Course Descriptions

World Language Department

The World Language Department at Houston High School offers students the opportunity to become globally minded communicators through engaging, immersive instruction in French, German, Latin, and Spanish. What makes HHS unique is its focus on real-world language application. Students don't just learn vocabulary and grammar; they experience culture, conversation, and connection.

Course Offerings in World Language

Students are required to take two credits in a single language to graduate.

World Language Course Sequences

Grade 9		Grade 10		Grade 11 or Grade 12
German I	French I Honors	French I	French I Honors	French III Honors
Latin I	German I Honors	French II	French II Honors	French Language and Culture AP
	Latin I Honors	German I	German I Honors	German III Honors
	Spanish I Honors	German II	German II Honors	German Language and Culture AP
		Latin I	Latin I Honors	Latin III Honors
		Latin II	Latin II Honors	Latin AP
		Spanish I	Spanish I Honors	Spanish III Honors
		Spanish II	Spanish II Honors	Spanish Language and Culture AP

Course Offerings in World Languages

French: *The Language of Diplomacy and International Discourse*

French I

French I is an introduction to the basic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in French. A cultural overview of life in France and other French-speaking countries is also part of the course content.

Credits: 1.0	Grade Level: 10-11
Prerequisite: None	

French I Honors

French I Honors is an introductory study of the French language and culture. Extra emphasis is placed on speaking the language, vocabulary acquisition, composition and learning about French customs and culture. World language study is proven to increase scores on standardized tests, and the Honors Curriculum seeks to provide instruction to that end. A "B" overall grade point average is recommended. French I Honors is highly recommended for students who wish to pursue more than 2 credits of French.

Credits: 1.0	Grade Level: 9-11
Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation; Memo of understanding	

French II

French II is a continuation of French I. Emphasis is on vocabulary building, the use of correct grammar, and speaking and writing French.

Credits: 1.0	Grade Level: 10-12
Prerequisite: Completion of French I	

French II Honors

French II Honors is a continuation of French I with special emphasis on speaking the language. Use of correct French grammar and development of writing skills are important components of this course. It is strongly recommended that students have at least an "A" average in French I. French II Honors is highly recommended for students who wish to pursue more than 2 credits of French.

Credits: 1.0	Grade Level: 10-12
Prerequisite: Completion of French I; Teacher recommendation; Memo of understanding	

French III Honors

French III Honors is designed for students who want to increase their language proficiency and build their fluency in the French language. Knowledge and mastery of grammar are stressed as well as the naturalness of conversational French. Outside readings are also included in the program. It is strongly recommended that students have at least a 90 average in French II Honors. This course is designed to prepare students for Advanced Placement study.

Credits: 1.0	Grade Level: 10-12
Prerequisite: Completion of French II; Teacher recommendation; Memo of understanding	

French Language and Culture AP - *EPSO*

French Language and Culture AP follows the course description established by the College Board for French language. The course allows students to attempt to earn college credit while still in high school. The AP course is intended for students who have chosen to develop proficiency in French language. Students must have a good working knowledge of French grammar and considerable competency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. An "A" average in all previous French courses is strongly recommended. It would be beneficial to take AP European History. A final qualifying examination is required, and all students enrolled in the course must pay the fee for this examination. Receiving a certain score on the Advanced Placement exam may earn the student college credit.

Credits: 1.0	Grade Level: 11-12
Prerequisite: Completion of French III Honors; Teacher recommendation; Memo of understanding; AP Exam Fee; Completion of AP exam	



German: *The Language of Thinkers, Artists, and Scientists*

German I

German I is an introduction to the basic communication skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing in German. Emphasis is put on functional conversation and accuracy in writing. Basic vocabulary and grammar are studied. A cultural overview of German-speaking countries is a part of the course content. The course creates an awareness of Germany's top position in the European community and its importance as a participant in the global economy. It is recommended that students have a "B" average in English.

Credits: 1.0	Grade Level: 9-11
Prerequisite: None	

German I Honors

German I Honors is an introduction to the basic communication skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing in German. Emphasis is put on functional conversation and accuracy in writing. Basic vocabulary and grammar are studied. A cultural overview of German-speaking countries is a part of the course content. The course creates an awareness of Germany's top position in the European community and its importance as a participant in the global economy. German I Honors is designed for linguistically talented students who have maintained an "A" average in eighth grade language arts or math. Extra emphasis is placed on speaking the language and studying German customs and culture. World Language study is proven to improve scores on standardized tests and the honors curriculum seeks to provide instruction to that end. It is highly recommended that students enrolled in English Honors enroll in German Honors. German students compete in the National German Exam each spring. This course is recommended for students who wish to pursue more than two credits of German.

