

Tennessee Tech University

Department of Foreign Languages

Spanish 4810: Introduction to Spanish Linguistics
Spring 2019

Instructor: Dr. Michael K. Olsen

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Horas de oficina: lunes y miércoles, 1:30-3:30; jueves 3:00-4:00
and by appointment, OKLY 215A

Horas de clase: lunes, miércoles, viernes, 10:15-11:15, OKLY 212

Required text

- x Hualde, J. I., Olarrea, A., Escobar, A. M., & Travis, C. (2010). *Introducción a la lingüística hispanica* (2nd edition) Cambridge University Press.

Prerequisites: SPAN 3010

Course description

Introduction to Spanish Linguistics provides a foundation in the principle areas of linguistics, specifically focusing on the analysis of the Spanish language. The overall objective of this course is to understand the basic linguistic structures of Spanish. The course begins with an introduction to the scientific study of language, including the human capacity for communication. The course also covers the fundamental knowledge of: the Spanish sound system (phonetics and phonology), the formation of words and sentence structures in Spanish (morphology and syntax), the study of meaning and functional usage of Spanish (semantics and pragmatics). Other topics covered include the history of the Spanish language, linguistic variation in Spanish, and Spanish in the United States.

Enduring Understandings

Students will come to understand that:

- x Linguistics is the study of language from a scientific perspective.
- x The Spanish language can be described using the fundamental methods of scientific inquiry of observation and analysis.
- x The Spanish language is dynamic system and not simply a set of vocabulary items and grammar rules

Essential Questions

- x How can the Spanish language be described
- x How do the different linguistic systems in Spanish work
- x How has Spanish evolved from Latin
- x How does Spanish vary across geographical, social, and temporal boundaries
- x What is the state of Spanish in the United States

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- x Describe the Spanish language from a linguistics standpoint.
- x Apply knowledge of the linguistic systems of Spanish to their professional and private lives.
- x Discuss the history of the Spanish language at a rudimentary level.
- x Explain how sociocultural constructs influence language variation

Evaluation

Participation and attendance	20%
Homework and readings	24%
Exams	
Exam 1	12%
Exam 2	12%
Exam 3	12%
Final exam	20%

Participation and attendance 20%

1. Students will be graded based on their active participation in class activities (whole class, group work, pair work) and use of Spanish. We are here to learn and contribute with your thoughts and concerns! Respectful behaviour is expected (use of cell phones in the class).

2. Attendance is obligatory. When absent, participation is not possible and therefore results in a loss of participation points. Absences that are justified by a doctor's note are excused. In case of an emergency (i.e., due to grave illness, hospitalization, funeral of a family member, etc.), you must let me know as soon as possible. Send me an email, or leave me a note in my mailbox. Written documentation/evidence of extenuating circumstances must be given to me within one week of the absence.

3. Arrive on time. When students arrive late, they disrupt the class and miss important announcements.

Homework and readings 24%

Students are expected to come to class prepared by having read the material for that day. Although we will not be focusing on everything from the textbook in class, students are still expected to understand the information in the textbook.

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SPAN 481Q Introduction to