

The University of Western Ontario
Department of Modern Languages and Literatures
The structure of Spanish, Spanish 303
Preliminary Course Outline Winter 2018

Course instructor : Joyce L. S. Bruhn de Garavito (AHB 3R08; joycebg@uwo.ca)



Required textbooks

Hualde, J. I., Olarrea, A., A. M. Escobar y C. Traviz (2010) *Introducción a la lingüística hispánica (2a ed)*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Course description:

What makes a sentence mean what it means? Can a sentence have more than one meaning? Why? What is the definition of a word? Does a word have parts? What are the units of sound in Spanish?

In this course we are going to answer these questions and more. We will examine the sounds of Spanish and how they are organized. We will look at how sentences, phrases and words are put together. Our ultimate aim will be to see why grammar matters and what it can tell us about the organization of the human mind.

This class is taught in Spanish. The objective of this course is not to teach you to speak Spanish, I will assume you already do so moderately well (input in Spanish will help you improve). The objective is to understand the nuts and bolts of language and how it is put together. In that sense it is more like a course in mechanics than a course in driving.

Tentative Evaluation

Participation	10%
Assignments	10%
Problem sets (2)	20%
Mid-term exam	30%
Final exam	30%

Participation: It is very important in this class because we will learn by doing, and we will be doing a great deal of analysis in class. It is necessary not only to come to class, but also to come prepared and willing to work.

Homework: You must read and be prepared to discuss the selected pages from your textbook. Homework will also include problems that you must solve or questions to answer. It is not important to get them right every time, but it is important to think about them.

Problem sets: You will be asked to carry out an analysis of a certain amount of data. Problem sets are completed at home. You may work with another student, but you must inform the professor of who you are working with.

Exams: Both the mid-term and the final exam will consist of a mixture of analysis of data and essay-type questions.

Please see MLL's **academic policies:**

<http://www.uwo.ca/modlang/undergraduate/policies.html>.