Credits: 1.0	Grade Level: 9-11
Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation; Memo of understanding	

German II

German II is a continuation of German I. This course is designed for students who wish to satisfy the two-credit language requirement. Emphasis is placed on good grammar and on reading and speaking skills as well as culture. Students with an average lower than a "B" in German I are recommended for this course.

Credits: 1.0	Grade Level: 10-12
Prerequisite: Completion of German I	

German II Honors

German II Honors is designed for linguistically-talented students who maintained at least a high "B" average in German I Honors or an "A" average in standard German I. The course is a continuation of German I with a strong emphasis placed on all communication skills and culture. German students compete in the National German Exam each spring. This course is highly recommended for students who wish to pursue more than two credits of German.

Credits: 1.0	Grade Level: 10-12
Prerequisite: Completion of German I; Teacher recommendation; Memo of understanding	

German III Honors

German III Honors is designed for students with a strong interest and desire to increase their proficiency in German. The emphasis of this course is on reading and discussing authentic texts and materials, as well as on improving the

written language and conversational skills. It is recommended that students have an "A" average in German II or at least a "B" average in German II Honors. German students compete in the National German Exam each spring.

Credits: 1.0	Grade Level: 11-12
Prerequisite: Completion of German II; Teacher recommendation; Memo of understanding	

German Language and Culture AP - *EPSO*

German Language and Culture AP is designed for students who have chosen to develop proficiency in the German language. The course allows students to attempt to earn college credit while still in high school. Course content reflects intellectual interests in the arts, current events, literature, sports, etc. In addition to standard textbooks and anthologies, materials will include recordings, films, newspapers, magazines, and contemporary literature. Students must have a good working knowledge of German grammar and competency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. An "A" average in all previous German courses is strongly recommended. It would be beneficial to take European History AP. A final qualifying examination is required, and all students enrolled in the course must pay the fee for this examination. Receiving a certain score on the Advanced Placement exam may earn the student college credit. German students compete in the National German Exam each spring.

Credits: 1.0	Grade Level: 11-12
Prerequisite: Completion of German III Honors; Teacher recommendation; Memo of understanding; AP Exam Fee; Completion of AP exam	

Latin: *The Fundamental Language Which Influences the World Today*

Latin I

Latin I is an introductory study into the language, history, mythology, and culture of the ancient Romans. The benefits of Latin are well documented – appreciation of our classical heritage, better analytical reasoning skills, and a broader and more diverse English vocabulary. The class focuses on reading Latin, developing grammar skills, and an exploration of how the ancient world influences our world today. Latin students compete in the National Latin Exam each spring.

Credits: 1.0	Grade Level: 9-12
Prerequisite: None	

Latin I Honors

Latin I Honors is an introductory study into the language, history, mythology, and culture of the ancient Romans. The benefits of Latin are well documented – appreciation of our classical heritage, better analytical reasoning skills, and a broader and more diverse English vocabulary. The class focuses on reading Latin, developing grammar skills, and an exploration of how the ancient world influences our world today. World Language study is proven to improve scores on standardized tests and the Honors Curriculum seeks to provide instruction to that end. At the honors level, more emphasis is placed on Latin composition, supplemental readings, and other enrichment activities. Latin students compete in the National Latin Exam each spring. It is highly recommended that students enrolled in English Honors enroll in Honors Latin.

Credits: 1.0	Grade Level: 9-11
Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation; Memo of understanding	

Latin II

Latin II is a continuation of Latin I, with more concentration on translation and preparation to read authentic Latin texts. Latin students compete in the National Latin Exam each spring.

Credits: 1.0	Grade Level: 10-12
Prerequisite: Completion of Latin I	

Latin II Honors

Latin II Honors is a continuation of Latin I, with more concentration on translation and preparation to read authentic Latin texts. At the honors level, more emphasis is placed on Latin composition, supplemental readings, and other enrichment activities. Latin students compete in the National Latin Exam each spring.

Credits: 1.0	Grade Level: 10-12
Prerequisite: Completion of Latin I; Teacher recommendation; Memo of understanding	

Latin III Honors

Latin III Honors is designed to reinforce basic Latin grammar and to train students to read and interpret a wide variety of classical texts. Authors studied include Cicero, Caesar, Pliny, and Vergil. This course is designed to prepare students for Advanced Placement study. Latin students compete in the National Latin Exam each spring.

