Course Information

Lecture: Tuesdays (10.30-12.30 pm), Thursdays (11.30-12.30 pm)

Contact Information

Professor: Olga Tararova
Office: UC 2313
Office hours: by appointment
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Course Description

REQUISITES: Pre or Corequisite(s): Spanish 3300 or Spanish 3301E or permission of the Department.

This course will introduce students to basic concepts in linguistics from a Spanish perspective. It examines the different levels of structure, including the Spanish sound system (phonology), word formation (morphology), and sentence formation (syntax). It will also examine the relationships between form and meaning. The classes will be held in Spanish.

Course Goals and Objectives

This course aims to achieve the following:

- Introduce students to the major linguistic aspects ((socio)phonetic, phonological morphological and syntactic) of the Spanish language
- Develop critical thinking when writing a linguistic essay
- Develop a deeper understanding about the Spanish language
Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Memorize the basic linguistic concepts in Spanish
- Identify main patterns in phonetics, phonology, morphology, and syntax in Spanish
- Distinguish between many varieties of the Spanish language
- Write a solid linguistic essay

Course Material

Required:

Hualde, José Ignacio, Antxon Olarrea y Ana María Escobar, Catherine Travis (2009)
Introducción a la lingüística hispánica, Cambridge, segunda edición

Additional texts:


Course Evaluation

Tests (Test 1 – 20%; Test 2- 10%) 30%
Seminar Leadership presentation (10%) & handout (5%) 15%
Participation 10%
Independent group project (Outline 10%, Oral presentation 10%, Essay 25%) 45%

Tests:
In this course, you will be given two in-class tests (20% and 10%, respectively) that will focus on one of the two major topics: morphosyntax or phonetics/phonology. The tests will focus on and include required weekly reading(s), as well as in-class discussion.

Make up tests: Two of them must be written on their scheduled dates. Please note that the weighting of exams, and class assignments cannot be modified or changed. It is your responsibility to contact me within five business days if you miss any exam or class assignment. No make-ups will be allowed without the presentation of the appropriate documentation for medical absences, or a letter from the College Registrar for other matters. Extra work cannot be substituted for missed tests or class assignments.

**Participation (10%)**:

You are expected to attend all the classes and participate actively during the discussion period. This will also include coming prepared to class with completed homework! Inconsistent attendance (including frequent absences and late arrivals) will negatively impact your level of participation and will significantly affect your final Participation grade. Attendance without active participation will lead to a poor final participation grade.

**Seminar Leadership (15%)**

Seminars will take place during our Tuesday meetings and will address the topic introduced on Wednesday during the lecture. For the seminars, the class will be broken up into small groups of no more than 5 students and a different member will be responsible for leading a small group’s seminar on a chosen topic.

For your seminar, you will prepare a handout for each of your group mates. You must also provide a printed copy of your handout to me before the start of your seminar. You will have approximately **10-15 minutes** for your seminar, in which time you will undertake the following tasks:

1) Review and summarize the major concepts discussed during the lecture with your group members.
2) Be responsible to answer any questions that your group members might have.
3) Lead your group by preparing 2-3 short exercises based on your assigned topic.
   Exercises should be well-thought, creative in order to deepen student's knowledge on a given topic.

**Independent group project (45%)**:
For your final group project (2-3 people), you will be required to do a comparative analysis of any of the variables (morphological, syntactic, or phonetic) from two regions learnt throughout the semester. Possible topics can include: morphological variation of “you” form, final /s/, dialectal variation, bilingualism, etc. Make sure to consult with me on the approval of your topic. You will be required to submit two-page outline together with your reference list (1 page) of your further research that will include: literature review (5-7 sources). During the last week, you and your partner(s) will have to do a PowerPoint and present your topic to the class. Make sure you have an introduction, your literature review and your findings (more information will be provided) The final essay (25%) should be no less than 5-7 pages (format: Times New Roman, font 12, double-spaced) excluding the bibliography, appendices/charts/tables format. It is due INSERT DATE. Please, put it into my mailbox.