Instructor:  J. Bruhn de Garavito
Office:     AHB 3R02
Phone:      661-2111 ext 85864
E-Mail:     joycebg@uwo.ca

Prerequisite: Spanish 3303 or permission of the department
Antirequisite: None
Constraints: Oral and written comprehension and production in Spanish

A. Course Description and Objectives

How do you put words together to form sentences? How does the way we build our sentences contribute towards interpretation? Why are some sentences ambiguous? Does the concept of grammaticality exist in the mind, or is it a social construct?

This course aims at understanding ways in which these questions and others may be approached, and how they contribute to our understanding of the human mind. More than solving problems, we hope to learn to ‘think scientifically’ about language, that is, we will try to analyze sentences in different ways, making different hypotheses about them. Then we will try to weigh the evidence that supports each of these hypotheses.
The course is taught twice a week. It is taught in Spanish.

B. Methodology

In almost every class the students will receive a list of sentences that we will discuss and try to understand from a linguistic point of view. In other words, the class is based on the practice of thinking more than on explanations or theory, although there is a clear theoretical background to our approach.

C. Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, you will be able to:

- Understand the relevance of all types of linguistic data to linguistic analysis.
- Form hypotheses about the structure of sentences based on data.
- Produce arguments in support of certain analyses.
- Compare different analyses and understand their relation to the data.
- Understand how sentences are put together to form meaning.
- Understand the relations between different parts of the sentence.
- Understand the different causes of ambiguity.
- Construct visual representations of the structure of sentences and parts of sentences.
- Question any analysis that does not include evidence.

D. Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary of short paper</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>