

**Brentwood Academy**  
**World Language Department Course Descriptions**

Middle School

*World Languages and Cultures Exploration* This nine-week course is designed to introduce sixth graders to French, Latin, and Spanish—the three languages offered to students beginning in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. An overarching goal of the course is to empower students to be more knowledgeable and intentional when choosing their language path in seventh grade by exploring introductory linguistic and cultural components of each language. WLC-EX aims to promote a global worldview by exploring the impact and importance of knowing more than one language and casting a vision for students as bilingual world citizens.

*French IA—7<sup>th</sup> grade* This introductory course for 7<sup>th</sup> graders is designed to help students attain an acceptable level of proficiency in the four basic language skills—speaking, listening, reading and writing. Students attain these skills through a variety of methods that encourage class participation and involvement. Their confidence in communication is built in a variety of ways, in both group and individual settings. Basic grammar concepts are introduced, and verbs (present tense regular verbs and a few irregular verbs) are a focus. Students are also introduced to French culture through cuisine and geography, focusing on Francophone countries and cities.

*French IB—8<sup>th</sup> grade* French IB is a continuation of French IA, focusing on continuing to build a solid foundation in the French language. French 1B focuses on speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. Confidence in communication, both writing and speaking, is emphasized. Verbs are a focus as the irregular and regular present are learned as well as and the immediate future, and passé composé. Students continue to refine their speaking skills and pronunciation and to explore French culture through cuisine, art, music, history, and geography.

*Latin IA—7<sup>th</sup> grade* Latin IA students learn Latin vocabulary and explore each word's connection to the English language via derivatives that increase their knowledge and use of English vocabulary. Latin grammar and the ability to both read and understand Latin are major concepts covered in each lesson. Students also study Roman history and culture as well as classical mythological tales.

*Latin IB—8<sup>th</sup> grade* Latin IB students continue their study of Latin vocabulary and derivation, building on the knowledge acquired in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. They continue to study Latin grammar and vocabulary that serve to improve their translating skills. They also study Roman history, culture and mythology.

*Spanish IA—7<sup>th</sup> grade* Seventh grade students are introduced to the foundations of the Spanish

language and the cultures that call it their native tongue. They study US cities with large Spanish-speaking populations, such as San Antonio, New York, and Miami, as well as the countries of Puerto Rico and Mexico.

*Spanish IB—8<sup>th</sup> grade* Spanish IB students enjoy improving their pronunciation through repetition and realistic practice, learning more complex grammar structures and tenses, and immersing themselves in the cultural studies of Spanish-speaking countries such as Spain, Ecuador, and the Dominican Republic. An emphasis is given to integrating their four language skills: writing, speaking, reading and listening.

### Upper School

*French I* This introductory course is designed to help students attain an acceptable level of proficiency in the four basic language skills: speaking, listening, reading and writing. Students will attain these skills through a variety of methods that encourage class participation and involvement. Confidence in communication is built in a variety of ways, in both group and individual settings. Basic grammar concepts are introduced, and verbs are a focus as the irregular and regular present, immediate future, and passé composé tenses are learned. Students are also introduced to French culture through cuisine, art, music, history, and geography.

*French II* This course builds upon and enhances the basic knowledge acquired in French I. Communicative skills continue to be emphasized with students practicing their speaking in small group settings and memorization of short dialogues and poems. Listening activities accompany the textbook and provide opportunities for the students to listen to a variety of native speakers. Students study the structure of French in more depth, learning to apply these concepts in writing and speaking. The main focal point of the study of culture is the country of France and especially the city of Paris.

*French III* This course is designed to increase students' fluency in the language through extensive practice in each of the four skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students will read several short stories and poems of well-known French authors. In class journals are assigned regularly as a means to apply the complex grammatical structures that are being acquired. In addition, students have the opportunity to listen to a wide variety of native speakers through online and textbook resources as well as classic French film. Speaking practice is encouraged through small group practice and oral student-teacher interviews as well as periodic memorization of poems. Students gain a broad sense of the history of France as well as the culture of Francophone islands and countries in Africa.

*French IV and V Honors* These courses are designed to enhance and develop linguistic skills and

knowledge attained in prior levels of study. Students read and discuss a variety of classic French literature (a novel, stories and poems). Writing skills continue to be emphasized along with a goal of greater fluency in spoken French. Listening comprehension is practiced through online and textbook resources and French film. Students continue to review their grammar and put it into use in their writing and speaking. They continue their study of Francophone cultures and peoples.

*AP French Language & Culture* The primary objective of AP French Language and Culture is to prepare students to be successful on the AP exam. This is a thematic based course emphasizing communication skills (interpretive, interpersonal and presentational) to demonstrate the students' understanding of Francophone cultures. Students are expected to be able to speak French with reasonable fluency and accuracy in formal and informal settings, acquire a vocabulary broad enough to be able to read a variety of texts, write both a persuasive essay and formal email, and comprehend French spoken in a variety of situations. All activities in this course are designed to integrate these linguistic and communicative skills.

