication strategies and language patterns while reading, writing, speaking and listening in French. Course materials are composed of authentic resources, furthering the cultural competencies learned in previous levels. Students continue developing their language proficiency skills as they delve deeper into French language patterns and time frames. The skills and understandings learned are valuable for travel and employment opportunities, as well as advanced French study. French is the primary means of communication.

French IV Honors

Grades Course Open To: 10-11-12 **Credit:** 1.0 - Honors credit

Prerequisite: Grade of B or better in French III Honors or teacher consent; students also may be placed into the course based on their performance on a placement exam and consent of the Division Chair

Description: This course is designed for highly advanced students who have the ability and interest to continue with a quicker paced French class, furthering the emphasis on accuracy in reading, writing, speaking and listening in French. The course content focuses on global issues and challenges, deepening the students' cultural competency and awareness. Students work to refine their communication strategies through the study of advanced grammar and language patterns. The skills and understandings learned are valuable not only for travel and employment opportunities, but also for advanced study of French at the university level. French is exclusively spoken at this level.

Spanish I

Grades Course Open To: 9-10-11-12 **Credit:** 1.0

Prerequisite: None

Description: This course begins the process of developing Spanish language communication skills. This course teaches the basic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in Spanish. Basic language patterns, pronunciation and vocabulary are practiced in class and at home. The course includes the study of Hispanic cultures and traditions. The skills and understandings learned will be valuable for travel and employment opportunities, and the course also should help students improve their English language skills.

Spanish II

Grades Course Open To: 9-10-11-12 **Credit:** 1.0

Prerequisite: Grade of C or better in Spanish I or teacher consent; students also may be placed into the course based on their performance on a placement exam and consent of the Division Chair

Description: This course continues the process of developing Spanish language communication skills. This course continues to expand upon the basic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in Spanish. Language patterns, pronunciation and communication strategies are practiced in order to improve proficiency. The course includes the study of Hispanic cultures and traditions. The skills and understandings learned will be valuable for travel and employment opportunities, and the course also should help students improve their English language skills.

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Spanish II Honors

Grades Course Open To: 9-10-11-12 **Credit:** 1.0

Prerequisite: Grade of A in Spanish I or teacher consent; students also may be placed into the course based on their performance on a placement exam and consent of the Division Chair

Description: This course continues the process of developing Spanish language communication skills and is geared towards highly advanced students who have the ability and interest in a quicker-paced Spanish course. This course continues to emphasize the basic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in Spanish. Language patterns, pronunciation and communication strategies are practiced in order to improve proficiency. The course continues the study of Hispanic cultures and traditions and employs critical reading and listening skills. The skills and understandings learned will be valuable for travel and employment opportunities, and also will begin preparing students to enroll in Spanish III Honors and ultimately enroll in AP Spanish Language & Composition.

Spanish III

Grades Course Open To: 10-11-12 **Credit:** 1.0

Prerequisite: Grade of C or better in Spanish II or teacher consent; students also may be placed into the course based on their performance on a placement exam and consent of the Division Chair

Description: This course expands upon the language communication skills developed in Spanish I and II. It continues to emphasize reading, writing, speaking and listening in Spanish. Communication strategies and language patterns continue to be stressed as students demonstrate and develop their communicative proficiency through the completion of real world, thematic tasks. Additionally, this course focuses on the importance of cultural competency, which includes prominent historical, literary and artistic figures in the Hispanic World. The skills and understandings learned will be valuable for travel and employment opportunities, and also will begin preparing students for advanced Spanish study.

Spanish III Honors

Grades Course Open To: 10-11-12 **Credit:** 1.0 - Honors credit

Prerequisite: Grade of B or better in Spanish II Honors or teacher consent; students also may be placed into the course based on their performance on a placement exam and consent of the Division Chair

Description: This course is designed for highly advanced students who have the ability and interest in a quicker-paced Spanish course that expands upon the language communication skills developed in Spanish I and II. It emphasizes accuracy in reading, writing, speaking and listening in Spanish. Communication strategies and language patterns continue to be stressed as students demonstrate and develop communicative proficiency through the completion of real world, thematic tasks. Additionally, this course focuses on the importance of cultural competency, which includes prominent historical, literary and artistic figures in the Hispanic World. The skills and understandings learned are valuable for travel and employment opportunities, and also will begin preparing students to take the AP Spanish Language exam at the end of their fourth year of Spanish study.

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Spanish IV

Grades Course Open To: 10-11-12 **Credit:** 1.0

Prerequisite: Grade of C or better in Spanish III or teacher consent; students also may be placed into the course based on their performance on a placement exam and consent of the Division Chair

Description: This course focuses on the synthesis and application of communication skills developed in previous levels of study, and continues to emphasize communication strategies and language patterns while reading, writing, speaking and listening in Spanish. Course materials are composed of authentic resources, furthering the cultural competencies learned in previous levels. Students continue developing their language proficiency skills as they delve deeper into Spanish language patterns and time frames. The skills and understandings learned are valuable for travel and employment opportunities, as well as advanced Spanish study. Spanish is the primary means of communication.

AP Spanish Language and Culture

Grades Course Open To: 11-12 **Credit:** 1.0 - weighted for AP

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish IV Honors or grade of A in Spanish III Honors or Spanish IV

Fees: AP Spanish Language & Culture exam (paid at fall registration)

Description: This course stresses communication by applying the interpersonal, interpretive and presentational modes of communication in a variety of real-life contexts. This includes elements such as the usage of advanced vocabulary, grammatical structures, communication strategies, and cultural understanding. The course aims to prepare students to become effective communicators at the advanced level of language proficiency. To best facilitate the study of language and culture, the course is taught entirely in Spanish. **Note:** All students enrolled in this course **must** take the AP Spanish Language and Culture exam in the spring.