SPA 305 Introduction to Spanish Linguistics

Department of Languages, Cultures, and Communication
Stephen F. Austin State University
Spring 2016

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Office Hours: MWF 11 am-12 pm; TR 8-9 am; other times by appointment
Class Time/Place: TR 2-3:15 pm in Ferguson 175

TEXT: Introducción a la lingüística hispánica (Hualde) 2nd edition

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Spanish 305 serves as an introduction to core concepts of linguistic study, including phonetics and phonology, morphology, historical linguistics, dialects and language variation. We will primarily focus on these concepts within the Spanish language, with a secondary consideration of Latin’s evolution into the various romance languages and the resulting similarities and disparities between them. We will learn key concepts in the field of modern linguistics from Saussure to Chomsky, universals of language acquisition, and discuss language change especially as it applies to Spanish in the United States.

COURSE ORGANIZATION: This course will cover all key concepts presented in chapters 1,2,3,5,7 and 8. We will discuss one chapter at a time, with a chapter test every two weeks (6 total). The bulk of your grade comes from these chapter tests. Other portions of your grade include homework (2 assignments per chapter), one final exam and a group presentation. This is a content course that is taught entirely in Spanish. English equivalencies for terminology will be provided when useful.

Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Tests</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>(6 chapters at 10% each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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A note on the text. This text may be for many of you the most difficult and daunting reading experience you have ever had in Spanish. Stick with it. In this class we are reading for information, so read for gist, not to understand every word. As long as you are soaking in the main points of each concept in the chapters, you are where you need to be. My lectures are meant to supplement and clarify the chapters. It is important that you read the assigned pages as an overview, so that you know what questions you need to ask in the lectures, and so that you have enough of an idea to actively participate in the discussion.

This is not a grammar course. For perhaps the first time in your Spanish education, you will not be tested on the subjunctive, the preterite versus the imperfect, and so on. My evaluation of you in this course will be based on your understanding of the content and your ability to express it intelligibly— not perfectly— in Spanish.

Attendance and Participation: Students who miss more than three classes will see their final grade reduced by five points per additional unexcused absence. All cell phones must be off and put away during class.
COURSE PLAN

**Week 1
Day 1: January 19
Course introduction
Introduction to linguistics: Saussure, prescriptivism, descriptivism...
Relevant Reading: Chapter 1, through section 2.2

Day 2: January 21
Human vs. animal communication
Noam Chomsky, innatism, universal grammar
Competence vs. performance

Relevant Reading: Chapter 1, section 2.3

**Week 2
Day 3: January 26
Stages of language acquisition
Language and the brain
Aphasia

Relevant Reading: Chapter 1, section 2.4

Day 4: January 28
Chapter 1 discussion and review

Relevant Reading: Review all of chapter1; study for test 1

**Week 3
Day 5: February 2
Chapter 1 Test
Start chapter 2: Phonetics and phonology
Phonemes and IPA

Relevant Reading: How Language Works handouts

Day 6: February 4
Classification and description of vowels and consonants

Relevant reading: How Language Works handouts
**Week 4**

**Day 7: February 9**
Allophones, syllabification and accents

Relevant reading: *How Language Works* handouts, sections 2.6 and 2.7 of chapter 2

**Day 8: February 11**
Discussion and review of chapter 2

Relevant reading: review powerpoints and handouts, study for test 2

**Week 5**

**Day 9: February 16**
Chapter 2 Test
Begin chapter 3: morphology
Lexical classes, Open / Closed classes

Relevant reading: skim part 1 of chapter 3

**Day 10: February 18**
Derivación/ flexión
Free / bound morphemes
Allomorphs

Relevant reading: skim part 2 of chapter 3

**Week 6**

**Day 11: February 23**
Grammatical gender, Tense/aspect/modality
Derivation of words in Spanish

Relevant reading: skim part 3 of chapter 3

**Day 12: February 25**
Derivation of words in Spanish
Compare with other romance languages

Relevant reading: skim part 4 of chapter 3
**Week 7**

**Day 13: March 1**
Derivation of words in Spanish
Compare with other romance languages

Relevant reading: chapter 3

**Day 14: March 3**
Discussion and review of chapter 3

Relevant reading: study chapter 3 notes & handouts

**Week 8**

**Day 15: March 8**
Chapter 3 Test
Start Chapter 8: Spanish in the United States

Relevant reading: chapter 8, part 3

**Day 16: March 10**
English-Spanish language contact

Relevant reading: chapter 8, part 4

**March 15 and 17**
Spring break

**Week 9**

**Day 17:**
Chapter 8 review & practice

**Thursday:**
Easter break (no class)

**Week 10**

**Day 18: March 29**
Chapter 8 Test
Evolution of Latin to Spanish (chapter 5)

Relevant reading: chapter 5 through part 6

**Day 19: March 31**
Evolution of Latin to Spanish
Linguistic change and dialectal variation
Relevant reading: chapter 5, parts 14-17

**Week 11**

**Day 20: April 5**
Dialectal variation and text analysis

Relevant reading: chapter 5, part 18, scan parts 7-11

**Day 22: April 7**
Dialectal variation and text analysis
Review and discussion of chapter 5

Relevant reading: study chapter 5 notes and handouts

**Week 12**

**Day 23: April 12**
Chapter 5 test
Start chapter 7: Linguistic Variation; Spanish in Spain / Latin America

Relevant reading: chapter 7, sections 1-2

**Day 24: 14 de abril**
Linguistic variation; Sefardí and afro-español
Intro to bilingualism and language contact

Relevant reading: chapter 7, section 3

**Week 13**

**Day 25: April 19**
Bilingualism and language contact

Relevant reading: study notes and handouts of chapter 7

**Day 26: April 21**
Review and discussion of chapter 7

**Week 14**

**Day 27: April 26**
Chapter 7 test
Presentations

**Day 28: April 28**
Presentations
Week 15
May 3-5: Presentations & Review

Week 16
Final Exam: May 10th 1-3 pm