*Latin II* This course is offered to students who have already earned one credit in Latin. This course helps students develop a secure grasp of Latin grammar and syntax and to develop and refine their Latin translation and reading skills. In the course of reading stories set in 1st century Rome, students gain an appreciation of Roman history and culture as well as the classical intellectual tradition. Students are exposed to short passages in the original Latin of a variety of Latin authors and begin to develop an appreciation of the various themes in these writings.

*Latin III* This course is offered to students who have already earned two units of Latin credit. This course helps students to develop a secure grasp of Latin grammar and syntax (extending through conditional sentences) and to develop and refine their translation skills. Students are exposed to a wide range of Latin authors and begin to develop sensitivity to their different writing styles along with an appreciation of the various themes in these writings.

*Latin IV* This course enables the students to gain mastery of Latin grammar and syntax and further develop their Latin reading skills. Students read extended passages from a variety of authors including Cicero, Livy, St. Augustine, Ovid, and Virgil. Through a careful reading of these passages, students gain skill in the interpretation of great literature. The course is also designed to prepare students to take AP Latin in the following year.

*AP Latin (Vergil)* This course is offered to students who have already earned three units of Latin credit. Students are introduced to Latin meter in general and, in particular, the dactylic hexameter of Virgil's *Aeneid*. A chief goal of the course is for students to gain skill not only in translation but also in the interpretation of great literature through a careful reading of the assigned passages in the *Aeneid*.

*Russian I Honors* This course provides an introduction to the Russian language. Students will first learn the Cyrillic alphabet and sound system and develop skills in speaking, understanding, reading, and writing contemporary Russian in a cultural context. Russian is significantly different both linguistically and culturally from English and the Romance languages; therefore, the introductory level is an honors course.

*Russian II Honors* Russian II builds on the cultural and communicative foundation developed in Russian I. Students will strengthen their knowledge of Russian language and their communication skills through oral and written activities, interpretation of spoken and written information, and written and spoken presentations. The course continues an exploration of the culture of Russia and Russian-speaking countries.

*Spanish I* This course is an introductory course designed to teach students the fundamental skills needed to communicate in Spanish. Speaking, listening, reading, and writing will be developed through a variety of methods and activities. An appreciation for the cultures of the Spanish-speaking people is gained by discussing their cultural practices, traditions, and behaviors.

*Spanish II* This course is designed to help students use the skills attained in Spanish I in order to build a stronger working knowledge of the Spanish language. Students study the grammar of the language in more depth and learn to apply it in their speaking and writing. Students also learn to improve their reading skills as well as to comprehend a variety of native speakers. An appreciation for the cultures of the Spanish-speaking people is gained by discussing their culture and traditions.

*Spanish III* The goal of Spanish III is to increase students' knowledge of the Spanish language and culture giving equal treatment to all four skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will be expected to build on what they have learned in levels 1 and 2. Students will work hard to achieve a conversational level of Spanish while maintaining proper and current grammatical structures in order to be prepared for real life and to excel in Spanish courses throughout their academic careers. Language acquisition and cultural understanding will take place through many varied activities including, but not limited to, role-plays, small group activities, dialogues and discussions, music, stories, plays, games, technology, readings of authentic material, and essays.

*Spanish IV* This advanced level course seeks to expand and refine the four basic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Special emphasis is placed on the development of oral communication through class discussions of literary works, role- playing, skits, and conversations based on practical, everyday situations. The objective is to help students strengthen their command of spoken and written Spanish by utilizing a variety of activities and authentic resources. Culture representative of a wide array of Spanish-speaking countries is

explored through the study of important literary works and media resources.

*Spanish V Honors* This course is designed to review, refine, and expand upon the language skills that students have developed during their high school career. Spanish V Honors allows for in-depth development of listening, speaking, reading and writing skills through a variety of interactive methods. A wide range of literary works and media supplement the textbook series to provide a rich learning environment. Students are expected to use the Spanish almost exclusively in class.

*AP Spanish Language* Advanced Placement (AP) Spanish Language is designed for students who wish to develop strong proficiency in Spanish language skills by reviewing, refining and expanding upon what they have learned throughout their high school career. AP Spanish Language heavily emphasizes the integrative nature of language in promoting listening and speaking skills, reading comprehension, grammar and composition in a manner approximating the AP Spanish Language exam as designed by the College Board. A wide range of authentic media supplements the textbook series, creating a rich learning environment. A main focus of the class is preparation for the AP Spanish Language exam that all students are required to take in May. Students are expected to use the Spanish language almost exclusively in class.

*AP Spanish Literature & Culture* Advanced Placement (AP) Spanish Literature & Culture is intended to be the equivalent of a third-year college level “Introduction to Spanish Literature” course. In this course students develop a high degree of competence in language skills and in the interpretation of literature. Students are required to read, discuss, and analyze a wide variety of representative works from three major genres—narrative, poetry, and theater. They learn to use the appropriate terminology and apply the different tools of literary criticism with a strong focus in analytical essay writing. Students do a close reading of each of the required 38 readings from the AP Spanish Literature Exam as issued by the College Board. The readings include authors from the Middle Ages to the Golden Age and nineteenth century to more contemporary writers.