



CIEE Seville, Spain

Course name:	Contrastive Grammar: Spanish - English
Course number:	SPAN 4011 CSCS
Programs offering course:	Liberal Arts, Advanced Liberal Arts, Business and Society and Communications, New Media and Journalism – Spanish Programs
Language of instruction:	Spanish
U.S. semester credits:	3 credits
Contact hours:	45 hours
Term:	Spring 2020

Course Description

The aim of this course is that the students gain a solid and practical understanding of Spanish through comparative analysis of English and Spanish. The students will focus on certain grammatical, syntactical and lexical aspects of the Spanish language which tend to present the greatest challenge for native English speakers. The ultimate goal of this contrast between the two languages is to improve the students' language level.

Learning Objectives

Through the contrastive analysis of the most relevant syntactic aspects of Spanish and English students are expected to eliminate the transfer problem when switching code (English → Spanish), which should be conducive to a relevant gain in language proficiency concerning her/his master of Spanish. Similarly, students are expected to be aware of the fact that this contrastive analysis should result in a sound knowledge of the two languages as well as more coherent and precise usage to the language above.

Course Pre-Requisites

The course requires a good working knowledge of conversational Spanish, grammatical concepts and terminology (direct object, indirect object, prepositions, adverbs, adverbial phrases, etc.).

Methods of Instruction

This professor will provide succinct and contextual explications of the theoretical aspects of this course, to be followed by practical exercises. Together the class will enact everyday situations in which the student can implement the theoretical lessons learned in class.

Program

1. Articles: Definite and Indefinite. Contrasts. The article as a nominalizer.
2. Nouns. Countable and uncountable nouns. Agreement problems. Nouns in attributive position. Nominalization.
3. Adjective. Pre-nominal and post-nominal position. Confusing cases. Possessive and demonstrative adjectives.
4. Pronouns: Subject and object. Verbs + Indirect object construction (*gustar, encantar*, etc.)
5. The Spanish neuter LO. Neuter demonstrative pronouns.



6. Verbal miscellany: Preterit versus imperfect: uses. Present perfect: contrasts. The English modals verbs: a comparison with Spanish. There + be: contrasts.
7. Uses of "SE". Pronominal verbs. Becoming verbs (*ponerse, volverse, quedarse, convertirse*, etc.)
8. Noun and adverbial clauses: Problems of mood (indicative vs. subjunctive)
9. Conditional clauses: Types. Problems of mood
10. Relative clauses: Relative Pronouns. Problems of mood
11. Comparative structures. Adjectives and Adverbs
12. Prepositions and Conjunctions: Contrasts
13. Miscellaneous: common errors made by native English speakers.
14. Miscellaneous: colloquial expressions, English - Spanish
15. False friends English-Spanish

Assessment and Final Grade

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

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|------------------------|-----|
| • 1 st exam | 25% |
| • 2 nd exam | 30% |
| • Compositions (4) | 25% |
| • Classroom exercises | 10% |
| • Participation | 10% |

Course Requisites

Out of class activities: Students will attend an acoustic concert where several prestigious Sevillian musicians will perform an unplugged concert. We will compare the lyrics of popular Spanish songs to those of popular English songs. Similarly, students will compile typical Spanish colloquial expressions given by the professor and try to find their meaning by interacting with native speakers on the streets. Finally, they are expected to find out the equivalent in their language in order to give a 10-minute presentation by explaining their meaning in Spanish and their translation into English.

Compositions:

Students are to write 4 compositions throughout the course covering the four types of textual typology, namely, description, narration, exposition and argumentation. These compositions, whose length will consist of 750 words, will be assessed in terms of textual coherence, grammar and lexical correctness, lexical variety, adequacy to the topic suggested and format. Each one of the aforesaid criteria will have a weigh of 20 points out of 100 points.

Exams: Two exams will be given throughout this course (one mid-term exam and one final exam). The combined score of both exams will constitute **55%** of the student's final grade. The remaining **45%** of the final grade will be based on four compositions distributed throughout the course as well as classroom exercises and active participation.



Classroom exercises: Students are expected to complete different exercises covering a wide variety of grammatical aspects. Many of the aforesaid exercises should be completed at home and reviewed and analysed in detail during the lecture.

