



CIEE in Seville, Spain

Course name:	INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH LINGUISTICS
Course number:	SPAN 3101 CSCS
Programs offering course:	Liberal Arts, Advanced Liberal Arts, Business and Society and Communication, New Media and Journalism Program - Spanish
Language of instruction:	Spanish
U.S. semester credits:	3 credits
Contact hours:	45 hours
Term:	Spring 2019

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed for students with no prior experience in the field of linguistics. Focusing on the Spanish language, it deals with the following questions: What is a language and how does it work? How is human language different from other communication systems? How are languages structured? How are languages similar to one another? The course also explores the history of the Spanish language and its dialectological variation, as well as sociolinguistic issues such as language contact and bilingualism.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The course objectives are the following:

1. Familiarization with the objectives and methods of the language sciences.
2. Introduction to the concepts, terminology, and basic linguistic processes applied to the study of the Spanish language.
3. Description and analysis of the most important aspects of the structure of the Spanish language: sound combination, word formation, sentence building, etc.
4. Introduction to the history of the Spanish language.
5. Identification and comparison of dialects and social variation within the Spanish language.



6. Study of the consequences of language contact between Spanish and other languages.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

To get the most out of the class, it is essential that students possess a medium to high level of Spanish that allows them to understand the mandatory readings with issue, as well as those texts from the research process for the final essay. It is also essential that the student can participate in class discussions, as well as coherently draft both the in-class assignments and homework.

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

The didactic focus is based on content discussion. Therefore, students are expected to be active participants in and out of class; students should complete assigned readings and exercises before coming to class. There will be various activities that take place out of class in which students will be expected to participate, and also complete the homework assignment related to them. There will also be 2 non-cumulative exams. The Midterm exam will correspond to the first two parts of the lecture material and the Final will correspond to the third. The purpose of these exams is to apply the knowledge acquired during the course to the analysis of problems that demonstrate the nature of the principles that govern the Spanish language system. Students will also be required to complete an essay and give a presentation on the topic of their choosing. The topic should be related with some linguistic aspect of the varieties of Spanish (dialects, sociolects, registers, form of contact, etc.). Some examples will be presented to the class (Spanish in contact with English (or any other language), the Andalusian dialect, Caribbean dialects, Spanish-English bilingualism (or any other language), language used by Spanish youth, etc...). Students will also have the option to participate in linguistic revitalizing projects by way of social media, of the Mixta language or of LSE (Spanish Sign Language) organized by a professor of the philology department at the University of Sevilla.



ASSESSMENT AND FINAL GRADE

The evaluation will be ongoing and there will be a special interest placed on the student's completion of daily course readings, so that they can then actively participate in class. Understanding of the concepts that will be introduced in class will be very important so the student can apply them to the theme of the essay that they will choose autonomously. In addition to participation in class, an activity outside the classroom will be proposed. The active participation of the student will make up 5% of the final grade, and out of class activities 15%.

There will be two exams, a midterm and a final, consisting of practical exercises similar to those discussed in class. Additionally, some of the questions will assess the student's ability to expand on any of the topics covered in class. The first exam will be worth 20% of the final grade of the student. The second one will be worth 30%.

The remaining 20% corresponds to the final paper that the student will turn in at the end of the course. The oral presentation of the project will count for 10%.

CIEE classes are not graded on a curve nor is there extra credit work. The final grade will be based upon the following criteria:

- Participation, homework, and class preparation 5%
- Out of classroom activities 15%
- Exams 1 20%
- Exams 2 30%
- Final Paper 20%
- Oral presentation 10%

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Essays: Students will have to submit an essay on a topic of their choosing. The student should review the course bibliography to select a topic of his/her interest. The recommended bibliography of the textbook from class can also be consulted. The



chosen topic must be related to some linguistic aspect of the Spanish language. Below are some possibilities: the Andalusian dialect, the Mexican dialect, Sefardí, Spanish-English bilingualism (or any other language), Spanish in contact with any other language, the Spanish lexicon in the media, etc...

The minimum length of the paper will be of 5 pages plus the bibliography. The size of the font must be 12pt and the line spacing 1.5. Please review the grammar and spelling correction before turning in the essay.

The student must turn in a definitive title, a general outline and the bibliography that he/she is going to consult for the essay on the day of the first partial exam.

This initial outline review will allow the student to receive feedback from the professor, who will guide the research for materials and the successful development of the project. The student will later have the ability to turn in a first draft during week 8 of the course.

In addition, students will have to give an **oral presentation** in class on the topic chosen for the essay. Essays and oral presentations can be done in group or individually. Those students whose projects have similar or common theme can be grouped. The professor will group them following the review of the outline. The oral presentation will be worth 10% of the final grade and the essay 20%.

Out of classroom activities: Students will also have the opportunity 1. to take a guided tour of the Archive of the Indies and perform a written task about the significance of the monument to the history of the Spanish language. In addition, and also in relation to the history of the Spanish language, students will have the opportunity 2. to attend a talk conducted by a professor of the Pablo de Olavide University on the linguistic varieties of Spanish. Students will have to write a review of the talk. Additionally, student will have an opportunity 3. to complete a survey of Spanish university students on the topic of the Andaluz dialect. The assignments arising from these activities will make up 15% of the final grade.

Exams: The course will have two exams, one midterm and one final, consisting of practical exercises similar to the ones seen in class. Also, some of the questions will assess the ability of the student to expand on any of the topics covered in class. The first



exam will have a value of 20% in the final grade of the student. The second one will be 30%.

