

SPAN 215 -Introduction to Spanish Linguistics (Fall 2011)

Office: 346 Burrowes Building

Office hours: M-W 11:00 to 12:00 and by appointment (for appointments please write to pdussias@psu.edu. Do not call my office to set up an appointment)

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DO NOT LEAVE MESSAGES IN MY OFFICE ANSWERING MACHINE. I DO NOT CHECK THEM.

DO NOT SEND MESSAGES TO ANGEL. I DO NOT CHECK THEM.

I normally respond to email within 12 hours of receiving it

Instructors:

Class lecture: Prof. Giuli Dussias- M-W 10:10-11:00 AM

Friday Recitation:

Nicole Bevenuto: nmb5273@psu.edu

Office hours:

Mondays from 1:00 - 2:00) and Wednesdays from 11:00 - 1:00

341 Burrowes-Cubicle 13

Yolanda Gordillo: yig102@psu.edu

Office hours:

Mondays from 9 to 10 and Tuesdays from 9 to 11

341 Burrowes-Cubicle 7

Hiram Smith: hls215@psu.edu

Office hours :

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30-2 and or by appt.

Burrowes 341-Cubicle 5

Linguistics is the empirical and systematic study of language. In other words, linguists apply scientific methods to the study of language. Like all scientific disciplines, linguistics addresses broad issues as well as many very specific points. Among the broad issues are questions like: Are humans the only animals to have language? What (if anything) is unique about human language? Do we come hardwired from birth to learn language? How is language learned in infancy? Is bilingual language quantitatively and qualitatively different than two separate and independent languages? Can knowing more than one language actually be detrimental? Why do adults seem to have more difficulty in mastering a foreign language than small children? What features do all languages have in common, and why? Are some languages simpler, more logical, or more expressive than others? What was the first language? Are all contemporary languages genealogically related?

In this course, we will examine some of these big questions. Since this is an introductory course, you will not get “the whole truth” about these issues, but you will get “nothing but the truth.” Because this is a Spanish course, we will also examine some specific aspects of the Spanish language. You will not only learn facts about linguistics as a discipline and Spanish as a language, but you will also get a sense of what research in Spanish linguistics is about and why linguists find these topics interesting.

Who should take this course?

SPAN 100 or the equivalent is a prerequisite for this course. This is not a grammar class, so I will assume a basic understanding of the Spanish language. This is a gateway course and a required prerequisite for higher level courses in Spanish linguistics, e.g. Spanish 414— phonology, Spanish 415—morphology, Spanish 418—History of Spanish. Therefore this course should be taken by all Spanish majors and minors, as well as Spanish teacher education majors.

Sólomente español (for a change)

Spanish is the official language of the classroom. I will speak to you only in Spanish and you will speak to me only in Spanish. I will say things as many times and in as many different ways as needed for you to understand me, and I will not expect flawless Spanish from you, only your best efforts. Feel free to ask questions in class, to contact me by e-mail, and to stop by my office (yes, in private we can speak in English). I never give up on students who want to learn. The same holds for the instructors in charge of your Friday recitations.

Objectives & Goals

By the end of this course, in addition to the inevitable improvement of your Spanish, you will be able to:

- identify the major branches of linguistics
- discuss the empirical methods that linguists use to study language
- name the various linguistic levels of analysis
- analyze linguistic data at these different levels of linguistic analysis

Textbook

Hualde et al. (2010). *Introducción a la lingüística hispánica*, 2nd ed. (**ILH**). We won't be able to cover all the material in one semester, but the contents of this book will help you in other Spanish classes (and in LING classes if you decide to take some). In addition, I will provide materials to be covered in class through presentations, PDF documents and scanned readings. These will be available on **ANGEL**

Attendance

SPOT QUIZZES. At the end of some classes on Mondays and Wednesdays, picked randomly and without prior notice, you will be asked to answer some true/false questions about what was presented in that class. The questions can be answered open-book. If you are in class for a spot quiz, you should score 100%. You will not be able to make up spot quizzes.

The score given at the end of the semester for all spot quizzes will be obtained by multiplying 25 by the ratio s/S , where s is the number of spot quizzes you took and S is the total number of spot quizzes that were given.

ATTENDANCE AT FRIDAY RECITATIONS. Attendance at Friday recitations is mandatory. The attendance grade cannot be made up.

Course Grades

(1) Four quizzes (60%). These will correspond to each of the four parts of the course. Each quiz will be worth a maximum of 25 points. **Quizzes 1, 2 and 3 are cumulative. The material for Quiz 4 is non-cumulative.**

(2) Homework (20%). These will be posted on ANGEL. If you miss a Friday recitation, be sure to check ANGEL for homework assignments. All assignments must be submitted electronically **by 9:00 AM on Fridays**. No late homework will be accepted.

ONLY DOCUMENTS IN WORD[®] FORMAT (.doc) WILL BE ACCEPTED (E.G., DO NOT SUBMIT A PDF DOCUMENT BECAUSE WE CANNOT MAKE COMMENTS ON THEM)

(3) Discussion questions (10%). Every Thursday, you need to submit (to the instructor in charge of your Friday recitation section) 1 question which will be used to as the basis for discussion during Friday recitation. The question must be about the content of the Monday-Wednesday lectures from that week. **Discussion questions may be submitted in English. Note that all other work that you submit must be written in Spanish.**

(4) Spot quizzes and attendance at Friday recitation (10%). See Attendance above.