Credits: 1.0	Grade Level: 10-12
Prerequisite: Completion of Latin II; Teacher recommendation; Memo of understanding	

Latin AP - *EPSO*

The Latin AP course immerses students in the rich language, literature, and culture of ancient Rome through close reading and analysis of Vergil's Aeneid and selections from Pliny's Letters. Students will also expand their appreciation for the wide range of classical texts via supplemental Teacher's Choice readings and a project exploring a rotating selection of underrepresented authors and themes. Students will develop their skills in translating authentic Latin passages with accuracy, analyzing literary and stylistic features, and understanding the historical, cultural, and thematic contexts of the works. The course emphasizes critical reading, interpretation of Roman values and perspectives, and drawing connections between the ancient and modern worlds. By exploring a wide variety of authentic Latin, students will gain an appreciation for the artistry and depth of Latin literature while preparing for the AP Latin Exam. A final qualifying examination is required, and all students enrolled in the course must pay the fee for this examination. Receiving a certain score on the Advanced Placement exam may earn the student college credit. Latin students compete in the National Latin Exam each spring.

Credits: 1.0	Grade Level: 11-12
Prerequisite: Completion of Latin III; Teacher recommendation; Memo of understanding	



Spanish: *The Language that Speaks to Millions- at Home and Abroad*

Spanish I

Spanish I focuses on building a foundation for future proficiency in the Spanish language. Reading, writing, listening, and speaking the language are emphasized. The course content includes grammar, vocabulary and a cultural overview of the Spanish-speaking countries.

Credits: 1.0	Grade Level: 10-11
Prerequisite: None	

Spanish I Honors

Spanish I Honors is designed for linguistically-talented students with an "A" average in English. The course content contains advanced grammar material, additional vocabulary as well as a concentrated emphasis on speaking and writing. Cultural material on the Spanish-speaking countries is covered in this class. Honors students compete in the National Spanish Exam each spring. Spanish I Honors is recommended for students who wish to pursue more than two credits of Spanish. It is highly recommended that students enrolled in English Honors enroll in Spanish Honors. Students will be required to purchase supplementary course material.

Credits: 1.0	Grade Level: 9-11
Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation; Memo of understanding	

Spanish II

Spanish II is a continuation of Spanish I with additional emphasis on communication skills and higher level of grammar. A cultural overview of Spanish-speaking regions is included.

Credits: 1.0	Grade Level: 10-12
Prerequisite: Completion of Spanish I	

Spanish II Honors

Spanish II Honors is designed for linguistically talented students. The course is a continuation of Spanish I with more emphasis placed on all communication skills. Spanish II Honors consists of additional requirements in the areas of advanced grammar, vocabulary, and culture. Students in this course should have an "A" in Spanish I or Spanish I Honors class. Honors compete in the National Spanish Exam each spring. Spanish II Honors is recommended for students who wish to pursue more than 2 credits of Spanish.

Credits: 1.0	Grade Level: 10-12
Prerequisite: Completion of Spanish I; Teacher recommendation; Memo of understanding	

Spanish III Honors

Spanish III Honors includes an advanced study of grammatical structure and an introduction to literature. Communication skills and vocabulary growth are emphasized. This course is designed to prepare students for Advanced Placement study. Students in this course should have an "A" in a Spanish II class or Spanish II Honors class. Honors students compete in the National Spanish Exam each spring.

Credits: 1.0	Grade Level: 11-12
Prerequisite: Completion of Spanish II; Teacher recommendation; Memo of understanding	

Spanish Language and Culture AP - *EPSO*

Spanish Language and Culture AP follows the course description established by the College Board for Spanish Language. The course allows students to attempt to earn college credit while still in high school. The course is intended for students who wish to further develop their proficiency and communication skills in the Spanish language. Students must have a good working knowledge of Spanish grammar and considerable competency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. An "A" average in all previous Spanish courses is strongly recommended. A final qualifying examination is required, and all students enrolled in the course must pay the fee for this examination. Receiving a qualifying score on the Advanced Placement exam may earn the student college credit. AP students compete in the National Spanish Exam each spring.

Credits: 1.0	Grade Level: 11-12
Prerequisite: Completion of Spanish III Honors; Teacher recommendation; Memo of understanding; AP Exam Fee; Completion of AP exam	

