

Course Descriptions

Burnaby Central

MODERN LANGUAGES

The aim of Modern Languages education is to develop communication skills and to promote life-long learning and positive attitudes that encourage awareness and understanding of cultural diversity. The Modern Languages curriculum is based on the Core Competencies with an emphasis on the Communication Competency. This approach encompasses language abilities that students need to transmit and exchange information, experiences, and ideas and to communicate in meaningful real-life situations.

The Burnaby Central Modern Languages Department offers **French, Spanish, Mandarin, Japanese and American Sign Language (ASL)**. French, Spanish, Mandarin and Japanese balance the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing with emphasis on communication over mastery. American Sign Language develops expressive and receptive language skills with an emphasis placed on fluency and functional communication. The cultural component of all languages involves using different learning styles from diverse cultures as well as exploring authentic documents, literature, cinema, music and cuisine. Assessment includes formal and informal evaluation of language skills as well as self-reflection of individual progress.

Introductory American Sign Language 11 (ASL)

American Sign Language is a visual-gestural language with its own distinct grammar and syntax. ASL is used by Deaf people across Canada and the United States. This is an intensive introductory course that provides students with some basic knowledge of ASL and Deaf Culture. Students will begin to develop both expressive and receptive skills in ASL as well as some knowledge of the five parameters of the language. They will be introduced to aspects of Deaf Culture and the Deaf Community through a variety of topics, including access to communication, issues in education, and different forms of artistic expression. This course is a pre-requisite for ASL 11.

American Sign Language 11 (ASL)

In this course students will continue to build the skills they acquired in Introductory Sign Language 11. They will develop increasingly complex vocabulary and sentence structure and gain more proficiency with non-manual signals and other aspects of ASL grammar and syntax. They will learn more about different perspectives on Deaf issues, perspectives and worldviews through examining them through a cultural lens. This course meets the second language entrance requirements for post-secondary institutions

French 8

An introductory level course which offers basic French vocabulary and structures involving themes such as personality and physical traits, school life, hobbies, interests, and travel. Students will be introduced to authentic documents used in the francophone world to familiarize them with the language and enable them to communicate at a basic level.

French 9

This course continues the development of communication skills using and exploring real -life situations and experiences. Students will be encouraged to share opinions and ideas in situations associated with themes such as sports, music, and pop culture. In addition, students continue to explore la Francophonie.

French 10

Learning situations are based around high interest themes such as travelling in a French-speaking country, art, folklore, careers, and the environment. Students will increase their level of communicative competence with a continued emphasis on all language skills.

French 11

This senior level course is still based on communication with extended grammar and content areas in order to develop language in a more sophisticated manner. Students are encouraged to increase their abilities to communicate in French in context, to achieve positive attitudes about using French and to develop an understanding and appreciation of Francophone and culture. This course deals with a variety of themes including household activities, health and nutrition, and technology.

French 12

French 12 extends the communication skills previously employed in French 8 through 11. Students work on expressing themselves clearly and correctly in both oral and written French using a variety of resources. Students are presented with a more varied and sophisticated vocabulary and advanced grammatical concepts as well as literature selections. The content of this course focuses on the ability to comment on relevant issues such as personal relations, city life, media influences, and science and technology while providing cultural exposure to the arts, literature, cinema and travel.

Japanese 9

Japanese 9 is an introductory course designed to help students with little to no Japanese knowledge develop basic speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills in Japanese. Students will be introduced to the main phonetic script, *hiragana*. Students will be able to have basic conversations and write simple sentences. Japanese culture and social dynamics will be emphasized through topics such as social niceties and talking about personal information such as family, hobbies, likes and dislikes, and daily activities.

Japanese 10

Japanese 10 is designed to help students develop basic speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills in Japanese. Students will be introduced to the two phonetic scripts, hiragana and katakana, and to elementary kanji, which are Chinese characters imported by the Japanese over 1500 years ago. Japanese culture and social dynamics will be emphasized through topics such as social niceties, getting around, ordering and talking about food, and talking about personal information such as family, hobbies, likes and dislikes, and daily activities.

Introductory Japanese 11

This is an introductory course designed for motivated Grade 11 and 12 students with no previous knowledge of or ability to speak Japanese. This accelerated language program carries a heavy workload since it covers the content of both Japanese 9 and 10 in one year. It is designed to help students develop basic speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills in Japanese. Successful completion of Introductory Japanese will allow the student to enroll in Japanese 11 the following year.

Japanese 11

In Japanese 11, students will be expected to express themselves using more complex conversational and written skills. They will be introduced in a more methodical way to grammar and vocabulary in the context of overarching topics. These include holidays, shopping, school life, asking and giving directions, food and cooking, the seasons and weather, and describing people and their clothing. Students will engage in a great deal of practical conversation in the classroom. More *kanji* will also be introduced in context, and students will begin to write formal essays in Japanese.

