

University of Mississippi  
Department of Modern Languages

Spanish 572  
Spanish Phonology and Phonetics

Spring 2011

**Professor:** Dr. John R. Gutiérrez  
E 211 A Bondurant Hall  
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**Office Hours:** 1:00-3:00 Mondays and Wednesdays  
or any other time by appointment.

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

**Prerequisites:**

Absolute prerequisites for this course are Spanish 303, 304, and 330, their equivalents taken elsewhere or the permission of the professor. Experience has shown that without significant Study Abroad experience it will be difficult to get higher than a grade of 'C' in this course.

**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.

**Objectives:**

1. To teach English-speaking students the correct pronunciation of American Spanish-- both through analysis and through imitation and practice.
2. To introduce students to techniques that may help them to teach the elements of Spanish pronunciation.
3. To introduce you to the field of descriptive linguistics, mainly in the areas of phonology and phonetics.
4. To teach you some of the methods, techniques and tools of descriptive linguistics, such as articulatory description, the facial diagram, and phonetic and phonemic transcription.

5. To point out and analyze the important contrasts between the sounds of American Spanish and those of English.

6. To acquaint you with the most important pronunciation differences among the various dialects of the Spanish language--Mexico, the Southern Cone, the Caribbean. Also included are the very few differences between American Spanish and the Spanish spoken in parts of Spain.

**Text:**

Materials will be made available through Blackboard

**Grading criteria:**

Class Participation, quizzes, and homework	25%
Transcription project	15%
Midterm	30%
Final Exam	30%

**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, 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.

**Transcription project:**

You will collect a thirty-minute sample of speech from a native speaker of Spanish. This should be the result of several conversations you have with the native speaker over the course of the first two months of the semester. You will identify (in writing) the native speaker with whom you will be working by February 7.

You will phonetically transcribe a five-minute segment of the sample and provide comments on the phonological characteristics of the Spanish spoken by your informant. Your comments should be written up as a formal paper that includes citations from professional literature (excluding Wikipedia). Please use MLA Style for your in-text citations and bibliography. Your transcription and short paper will be due on April 25.

### **Midterm:**

The midterm exam will be given on March 9 and will assess your mastery of the material covered in class from January 24 through March 7.

### **Final exam:**

The final exam will be comprehensive, and is scheduled for 7:30 pm, Monday, May 3. There are no make-ups or reschedules of the final exam unless there is an official conflict as defined by University policy (please see the Undergraduate Catalog for clarification).

### **Grading Scale:**

100-90 A      89-80 B      79-70 C      69-60 D      59-0 F

### **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.

### **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.

Finally, please turn cell phones and beepers off prior to the start of class. Anyone whose cell phone rings during class will automatically get a '0' Class Participation grade for that day.

24-26 de enero

Introducción  
El silabeo  
Ortografía del español

31 de enero-2 de febrero

Acentuación  
Órganos articulatorios  
Las vocales

7-9 de febrero

Combinaciones de vocales  
Se identifica formalmente al nativohablante

14-16 de febrero

Clasificación de consonantes  
Las oclusivas sordas

21-23 de febrero

Las oclusivas sonoras  
Las fricativas

28 de febrero-2 de marzo

Las fricativas  
Las africadas

7-9 de marzo

Repaso  
Examen

14-16 de marzo

Vacaciones de primavera

21-23 de marzo

Las nasales  
Las laterales

Las vibrantes

28-30 de marzo

Dialectología

4-6 de abril

Dialectología

11-13 de abril

Cambios fonológicos/ortográficos

18-20 de abril

Aplicaciones a la literatura

25-27 de abril

Presentaciones

Se entregan los trabajos finales

2-4 de mayo

Resumen

Presentaciones

9 de mayo

Examen Final

7:30 de la noche