

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

SP2214A "COMPARATIVE GRAMMAR OF ENGLISH AND SPANISH"
FALL 2021



1. Course Overview and Important Dates:

Delivery Mode	Dates	Time
In-Person	Sept 10- Dec 10	Tuesday Tutorials, 12.30-1.30pm Thursday lecture, 11.30am –1.30 pm

Classes Start	Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
September 9	Oct 12- 15	December 9	December 10	December 11 - 22

2. Contact Information

Course Instructor	Contact Information
Dr. Olga Tararova	otarov@uwo.ca <i>Office hours: by appointment via Zoom</i>

Teaching Assistant(s)	Contact Information
TBA	

3. Course Description and Design

REQUISITES: Pre-or Corequisite(s): Spanish 2200 or Spanish 2200W/X or permission of the Department.

The course provides an introductory comparative analysis between English and Spanish languages. During the semester, students will discover main differences between the two languages, by covering topics, such as inflectional and derivational morphology (e.g., gender and number, tense and mood distinction, word class), word order in different sentence types, as well as phonetical and lexical distinctions found in the two languages. . The classes will be held **in Spanish**.

- *All course material will be posted to OWL: <http://owl.uwo.ca>. Any changes will be indicated on the OWL site and discussed with the class.*
- *If students need assistance, they can seek support on the [OWL Help page](#). Alternatively, they can contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#). They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.*

4. Course Goals and Objectives

This course aims to achieve the following:

- Develop linguistic awareness by comparing two languages.
- Compare English and Spanish linguistic features in order to deepen student's understanding of the structure of Spanish.
- Improve the student's Spanish knowledge by using English as a point of comparison.
- Learn basic theoretical linguistic concepts.
- Develop basic translation skills.



5. Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify the most common mistakes in the interlanguage of a learner of Spanish.
- Memorize the basic linguistic concepts in Spanish.
- Understand why some grammar topics of Spanish are more difficult than others for a speaker whose first language is English.
- Improve student's Spanish skills by reflecting on the grammar of the two languages.



6. Evaluation

Below is the evaluation breakdown for the course. Any deviations will be communicated.

Assessment	Format	Weighting	Due Date
Seminar leadership/ presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written handout • Seminar leadership • Reflection Paper 	IN-PERSON, during tutorials	5% handout 10% presentation/ seminar leadership 15% reflection paper	Refer to the calendar
Quizzes (<i>n=5</i>)	ONLINE, in OWL	8% x 5 = 40%	Quiz 0 – Sept 12 Quiz 1 – Sept 26 Quiz 2 – Oct 10 Quiz 3 – Oct 24 Quiz 4 – Nov 14 Quiz 5 – Nov 21
Participation & Homework completion	During class time + Dropbox homework submission	10%	ongoing
Final exam	Take home exam	20%	

Seminar Leadership/ presentations (10%)

For this course, students will either present a traditional presentation of 15 minutes total or lead a seminar presentation. The weekly presentations/ seminars will take place during our Thursday online meetings and will address the topic introduced on Tuesday during the lecture.

For the traditional presentations, the student will speak/present for no more than 15 minutes discussing one of the topics on Tuesday class lecture. During these 15 minutes, the student will be required to:

- 1) Present the major concepts discussed during the lecture on Tuesday with your group members (4-5 min)
- 2) Be responsible to answer any questions that your group members might have (2-3 min)
- 3) Lead the class through designing **2-3 short exercises** based on the assigned topic. (7-8 minutes)

For the seminars, the class will be broken up into small groups of no more than 5 students and each week a different member of your small group will be responsible for **leading** their small group's seminar (the student will have to repeat the same information 3 times x15 minutes (=45 minutes) to 3 different groups.

For your seminar/presentation the student will prepare a **handout (5%)** for each of your group mates and send it to the instructor/TA **24 hrs PRIOR** to class. You will have approximately **15 minutes** for your seminar, in which time you will undertake the following tasks:

- 1) Review and summarize the major concepts discussed during the lecture on Tuesday with your group members (4-5 min)
- 2) Be responsible to answer any questions that your group members might have (2-3 min)
- 3) Lead your group through **2-3 short exercises** based on your assigned topic. You might decide to have your group mates work in pairs and then share their work with your full small-group (7-8 min)

Seminar/Presentation Reflection Paper (15%). For both groups

You are required to submit **electronically (upload onto OWL)** a **2-page** (double-spaced, 12 point font, 1 inch margins) written reflection paper in which you critically examine your seminar preparation and leadership OR your oral presentation **in Spanish**. Your reflection paper will be due **the following Tuesday** after you have conducted your seminar/presentation.