Japanese 12

Japanese 12 puts great emphasis on learning about Japan itself: Japanese houses, geography, festivals, customs, weather, history, and culture. Students will express themselves through advanced conversational and grammatical skills through culturally informative projects, oral presentations and essays. Students will also continue to learn more *kanji*. By the end of the course, students will be able to feel confident traveling in Japan and interacting with Japanese people.

Mandarin 9

This course is intended for students with little or no Chinese language background. Students will be introduced to the basic skills of oral and written communication using simplified Chinese characters and the Hanyu Pinyin phonetic spelling system. Students are expected to have a vocabulary base of 150 characters by the end of the course. Students will also gain an exposure to different aspects of Chinese culture through activities such as field trips, guest lectures and workshops. This course is not suitable for native speakers.

Mandarin 10

This course is a continuation of Mandarin 9. Students will further develop communication skills in Mandarin Chinese and are expected to have a vocabulary base of 300 characters by the end of the course. Cultural activities such as field trips, guest lectures and workshops will be integrated throughout the course. This course is not suitable for native speakers.

Introductory Mandarin 11

This is an intensive introductory course that provides students with the basic knowledge of the Mandarin Chinese language and culture. Students will be introduced to the basic skills of oral and written communication using simplified Chinese characters and the Hanyu Pinyin phonetic spelling system. Students are expected to have a vocabulary base of 250 characters by the end of the course. Students will also gain an exposure to different aspects of Chinese culture through activities such as field trips, guest lectures and workshops. This course is not suitable for native speakers.

Mandarin 11

This course is a continuation of Mandarin 10. Students will further develop communication skills in Mandarin Chinese and are expected to have a vocabulary base of 450 characters by the end of the course. Cultural activities such as field trips, guest lectures and workshops will be integrated throughout the course. This course is not suitable for native speakers.

Mandarin 12

This course is a continuation of Mandarin 11. Students will further develop communication skills in Mandarin Chinese and are expected to have a vocabulary base of 600 characters by the end of the course. Students will also be able to write compositions of about 120 characters in length. In addition, students will be introduced to Chinese idiomatic expressions and authentic materials such as Chinese newspapers. Cultural activities such as field trips, guest lectures and workshops will be integrated throughout the course. This course is not suitable for native speakers.

AP Chinese Language and Culture

Prerequisites: Mandarin 12 or a placement interview, English 10 or ELL Level 2

This is an advanced level Mandarin Chinese course, intended for students who are in their fourth or fifth year of language study, or students with equivalent experience with the Chinese language. Students will develop their Chinese proficiency across the three communicative modes (Interpersonal, Interpretive, and Presentational) and the five goal areas (Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities), which align with the *Standards for Foreign Language Learning* by the ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages). Chinese culture and social issues are explored in greater depth. Students are expected to write the electronic AP examination held in May.

For more details, please see the official AP College Board web site:

<http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/>

Spanish 9

An introductory level course which offers basic Spanish vocabulary and structures involving themes such as personality and physical traits, school life, hobbies, interests and family. Students will learn to communicate in present and future time frames. In addition, students will be introduced to authentic documents used in the Hispanic world to familiarize them with the language and enable them to communicate at a basic level.

Spanish 10

This course continues the development of communication skills using and exploring real-life situations and experiences. Students will review content from Spanish 9 and expand on this previous knowledge. New themes include sports, shopping, and family life. In addition, students continue to explore customs and traditions of Spanish-speaking countries.

Introductory Spanish 11

This is an introductory course designed for motivated Grade 11 and 12 students with no previous knowledge of or ability to speak Spanish. This accelerated language program carries a heavy workload since it covers the content of both Spanish 9 and 10 in one year. Successful completion of Introductory Spanish 11 will allow the student to enroll in Spanish 11 the following year. The course will use the communicative / experiential approach to teach both oral and written skills and will also include a cultural component to highlight Spanish-speaking countries around the world.

Spanish 11

This is a senior course for students who have completed Spanish 9 and 10 or Introductory Spanish 11. The course uses a variety of themes such as travel and personal childhood stories along with cultural components to introduce language concepts with a communicative approach. Students will begin to express themselves in past time frames. Successful students will advance their level of communicative competence in all four language areas (listening, speaking, reading and writing).

Spanish 12

Spanish 12 is an academic course designed for motivated students with a genuine interest in the language and Hispanic culture. This advanced senior course builds on previous knowledge with a focus on oral communication, reading, listening, and writing. By the end of Spanish 12, students will be able to communicate comfortably in the past, present, and future time frames using complex structures and a variety of vocabulary.