Text book: For the development of the syllabus, the course will use the following textbook: Hualde, José Ignacio, Antxon Olarrea and Anna Maria Escobar. 2009 Introduction to Spanish Linguistics. Cambridge: CUP.

In addition to the textbook, we will have a dossier of readings, organized according to the topics of this syllabus and composed of material from texts related to the subject matter. This dossier can be acquired via the virtual site of PBWorks, enabled for the course.

Attendance policy

Students are not allowed to miss class for unjustified reasons. For each unexcused absence, the participation portion of the grade will be lowered. Hence, it will be very difficult to receive a 100 in the class. Please keep this in mind.

If a student misses class once without a valid excuse (a note from a physician in the event of an illness), then the professor will automatically lower the final grade by 10 points (on a 100-point scale) for each class missed thereafter. Students with 3 or more absences will fail the course.

Students should arrive to class on-time. Arriving more than 15 minutes late for a class will count as an unexcused absence. Please note that an excused absence is one that is accompanied by a doctor's note: signed stamped and dated. Travelling and/or travel delays are not considered valid reasons for missing class.

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to act in accordance with their university and CIEE's standards of conduct concerning plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Use of online translators for work in Spanish will result in an automatic failure.

Linguistic Resource Center



Students are encouraged to use the Writing Center for help with class activities as well as for the final essay.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Week 1:

- **Topic 1:** Linguistics: the science of language
- Presentation of the course, objectives and grading criteria.
- **Reading:** Ch. 1 of Pinker (2005)

Week 2:

- **Topic 1:** The nature of human language: competence and performance.
- Language acquisition.
- Language and brain.
- **Reading:** Ch. 1 of H, Olarrea, and Escobar (2009)

Week 3:

- **Topic 2:** Spanish phonetics and phonology
- Difference between phonetics and phonology: Phonemes and allophones
- The classification of sounds in Spanish
- **Reading:** Ch. 4 of Barrutia y Schwegler
- **Reading:** Ch. 5 of Barrutia y Schwegler

Week 4:

- Phonetics and phonology activities
- **CHOOSE ESSAY TOPIC**

Week 5:

- **Topic 3:** Spanish lexicology: the concept of the word
- Flexive morphology and derivative morphology
- Derivation and composition in Spanish: 'lexemes,' suffixes, and prefixes



- **Reading:** Ch 3 Hualde, Olarrea, and Escobar (2009)

Week 6:

- **Topic 3.** Word creation exercises
- **Mid-term Exam**
- **Essay Outline DUE**

Week 7:

- **Topic 4:** Sentence building: Syntax
- Grammatical categories
- Phrases and constituents
- **Reading:** Ch. 4 Hualde, Olarrea, and Escobar (2009)

Week 8:

- **Topic 4:** Types of Verbs and Sentences
- Syntax analysis exercises
- **Reading:** Ch. 4 of Hualde, Olarrea and Escobar
- **Hand-in essay first draft (optional)**

Week 9:

- **Topic 5:** Spanish semantics: meaning
- Semantics relationships
- Exercises
- **Reading:** Ch. 5 of Hualde, Olarrea and Escobar (2009)

Week 10:

- **Topic 6:** Linguistic varieties of Spanish
- **Oral presentations**

Week 11:

- **Oral presentations**



Week 12:

- **Essay DUE**
- **Review**
- **Final Exam**

Important note: the strict observance of the calendar will depend on the interests and pace of each group in particular and the number of students that there are in class.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Required readings:

- Barrutia, R. & Schwegler. 1994. *Fonética y Fonología españolas*. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
- Hualde, José Ignacio, Antxon Olarrea y Anna María Escobar. 2001. *Introducción a la lingüística hispánica*. Cambridge: CUP.
- Pinker, S. 1995. *El instinto del lenguaje*. Madrid: Alianza

Recommended readings:

- Alvar, M. 1996. *Manual de dialectología hispánica: El español de América*. Barcelona: Ariel.
- Alvar, M. 1996. *Manual de dialectología hispánica: El español de España*. Barcelona: Ariel.
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- Bernárdez, E. 1999. *¿Qué son las lenguas?* Madrid: Alianza ensayo.
- García Mouton, P. 2002. *Lenguas y dialectos de España*. Cuadernos de Lengua Española. Madrid: Arco Libros
- Jiménez Fernández, R. 1999. *El andaluz*. Madrid: Arco/Libros.



- Medina López, J. 2002. *Lenguas en contacto*. Cuadernos de Lengua Española. Madrid: Arco Libros
- Moreno Fernández, F. 1998. *Principios de sociolingüística y sociología del lenguaje*. Barcelona: Ariel.
- Penny, R. 2001. Gramática histórica del español. Colección Ariel Lingüística. Barcelona: Ariel.
- Siguan, M. 2001. *Bilingüismo y lenguas en contacto*. Madrid: Alianza.
- Vinagre Laranjeira, M. 2005. *El cambio de código en la conversación bilingüe: la alternancia de lenguas*. Cuadernos de Lengua Española. Madrid

Reference materials:

- Demonte, V. y Bosque, I. 1999. Gramática descriptiva de la Lengua Española. Madrid: Espasa Calpe.
- Diccionario Monolingüe de español (el de la Universidad de Salamanca, el de la Universidad de Alcalá, el DRAE o cualquier otro de utilidad para el alumno)