Your reflection paper **must** include a copy of your **seminar handout** and your -page **critical** analysis focusing on:

- 1) the **effectiveness of what you prepared** for your seminar/presentation (if you were to do it again, what would you change and why, and what would you keep the same and why?);
- 2) an **overview of the ideas generated** by your group mates in response to what you prepared (did any key terms generate any important comments, and what ideas did your group mates come up with in response to your discussion questions and activity);
- 3) **MOST importantly, an analysis of any changes in your ideas** and understanding of the topic as a result of the group discussion.

Online Quizzes (8% each, total 5)

There will be 5 online quizzes scheduled prior to Tuesday classes. Each online quiz will test the studied material. The quizzes will be timed. In order to successfully receive a high mark, ensure you study the assigned material prior to opening the quiz. Once the quiz is opened, you will have to complete it. The quiz will be open on a Sunday (**until 11.55pm**) prior to Tuesday classes. There will be NO make-up quiz.

Final exam (20%)

A **24-hour take-home** exam will be sent to the students during the exam period. The exam will test the material studied during the course. The format will be the following: fill in the blanks, short answer questions, and multiple- choice.

Participation and Homework completion (10%)



- Students are expected to participate and engage with content as much as possible, as well as complete the homework on time
- Students should also participate in tutorials by interacting during presentations with their peers and instructors

- All assignments are due at 11:55 pm EST unless otherwise specified
- Students will have ONE attempt to complete online quizzes so make sure your connection is stable
- Rubrics will be used to evaluate assessments and will be posted with the instructions
- After an assessment is returned, students should wait 24 hours to digest feedback before contacting their evaluator; to ensure a timely response, reach out within 7 days

Click [here](#) for a detailed and comprehensive set of policies and regulations concerning examinations and grading. The table below outlines the University-wide grade descriptors.

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	Fail

Information about late or missed evaluations:

- Late assessments without illness self-reports will be subject to a late penalty 10 %/day
- Late assessments with illness self-reports should be submitted within 24 hours of submission of the last illness self-report

- An assessment cannot be submitted after it has been returned to the class

7. Resources



- All lectures will be posted in OWL



8. Professionalism & Privacy:

Western students are expected to follow the [Student Code of Conduct](#). Additionally, the following expectations and professional conduct apply to this course:

- Students are expected to follow online etiquette expectations provided on OWL
- All course materials created by the instructor(s) are copyrighted and cannot be sold/shared
- Recordings are not permitted (audio or video) without explicit permission
- Permitted recordings are not to be distributed
- Students will be expected to take an academic integrity pledge before some assessments
- All recorded sessions will remain within the course site or unlisted if streamed

10. How to Be Successful in this Class:

Students enrolled in this class should understand the level of autonomy and self-discipline required to be successful.



1. Invest in a planner or application to keep track of your courses. Populate all your deadlines at the start of the term and schedule time at the start of each week to get organized and manage your time.
2. Make it a daily habit to log onto OWL to ensure you have seen everything posted to help you succeed in this class.
3. Follow weekly checklists created on OWL or create your own to help you stay on track.
4. Take notes as you go through the lesson material. Treat this course as you would a face-to-face course. Keeping handwritten notes or even notes on a regular Word document will help you learn more effectively than just reading or watching the videos.
5. Connect with others. Try forming an online study group and try meeting on a weekly basis for study and peer support.
6. Do not be afraid to ask questions. If you are struggling with a topic, check the online discussion boards or contact your instructor(s) and or teaching assistant(s).
7. Reward yourself for successes. It seems easier to motivate ourselves knowing that there is something waiting for us at the end of the task.

