

Spanish 4110: The Structure of Spanish from a Linguistic Perspective

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Course description

Spanish 4110 is an advanced course in Spanish grammar that, using a linguistic framework, examines structures that are subject to sociolinguistic variation. In this course, you will learn about the sociopolitical factors that explain why some grammatical forms are deemed prestigious and others are stigmatized. The course will guide you in a real-life exploration of the ways each structure is used in the Spanish-speaking world, examining which speakers use which structures in which parts of the world, the value judgments levied against them, and why prescriptivist views are less useful than descriptivist ones when seeking to understand how language is used. You will learn grammatical terminology and how to identify categories and constructions in Spanish. Finally, the course will also provide you with opportunities to work toward developing advanced language competence in Spanish. Prerequisites: SPAN 3001 or SPAN 3005, and SPAN 3500 or SPAN 3505.

Learning objectives

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Understand how Spanish grammar varies depending on place, social group, and situation.
- Understand the differences between prescriptivist and descriptivist approaches toward language.
- Understand the underlying social reasons that shape our language attitudes and prejudices towards particular ways of speaking.
- Use grammatical concepts and terminology to describe the structure of Spanish.
- Critically evaluate statements and attitudes (including your own) about language, and human beings as language speakers.
- Work toward advanced language competence as defined in the ACTFL Guidelines.

Course materials

Potowski, Kim and Naomi Shin. 2018. Gramática española: Variación social. Routledge.

Course components

Quizzes

There will be 4 group quizzes to assess your understanding of the material during the semester. The dates of these quizzes are indicated on the course schedule. No make-up quizzes will be given except in the case of participation in a Marquette sponsored event or if you experience a critical illness or other traumatic life event. Under these circumstances, appropriate written documentation must be provided to the instructor.

Homework

There will be 5 graded written assignments throughout the course. Assignments will include different types of exercises in order to practice and review the material

covered in class and in the readings. Homework assignments will be posted on D2L a week before they are due and will be turned in electronically on D2L (Dropbox)

Exams

There will be a final individual examination. Same make-up policy as for the quizzes.

Class activities/Participation

You are expected to attend all class sessions, complete all readings and homework **prior** to class, and be an active participant during class. You will earn a grade for participation each week that takes into consideration your attendance, having read and completed all work before class, contributions to pair and group work, contributions to class discussion, and effort to use Spanish during class. Evaluation criteria will be discussed in class.

Final Project (only for students enrolled in 5110)

For your final project, you will dig deeper into one of the topics covered in the course. The completion of the project will include: reviewing the academic literature on the phenomenon of grammatical variation of your choice, finding examples of use of the forms involved, researching and collecting popular attitudes and opinions toward the low-prestige forms in a particular region, a reflection on the social effects that these attitudes have on the groups of speakers that use the low-prestige variants. Guidelines will be distributed later in the semester.

Grade breakdown for 4110

30% Quizzes (4)

30% Homework (5)

30% Final exam

10% Participation

Grade breakdown for 5110

25% Quizzes (4)

20% Homework (5)

30% Final exam

10% Participation

15% Final project

Grading scale

A 93-100

B- 80-82

D+ 67-69

A- 90-92

C+ 77-79

D 63-66

B+ 87-89

C 73-76

F 0-62

B 83-86

C- 70-72

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

	EN CLASE	LECTURA	TAREA
Semana 1			
Día 1	Introducción al curso Cap. 1 – La lengua como significador social	Capítulo 1 - La lengua como significador social - pp. 1-2.	
Día 2	Cap. 1 – Los dialectos	Capítulo 1 – pp. 2-13	
Semana 2			
Día 1	Cap. 1 – Los dialectos	Capítulo 1 – pp. 2-13	
Día 2	Cap. 1 – El prestigio lingüístico	Capítulo 1 – pp. 13-22	
Semana 3			
Día 1	Cap. 2 – Los sustantivos Cap. 2 – Los sustantivos (número)	Capítulo 2 – Sustantivos, pronombres, preposiciones – pp. 25-31	Tarea 1
Día 2	Cap. 2 – Los sustantivos (género)	Capítulo 2 – pp. 31-40	
Semana 4			
Día 1	Prueba 1		
Día 2	Cap. 2 – Los pronombres sujeto	Capítulo 2 – pp. 41-53	
Semana 5			
Día 1	Cap. 2 – El voseo	Capítulo 2 – pp. 54-60	
Día 2	Cap. 2 – Los pronombres de objeto y el <i>leísmo</i>	Capítulo 2 – pp. 60-66	Tarea 2
Semana 6			
Día 1	Cap. 2 – Las preposiciones y el <i>dequeísmo</i>	Capítulo 2 – pp. 66-72	
Día 2	Prueba 2		
Semana 7			
Día 1	Cap. 3 – Los verbos / Formas del pretérito	Capítulo 3 – Verbos – pp. 75-84	
Día 2	Cap. 3 – El pretérito y el presente perfecto	Capítulo 3 – Verbos – pp. 84-89	
Semana 8			
Día 1	Cap. 3 – El pretérito y el presente perfecto Cap 3 – La pluralización de <i>haber</i>	Capítulo 3 – Verbos – pp. 89-96	
Día 2	Cap. 3 – El presente de subjuntivo	Capítulo 3 – Verbos – pp. 97-103	Tarea 3
<i>No hay clase – VACACIONES DE PRIMAVERA</i>			
Semana 9			
Día 1	Cap. 3 – El Imperfecto de subjuntivo / Oraciones con <i>si</i> con condiciones hipotéticas	Capítulo 3 – Verbos – pp. 103-111	
Día 2	Cap. 3 – Ser vs. estar	Capítulo 3 – Verbos – pp. 111-117	
Semana 10			

Día 1	Prueba 3		
Día 2	Cap. 4 – El pronombre objeto directo / a personal	Capítulo 4 – Características del español en contacto con otras lenguas – pp. 120-127	
Semana 11			
Día 1	Cap. 4 – Posesivos dobles	Capítulo 4 – pp. 127-132	
Día 2	Cap. 4 – La regularización verbal	Capítulo 4 – pp. 132-135	
Semana 12			
Día 1	Cap. 4 – El gerundio y el infinitivo	Capítulo 4 – pp. 135-140	
Día 2	Cap. 4 – El subjuntivo y el indicativo / El imperfecto y el pretérito (EE.UU.)	Capítulo 4 – pp. 140-145	
Semana 13			
Día 1	Cap. 4 – La alternancia de códigos	Capítulo 4 – pp. 145-150	
Día 2	<i>No hay clase</i>		Tarea 4
Semana 14			
Día 1	Cap. 4 – Las extensiones y los préstamos	Capítulo 4 – pp. 150-160	
Día 2	Prueba 4		
Semana 15			
Día 1	Cap. 5 – Conclusiones	Capítulo 5 – pp. 165-173	
Día 2	Repaso		Tarea 5
Semana 16			
Exámenes finales	Examen final		