

# Spanish Culture Class Syllabus

## Torah High School 2025–2026

Fridays • Aug. 29, 2025 – May 29, 2026 • 45 minutes

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### Course Description: Novice Level Spanish

This course introduces students to the rich history, geography, traditions, and daily life of the Spanish-speaking world. Through readings, discussions, videos, and creative projects, students will explore how culture is shaped by historical foundations, family roles, regional geography, music, dance, food, and celebrations.

Students will develop novice-level communication skills by participating in simple conversations, interpreting basic cultural information, and using essential vocabulary in both oral and written tasks. As they engage with authentic cultural materials, students will grow in their appreciation of diversity and deepen their understanding of the practices, products, and perspectives of Spanish-speaking communities.

By the end of the course, students will be able to present information about themselves and culturally relevant topics using memorized phrases and supported language, demonstrating growth in creativity, cultural awareness, and personal expression.

### Learning Outcomes:

#### Novice Level Spanish: Aligned to CA World Language Standards:

#### Level 1 / Novice Range

#### Students will be able to:

#### 1. Demonstrate cultural awareness and appreciation for Spanish-speaking communities.

- Identify basic cultural practices, products, and perspectives from a variety of Spanish-speaking regions.

- Show respect and curiosity about cultural differences in traditions, daily life, and celebrations.  
(CA WL Standards: Cultures 1.0, 2.0)

## **2. Engage in simple interpersonal communication in English and Spanish.**

- Participate in guided conversations using memorized and familiar phrases.
- Ask and answer basic questions about personal information, school, family, and everyday activities.  
(Standards: Interpersonal Communication 1.0, 2.0)

## **3. Interpret and use novice-level vocabulary in oral and written tasks.**

- Understand key words and short phrases from simple texts, visuals, classroom materials, and teacher input.
- Use familiar vocabulary to communicate basic ideas in speaking and writing.  
(Standards: Interpretive Communication 1.0, 2.0)

## **4. Produce simple presentational tasks that show creativity and personal expression.**

- Present basic information about themselves, their families, hobbies, daily routines, or cultural topics using memorized expressions.
- Create visual, written, or oral projects that demonstrate comprehension and personal connection to the content.  
(Standards: Presentational Communication 1.0, 2.0)

\*\*By the end of the year, students will be able to communicate at a **novice level**, understand simple Spanish vocabulary, participate in short conversations, and appreciate the rich cultural diversity of the Spanish-speaking world.

## **Grading Breakdown**

- **Engagement, Collaboration & Preparedness — 25%**
  - Consistent participation, respectful communication, collaboration with peers, and readiness for class.
- **Independent Practice & Weekly Learning Tasks — 20%**
  - Short weekly assignments designed to build vocabulary, cultural understanding, and language proficiency.

- **Formative Assessments & Quizzes — 20%**
  - Regular in-class checks for understanding, including vocabulary, reading, listening, and brief writing tasks.
- **Mid-Year Performance Task — 15%**
  - A structured project demonstrating mastery of core units and interpretive/presentational skills from the first half of the year.
- **End-of-Year Performance Task — 20%**
  - A culminating assessment in which students apply their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills within a culturally relevant context.

## Participation & Preparation

- Students must spend **30 minutes daily** reading, researching, or reviewing vocabulary before class.
- Learning a language requires practice: progress comes with **daily effort, not just once a week in class**.

## Expectations & Policies

- **Moral Integrity & Respect:** Be civil, honest, prepared, punctual, and follow school rules.
- **Academic Honesty:** Use **APA format** for any borrowed ideas or words.
- **Attendance:** Mandatory. Excused absences must be made up within 1 week.
- **Technology Use:**
  - **Cell Phones:** Silent; no use unless part of activity; collected before tests.
  - **Laptops/Tablets:** Bring daily; use only with permission.
  - **AI Tools:** Brainstorming/practice only — all work must be original.
- **Collaboration:** Group work will be assigned; otherwise, work individually.
- **Food/Drink:** Water only.

