

Spanish 2: Course rationale and description:

A foreign language is an asset. There are twenty plus countries where Spanish is the official language. In addition, the United States ranks number 5 in Hispanic population in the world. The Spanish 2 course focuses on vocabulary acquisition, auditory comprehension, and grammatical and syntactical concepts of the Spanish language.

Main instructional tool: *Destinos: An Introduction to Spanish*. Bill VanPatten, University of Illinois. This is an innovative beginning Spanish program based on 52 half-hour shows. The series uses the powerful appeal of the telenovela, a Spanish soap opera, to make language and culture come alive. The situation and context of each episode introduce students to the basic structures, language functions and vocabulary. This video series is designed to help students develop listening, reading, and writing capabilities, as well as cultural awareness of the Spanish-speaking world. The plot of *Destinos* is designed to engage students from the very beginning. A wealthy Mexican patriarch, nearing the end of his life, reveals a secret he has kept from his family for many years. His revelation leads to some important questions that must be answered before he dies. Raquel Rodriguez, a Mexican-American lawyer, embarks on a search for those answers, a search that takes her to Spain, Argentina, Puerto Rico, and back to Mexico. Hence students are exposed to a variety of cultural idiosyncrasies and multiple accents.

Destinos is the main catalyst for instruction for the first three grading periods. In addition, students will compose a life-book.

First 9 weeks	<i>Destinos</i> episodes 1-18	Grammar focus: Present Indicative
Second 9 weeks	<i>Destinos</i> episodes 18-34	Grammar focus: Preterite and Imperfect Indicative
Third 9 weeks	<i>Destinos</i> episodes 35-52	Grammar focus: Future Indicative, Conditional Indicative

Fourth 9 weeks: Study of the history of the Spanish Conquest of Mexico. Text: *La Ciudad de los Dioses*. Students will read the novella, accompanied by supplemental materials to further their reading comprehension skills, vocabulary recognition and acquisition as well as gaining historic and cultural insight.

Grammar concept focus: The Perfect Tenses