Grading: **A:** 92.5–100; **A-:** 89.5–92.4; **B+:** 86.5–89.4; **B:** 82.5–86.4; **B-:** 79.5–82.4; **C+:** 76.5–79.4; **C:** 72.5–76.4; **C-:** 69.5–72.4; **D+:** 66.5–69.4; **D:** 62.5–66.4; **D-:** 59.5–62.4; **F:** 00–59.4.

Policy regarding missed exams

It will be possible for you to take an oral make-up exam for a missed quiz (but not a missed spot quiz). For this to occur, you must tell the instructor or the TA at least one hour before the exam that you will be unable to take the exam and why. **It will be up to the instructors to decide whether your absence from the exam can be excused.** Our philosophy will be to trust you unless, over time, that trust no longer seems justified.

Assignments must be turned in electronically by the due date. No exceptions.

If you need to e-mail me, send all messages to pdussias@psu.edu and not through ANGEL. I do not check ANGEL messages.

Class Conduct

- You will have my undivided attention and respect at all times. I expect the same from you:

- Please turn off and stow cell phones, iPods, and all other portable electronic devices (just like on the airplane).
- You may use laptop computers during the class; if you do so, I will assume that you are taking notes for the class because you are a highly motivated student. Please don't disappoint me by doing anything else.
- You may eat or drink anything that doesn't make noise or leave a mess.
- Please make sure that everything that enters the classroom with you leaves with you or ends up in the trash can.
- Be respectful at all times in your verbal and body language. Believe it or not, there are some controversial topics in linguistics, but controversy doesn't justify lack of civil behavior.
- Family and friends are welcome to visit the class. Spanish-challenged visitors should be warned beforehand. At this point in my career I have no intention of becoming either a police officer or a vigilante (I wouldn't be good at either), so please don't force me to be a bad cop or a drugstore cowboy.

Disability Access Statement. The Pennsylvania State University encourages qualified people with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities and is committed to the policy that all people shall have equal access to programs, facilities and admissions without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by state or federal authorities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation in this course or have questions about physical access, please tell the instructor as soon as possible.

Academic Integrity. The Pennsylvania State University defines academic integrity as the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest and responsible manner. All students should act with personal integrity, respect other students dignity, rights and property, and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their efforts (Faculty Senate Policy 4920). Dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated in this course. Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarizing, fabricating information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of their students. Students who are found to be dishonest will receive academic sanctions and will be reported to the university's Judicial Affairs Office for possible further disciplinary sanctions:

<http://www.psu.edu/dept/oue/aappm/G-9.html>

Tentative Schedule of Classes

Language as a symbolic system Read: ILH chapter 1

- 8/22 Monday: Introduction- 8/24-Wednesday: Language as a uniquely human trait. Do animals have language?
- 8/29 Monday: Grammar as a symbolic system-Wednesday 08/31: Areas of linguistics—Language and the brain
- 9/05 Monday: No Classes- Labor day-9/07 Wednesday: Morphology-The form and function of words-Morphemes and Allomorphs

Word- level analysis (Morphology) Read: ILH chapter 3

- 9/12 Monday: Determiners, gender, and number 9/14 Wednesday: Morphology- Verbal agreement
- 9/19 Monday: Morphology- Word formation 9/21 Wednesday: Morphology- Word formation
- 9/26 Monday: Students prepare questions for Quiz 1 9/28 Wednesday: **Quiz #1**

Sentence- level analysis (Syntax) Read: ILH chapter 4

- 10/03 Monday: Syntax I: The structure of sentences; constituents 10/05 Wednesday: Syntax: The verb phrase
- 10/10 Monday: Syntax: noun phrases and pronouns 10/12 Wednesday: Syntax: Subjectless sentences and other structures
- 10/17 Catch-up week
- 10/24 Monday: Students prepare questions for Quiz 2 10/26 Wednesday: **Quiz #2**

Sound- level analysis (Phonetics and phonology) Read: ILH chapter 2

- 10/31 Monday: Phonetics-Sounds of Spanish (vowels)-11/02 Wednesday: Phonetics- Sounds of Spanish (consonants)
- 11/07 Monday: Phonetics: seeing what you hear: intro to acoustic phonetics 11/09 Wednesday: Phonology: Phonemes and allophones
- 11/14 Monday: Phonology: Phonological processes I-11/16 Wednesday: Phonology: Phonological processes II
- 11/21 Monday and 11/23: NO CLASSES-THANKSGIVING
- 11/28 Monday: Students prepare questions for Quiz 3 11/30 Wednesday: **Quiz #3**

Variation among Spanish speakers Read: ILH chapter 7

- 12/05 Monday: Sociolinguistics- Variation-phonology, morphology, phonology and Syntax- 12/07 Wednesday: Bilingualism: the results of language contact/Bilingual language switching; is this “Spanglish”?

FINAL EXAM: QUIZ 4—Date to be announced