Participation: Students must participate actively during the class, inasmuch as this class implies a continuous and active effort to show the supposed improvement of the different skills practised in it.

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 5 points (on a 100-point scale) for each class missed thereafter. Students with 6 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: In this class, bring one whose objective is learning the language based on previous knowledge and skills, ALL STUDENTS ARE PROHIBITED FROM USING THE WRITING CENTER. All assignments turned in to the professor will be reviewed and handed back with comments; therefore, any previous corrections will detract from the learning process and objective of this course. The professor has office hours available where the student may consult any question or doubt, he/she may have. On the other hand, it is recommended that the student use the Spanish language tutoring services.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1:

1.1 Articles: Definite and Indefinite. Contrasts.

1.2 The article as a nominalizer.

Reading pp 1-3 from *Apuntes de Gramática Contrastiva Española - Inglés*

Week 2:

2.1 Nouns. Problems of concordance.

2.2 Verbs with indirect objects

Reading: pp 4-7 from *Apuntes de Gramática Contrastiva Española - Inglés*



Week 3:

3.1 Adjectives. Problems of position.

3.2 Comparative clauses.

Reading: pp 10-14, 49-53 from *Apuntes de Gramática Contrastiva Española - Inglés*
To hand in the first composition

Week 4:

4.1 Pronouns. Position. Object pronouns.

4.2 Verbs with double objects.

Reading: pp 14-18 from *Apuntes de Gramática Contrastiva Española - Inglés*

Week 5:

5.1 The neutral "lo". Syntagmatic realizations.

5.2 Uses.

Reading: pp 19-22 from *Apuntes de Gramática Contrastiva Española - Inglés*

Week 6:

6.1 Miscellaneous verbal. Periphrastic constructions

To hand in the second composition

Reading: pp 23-24, *Apuntes de Gramática Contrastiva Española - Inglés*

6.2 Mid-term Exam

Week 7:

7.1 Preterites. Uses

7.2 Uses of the verb HABER.

Reading: pp 25-27, *Apuntes de Gramática Contrastiva Española - Inglés*

Week 8:

8.1 Modal verbs. Uses of *se*.

8.2 Becoming Verbs

Reading: pp 28-32, *Apuntes de Gramática Contrastiva Española - Inglés*
To hand in the third composition

Week 9:

9.1 Miscellaneous subjunctive (I)

9.2 Emotional reaction verbs, verbs related to suggestions (I)

Reading: pp 33-41, *Apuntes de Gramática Contrastiva Española - Inglés*

Week 10:

10.1 Miscellaneous subjunctive (II)

10.2 Opinion verbs, value judgements, purpose clauses

Reading: pp 33-41, *Apuntes de Gramática Contrastiva Española - Inglés*



Week 11

11.1 Conditional sentences. Conditional conjunctions. Relative clauses.

11.2 Relative clauses (pronouns and mood)

Reading: 42-48, *Apuntes de Gramática Contrastiva Española – Inglés*

To hand in the fourth composition

Week 12

12.1 Final review

12.2 Final Exam

Course Material

Readings

- Hill, S. y Bradford, William. **Bilingual Grammar of English-Spanish Syntax**. University Press of America. Maryland.1991.
- Butt, John y Benjamin, Carmen. **A New Reference Grammar of Modern Spanish**.
- Edward Arnold, Thompson, A.J. and Martinet, A.V. **A Practical English Grammar**. Oxford. OUP,2001
- Solé, Yolanda y Solé, Carlos.**Modern Spanish Syntax**. DC Heath and Company
- Whitley,S. **Spanish -English Contrasts**.Georgetown.University Press, Washington,DC,1986
- Stockwell, R. et al. **The Grammatical Structures of English and Spanish**. University of Chicago.
- Prado, Marcial. **Diccionario de Falsos Amigos Inglés-Español**. Gredos, Madrid,2001
- Rodríguez, Antonio. **Apuntes de Gramática Contrastiva Inglés-Español**. (this will be used as a textbook for class)
- 5** Rodríguez García, Antonio. **Ejercicios de Gramática Contrastiva Inglés- Español** (this will be used as a textbook for class)