University of Mississippi

Department of Modern Languages

Fall 2011

Spanish 574

History of the Spanish Language

**Professor:** Dr. John R. Gutiérrez

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**Office Hours:** 12:30-2:15 Tuesdays and Thursdays

1:00 – 4:00 Wednesdays in the Croft Institute

or any other time by appointment.

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

**Prerequisites:**

Absolute prerequisites for this course are Spanish 572, its equivalent 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.

**Description:**

This course serves as an overviewof the diachronic (across time) evolution of modern Spanish from spoken Latin. Data from phonetics/phonology and morpho-syntax will form the basis of study. Topics covered include: the development of Vulgar Latin, the Old Spanish phonological system, morpho-syntactic changes from Latin to Spanish, and the influences of contact languages on modern Spanish. The linguistic analysis of texts and the processes of language change will also figure prominently.

**Objectives:**

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

--Demonstrate understanding of the major phonetic, phonological, morphosyntactic, and lexical changes that have occurred in the development of Modern Spanish from Vulgar Latin;

--Demonstrate understanding of the major external forces that have shaped the Spanish language since its birth;

--Read, comprehend, and appreciate Old Spanish texts;

--Demonstrate greater understanding about Spanish and Iberian history in a linguistic context.

**Text:**

Pharies, David A. *Breve historia de la lengua española.* Chicago: University of

Chicago Press, 2007.

The following website is helpful in looking up words:

http://[www.wordreference.com](http://www.wordreference.com/)

**Grading criteria:**

Class Participation, Quizzes, and Homework 25%

Exam 1 20%

Paper 20%

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.

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 October 19 and will assess your mastery of the material covered in class from August 23 through 17.

**Paper:**

Undergraduate students:

The student will write up an analysis of an Old Spanish text from the viewpoint of historical linguistics. The text will be chosen in consultation with the instructor. Students must address variant forms in phonology, morphology, and syntax within the text. The goal of this paper is to better understand the state of Spanish at a given point in history (in other words, it is a *synchronic* study of Old Spanish). All papers should follow the MLA Style. The paper will be due on November 30.

Graduate students:

The student will undertake an in-depth analysis of an Old Spanish text from the viewpoint of historical linguistics. The text will be chosen in consultation with the instructor. Students must address variant forms in phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics within the text. The goal of this paper is to better understand the state of Spanish at a given point in history (in other words, it is a *synchronic* study of Old Spanish). Examples of processes that we have discussed in class, as well as unexpected forms must be noted. Additionally, the student will make use of etymological dictionaries and studies from the literature in order to completely analyze their chosen text.

The grade for the final paper is based on a 15-minute PowerPoint presentation on the student’s research and a final paper. Further requirements for the final paper will be provided throughout the semester. Extensive library research is required, and students are reminded to allow ample time for interlibrary loan and book holds. Lack of sources is not an excuse for not completing each of the assignments on the assigned date. All papers should follow the MLA Style. The paper will be due on November 30.

**Final exam:**

The final exam will be comprehensive. The final exam is scheduled for Monday, December 5 at 7:30 pm. 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.

**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.

The language of instruction will be Spanish.

Please turn cell phones off prior to the start of class!!!**Course Outline**

24 de agosto Introducción

Repaso de fonología y fonética españolas

29 de agosto- 31 de agosto Capítulo 1: El cambio lingüístico

7 de septiembre Capítulo 2: La genealogía del español

12-14 de septiembre Capítulo 3: Historia externa de la Península Ibérica hasta el siglo XIII

Capítulo 4: La lengua latina

19-21 de septiembre Capítulo 5: Del latín al castellano medieval: Fonología

26-28 de septiembre Capítulo 5: Del latín al castellano medieval: Fonología

3-5 de octubre Capítulo 5: Del latín al castellano medieval: Fonología

10-12 de octubre Capítulo 5: Del latín al castellano medieval: Fonología

17-19 octubre Repaso

Examen

24-26 de octubre Capítulo 6: Del latín al castellano medieval: Morfología y sintaxis

31 de octubre-2 de noviembre Capítulo 6: Del latín al castellano medieval: Morfología y sintaxis

7-9 de noviembre Capítulo 6: Del latín al castellano medieval: Morfología y sintaxis

14-16 de noviembre Capítulo 6: Del latín al castellano medieval: Morfología y sintaxis

21-23 de noviembre Capítulo 7: Del castellano medieval al español moderno

Presentaciones

28-30 de noviembre Capítulo 8: Historia del léxico español

Presentaciones

Examen Final: Lunes, el 5 de diciembre a las 7:30 de la noche