**Fridays • 45 minutes**

**Weeks 1–40**

**LAST CLASS: Friday, May 29, 2026**

## **AUGUST 2025**

**Week 1 — Aug. 29**

**Topic:** ¿Quién soy yo?

**Assignment:** Name card + 5 identity words

## **SEPTEMBER 2025**

**Week 2 — Sep. 5**

¿Quién soy yo? (adjectives, likes) — Mini Quiz: Adjectives

**Week 3 — Sep. 12**

Mi familia — Draw family + label 6 members

**Week 4 — Sep. 19**

Mi familia (descriptions) — Partner descriptions

**Week 5 — Sep. 26**

Mi familia (árbol genealógico) — Family Tree Due

## **OCTOBER 2025**

**Week 6 — Oct. 3 — No Class (Sukkot)**

**Week 7 — Oct. 10 — No Class (Sukkot)**

**Week 8 — Oct. 17 — No Class (Sukkot)**

**Week 9 — Oct. 24**

Tradiciones familiares — Short writing

**Week 10 — Oct. 31**

Mi casa y mis espacios — Mini Quiz: Rooms + chores

## **NOVEMBER 2025**

**Week 11 — Nov. 7**

Repaso: Identidad + familia — Review stations

**Week 12 — Nov. 14**

**Quiz: Identity + Family**

**Week 13 — Nov. 21**

La escuela (class vocab) — My classes chart

**Week 14 — Nov. 28**

*No Class (Thanksgiving)*

## **DECEMBER 2025**

**Week 15 — Dec. 5**

*La escuela (subjects) — Mini Quiz: School vocab*

**Week 16 — Dec. 12**

*Mi horario — Speaking: My schedule*

**Week 17 — Dec. 19**

*Actividades en la escuela — 3-sentence writing*

**Week 18 — Dec. 26 — No Class (Winter Break)**

## **JANUARY 2026**

**Week 19 — Jan. 2 — No Class (Winter Break)**

**Week 20 — Jan. 9**

*Pasatiempos (intro) — Class survey*

**Week 21 — Jan. 16**

*Pasatiempos (after school) — Mini Quiz: Hobbies*

**Week 22 — Jan. 23**

*Pasatiempos en el mundo hispano — Comparison assignment*

**Week 23 — Jan. 30**

**Mid-Year Presentations**

## **FEBRUARY 2026**

**Week 24 — Feb. 6**

*Vacaciones (intro) — Mini Quiz: Travel vocab*

**Week 25 — Feb. 13**

*Vacaciones (lugares) — Dream vacation + 4 sentences*

**Week 26 — Feb. 20**

*Vacaciones (transporte) — Speaking activity*

**Week 27 — Feb. 27**

*Vacaciones (actividades) — Short writing*

## **MARCH 2026**

### **Week 28 — Mar. 6**

*De compras (ropa) — Mini Quiz: Clothing*

### **Week 29 — Mar. 13**

*De compras (precios) — Store role-play*

### **Week 30 — Mar. 20**

*El mercado hispano — Market dialogue*

### **Week 31 — Mar. 27**

**Quiz: Vacations + Shopping**

## **APRIL 2026**

### **Week 32 — Apr. 3 — No Class (Pesach)**

**Week 33 — Apr. 10 — No Class (Pesach)**

### **Week 34 — Apr. 17**

*Rutina diaria — Mini Quiz: Reflexive verbs*

### **Week 35 — Apr. 24**

*Rutina + comunidad — Afternoon routine writing*

## **MAY 2026**

### **Week 36 — May 1**

*Final Project Work Day (in-class prep)*

### **Week 37 — May 8**

*Final Presentations (Part 1)*

### **Week 38 — May 15**

*Final Presentations (Part 2)*

### **Week 39 — May 22**

*End-of-year cultural games + review*

### **Week 40 — May 29**

**LAST CLASS — Celebration Day + Project Display**