11. Communication:

- Students should check the OWL site every 24 – 48 hours
- A weekly update will be provided on the OWL announcements
- Students should email their instructor(s) and teaching assistant and include SPA2214 in the header

- Emails will be monitored daily, except on weekends; students will receive a response in 24 – 48 hours
- This course will use the OWL forum for discussions
- Students should post all course-related content on the discussion forum so that everyone can access answers to questions
- The discussion forums will be monitored daily by instructors or teaching assistants



12. Western Academic Policies and Statements

Absence from Course Commitments

Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade,
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are *not* met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical, or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. **All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.**

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see [Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

Accommodation for Religious Holidays

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

The policy on Accommodation for Religious Holidays can be viewed [here](#).

Academic Offenses

"Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed [here](#) to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence.

Accessibility Statement

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education (AE) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation or review [The policy on Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Correspondence Statement

The centrally administered **e-mail account** provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at his/her official university address is attended to in a timely manner. You can read about the privacy and security of the UWO email accounts [here](#).

Copyright and Audio/Video Recording Statement

Course material produced by faculty is copyrighted and to reproduce this material for any purposes other than your own educational use contravenes Canadian Copyright Laws. You must always ask permission to record another individual and you should never share or distribute recordings.

12. Support Services

Students who are in emotional distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

The following links provide information about support services at Western University.

[Registrarial Services](#)

[Academic Counselling \(Arts and Humanities\)](#)

[Student Development Services](#)

[Student Health Services](#)

[Services Provided by USC](#)

[Appeal Procedures](#)

COURSE SCHEDULE

<u>Week/Date</u>	<u>Theme / Structure</u>
1. Week 1, Sep 9	Presentación del curso. Sílabo. Requisitos <i>Presentaciones/ ice-breaker</i> QUIZ 0
2. Week 2, Sep 14	Las clases de palabras ¿Qué es una palabra?
3. Week 2, Sep 16	Tipo/formación de palabras Morfología Nominal ¿Qué es el género?
4. Week 3, Sep 21	Tutoría: Repaso del sintagma nominal & formación de palabras
5. Week 3, Sep 23	El determinante y su interpretación. El adjetivo. El sintagma nominal y sus funciones. Los pronombres sujetos, diferencias de uso. Los pronombres objeto. QUIZ 1
6. Week 4, Sep 28	Seminario (1) Repaso del determinante, adjetivos y los pronombres, y los nombres
7. Week 4, Sep 30	Morfología Verbal: el paradigma verbal
8. Week 5, Oct 5	Tutoría: Repaso de la morfología verbal: el paradigma verbal.
9. Week 5, Oct 7	¿Qué es el aspecto? El aspecto en el pasado. QUIZ 2
Oct 12- 15	READING WEEK/ NO CLASS
10. Week 6, Oct 19	Seminario (2) Repaso de pretérito imperfecto vs. pretérito indefinido (aspecto)
11. Week 6, Oct 21	¿Qué es el tiempo? Los tiempos simples y los tiempos compuestos.
12. Week 7, Oct 26	Práctica de tiempo

13. Week 7, Oct 28	El futuro y el condicional. Usos QUIZ 3
14. Week 8, Nov 2	¿Qué es el modo? Tipos de oraciones subordinadas. Las nominales y el subjuntivo
15. Week 8, Nov 4	Seminario (3)
16. Week 9, Nov 9	El orden de las palabras. Entonación. Las oraciones simples y complejas. Tipos de oraciones simples y complejas.
17. Week 9, Nov 11	Repaso de oraciones subordinadas nominales, subjuntivo (indicativo vs. subjuntivo) Oraciones subordinadas adjetivas y adverbiales (temporales) y el subjuntivo. Las finales y las causales QUIZ 4
18. Week 10, Nov 16	Seminario (4) Repaso de oraciones subordinadas adjetivas y adverbiales (temporales) y el subjuntivo. Las finales y las causales
19. Week 10, Nov 18	Semántica. Homofonía y ortografía QUIZ 5
20. Week 11, Nov 23	Ejemplos de casos semánticos en inglés y español
21. Week 11, Nov 25	Fonética comparativa. Variación dialectal. Los casos de ceceo/seseo, yeísmo y la /s/ final
22. Week 12, Nov 30	Léxico comparativo La jerga y las <i>groserías</i>
23. Week 12, Dec 2	Spanglish
24. Week 13, Dec 7	Repaso para el examen final <i>Reflexión</i> / Resumen