

University of Mississippi  
Department of Modern Languages

Fall 2012

Spanish 330

Introduction to Spanish Linguistics  
4:00-5:15 T and Th

**Professor:** Dr. John R. Gutiérrez  
E 211 A Bondurant Hall  
johng@olemiss.edu

**Office Hours:** 1:00-2:15 Tuesdays and Thursdays in 211 Croft  
1:30-3:30 Wednesdays in 211 Bondurant Hall  
or any other time by appointment.

**Office Phone:** 915-7717 or 915-7298

**Prerequisites:**

Absolute prerequisites for this course are Spanish 303, 304, their equivalents taken elsewhere, or the permission of the professor.

**E-mail:**

The easiest way to get in touch with me is through e-mail. Please feel free to use it to set up an appointment or to seek clarification on something covered in class or in the reading you do at home. Please be advised that trouble with the network or the server is not an excuse for missing homework, not completing assignments, etc.

**Course description:**

Linguistics is the study of human languages--what they are composed of and how they are used. This course provides an introduction to Spanish linguistics and establishes the basis for future application of linguistic principles. The course begins with an exploration of the sound system of Spanish and its theoretical representation. Building on this, the discussion continues with topics in Spanish morphology such as word formation and verbal inflection. We will continue with an analysis of issues in syntax and finish the course looking carefully at language variation and the Spanish language as it is spoken in the United States. The goal of this course is to provide students with a level of knowledge that enables them to make connections between the structure of Spanish and relevant issues in

contemporary Hispanic linguistics, such as language variation, bilingualism, and Spanish in the United States.

**Objectives:**

In this class you will learn to discuss the basic concepts and issues in the various linguistic sub-disciplines. Using the Spanish language as our point of departure, you will learn about the following:

phonology (the study of pronunciation)

morphology (word structure and formation)

syntax (sentence structure)

lexico-semantics (words and their meanings)

pragmatics (meanings of words and sentences in context)

regional and social dialects (Spanish as it is spoken in the real world, especially the United States)

In addition, you will:

develop a critical understanding of the central assumptions of contemporary linguistics;

receive training in the application of linguistic ideas and constructs to the analysis of language data;

develop an awareness of linguistic theory and its applications to Spanish.

Since this is an upper-level class, you are expected to be more independent than lower-division students. This means that course material must be read before class so that your questions can be discussed during class, and if you have questions that cannot be answered during class, that you will take the initiative to visit me during my office hours.

**Text:**

Azevedo, Milton. *Introducción a la lingüística española*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2005.

The following website is helpful in looking up words:

<http://www.wordreference.com>

**Grading criteria:**

Class Participation, Quizzes, and Homework	25%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Paper/Presentation	15%
Final Exam	20%

**Class participation, quizzes and homework:**

You are required and expected to come to class prepared and ready to participate in the discussions and activities. It is expected that all homework exercises will be done prior to class and you are required to bring your books to class. Part of your participation grade includes attendance. Thus, if you are not in class, you are not participating.

A number of quizzes and/or homework assignments will be given and your two lowest grades on these will be dropped. For this reason, you will not be allowed to make up a missed quiz and late homework will not be accepted. Some of the quizzes are announced and others are not.

Missing a class is no excuse for being unprepared for the next class. You are responsible for contacting the professor or another class member in order to get the assignment(s) that will be covered in class on the day following your absence. Failure to come to class prepared will result in a "0" for your class participation grade for that day.

**Exam 1**

Exam 1 will be given on September 25 and will assess your mastery of the material covered in class from August 21 through September 20.

**Exam 2**

Exam 2 will be given on October 30 and will assess your mastery of the material covered in class from September 27 through October 25.

**Paper/Presentation:**

You will be required to write a short paper (3-5 pages) in which you explore an issue in Spanish linguistics that may pique your curiosity in your readings and class discussions, and which you would like to explore in more detail. You will make an oral presentation based on the paper during the last two weeks of class. Papers will be written in Spanish and all citations and bibliography will follow the MLA Style.

**Final exam:**

The final exam will be comprehensive. The final exam is scheduled for Wednesday, December 5 at 4:00. There are no make-ups or reschedules of the final exam unless there is an official conflict as defined by University policy (please see Undergraduate Catalog for clarification).

**Grading Scale:**

100-93 A	87-89 B+	77-79 C+	60-69 D
90-92 A-	83-86 B	73-76 C	0-59 F
	80-82 B-	70-72 C-	

**Disabilities:**

It is the responsibility of any student with a disability who requests an accommodation to contact the Office of Student Disability Services (915-7128). SDS will then contact the professor through the student by means of an Instructor Notification of Classroom Accommodations form. The professor will then be happy to work with the student so that a reasonable accommodation of a disability can be made. No retroactive or replacement work will be allowed.

**Croft/Honors**

In this section of this class we will be adopting the Honors Code employed by the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College. It is centered on honesty, sincerity, and justice and its strength depends on the personal honor and integrity of each student. You are required to write the statement below on any assignment submitted for grading in this class, thereby reinforcing the atmosphere of trust within this course.

**The Honor Code**

“On my honor, I pledge that I have neither given, received, nor witnessed any unauthorized help on this \_\_\_\_\_.”

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Miscellaneous:**

This is not a course in conversation, composition or general language development; thus a superior knowledge of spoken or written Spanish is no guarantee of anything. There is quite a bit of terminology to be mastered and because linguistics is a close relative of such disciplines as mathematics and biology, this course will demand precision, exactitude and the ability to classify and analyze. This is not like a history or political science course where a lot of crash reading before the exam can get you through. To do well in this course you must comprehend various principles at each stage of the course, and to do that you must keep up with the work on a daily basis.

### **Course Outline**

21-23 de agosto	Introducción Capítulo 1: La lengua española en el mundo
28-30 de agosto	Capítulo 1: La lengua española en el mundo
4-6 de septiembre	Capítulo 3: Fonética: Los sonidos del habla
11-13 de septiembre	Capítulo 3: Fonética: Los sonidos del habla
18-20 de septiembre	Capítulo 3: Fonética: Los sonidos del habla
25 de septiembre	Examen 1
27 de septiembre	Capítulo 5: Morfología: Forma y función de las palabras
2-4 de octubre	Capítulo 5: Morfología: Forma y función de las palabras
9-11 de octubre oraciones	Capítulo 6: Sintaxis: La estructura de las
16-18 octubre oraciones	Capítulo 6: Sintaxis: La estructura de las
23-25 de octubre	Capítulo 9: Variación regional
30 de octubre	Examen 2
1º de noviembre	Capítulo 9: Variación regional
6-8 de noviembre	Capítulo 12: Español en los Estados Unidos
13-15 de noviembre	Presentaciones

27-29 de noviembre

Presentaciones

Examen Final: Miércoles, 5 de diciembre a las 4:00 de la tarde

**Nota bene:** Other than the exam dates and grading criteria, the information contained herein may be subject to change with advance notice as deemed appropriate by the professor.