

Spanish 325: Phonetics and Diction
Spring 2013

Instructor: Brianne Kobeck
Office: A-33
Prerequisite: One 200-level Spanish course
Course Meetings: TR 1:40 – 2:55, C-16
Office hours: MW 11:00 – 11:50, TR 12:00 – 1:00, or by appointment

Course Description:

Phonetics and Diction offers a systematic study of pronunciation and intonation patterns in Spanish. Particular attention is paid to typical problem areas encountered by native speakers of English who study Spanish as a second language. Students who plan to teach Spanish will learn useful tools for identifying and correcting their students' problem areas in pronunciation. The course also integrates Spanish dialectology, as well as touching briefly on the origins of the language. Our assignments and textbook are very focused on integrating authentic materials (advertisements, puzzles, blogs are a few examples) into the study, so that you will also increase your cultural awareness, vocabulary, and critical thinking skills in Spanish as you begin to master articulation. Students usually report that their ability to comprehend native speakers is significantly higher after the completion of this course.

The course format varies daily but generally includes a review of homework, an introduction of new material by the professor, and significant practice carried out by the students, whether verbally or with phonetic transcription. Certain class sessions will be set aside entirely as workshop sessions to allow guided practice of transcription and supervised completion of oral activities. The textbook web site, www.yalebooks.com/sonidos, is an important resource for this course and allows numerous opportunities for reviewing Spanish sounds.

Objectives:

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- classify the phonemes and allophones of Spanish
- prepare accurate transcriptions using the International Phonetic Alphabet, as relevant to Spanish
- analyze Spanish accentuation and intonation patterns
- identify the parts of the vocal apparatus and their roles in articulation of Spanish sounds
- compare and contrast Spanish and English phonetic systems
- discuss dialectal differences in Spanish
- pronounce Spanish with greater precision and more native-like sounds

Required Texts:

- Morgan, Terrell A. *Sonidos en contexto: Una introducción a la fonética del español con especial referencia a la vida real*. New Haven: Yale, 2010. ISBN 978-0-300-14959-3.
- A Spanish-English, English-Spanish Dictionary

Course Policies:

Use of Spanish:

In an effort to facilitate student language acquisition, the class will be conducted ENTIRELY in Spanish. Students are expected to use Spanish at all times in class both with classmates and the instructor. Failure to do so will result in a lower participation grade.

If you have difficulty understanding a concept or simply don't feel confident in the material that we've covered on any particular day, please stop by my office or make an appointment at the learning center. Difficulties are usually easy to resolve if they are dealt with early.

Attendance Policy and Makeups:

Students are expected to arrive on time and attend each class meeting. Missing class will negatively affect students' daily participation grades. Additionally, **students who accrue more than three (3) unexcused absences throughout the semester will have their final grade lowered by three points for every unexcused absence over 3.**

In case of illness or an excused absence, students should notify the instructor prior to class, either by e-mail or voice mail, and should ask a friend to turn in their work for them. **If an excused absence prevents a student from completing an assignment on time, he or she may make up that assignment only if the appropriate documentation is provided in a timely manner.** An example of appropriate documentation would be a dated doctor's note or a note from Nurse Paul specifying that the student is too ill to attend class and the dates of the illness. **Makeup quizzes, exams, transcriptions, or interviews will be given and late homework will be accepted only in the case of a documented excused absence (excused according to official university rules).** Again, **if you already know of a planned absence (excused by the academic vice president) and notify me well in advance, I will schedule you to take the exam prior to the official date.**

Due to the nature of this course, if you expect to miss several class meetings, you should consider dropping the course and taking it when your schedule will allow greater consistency. Each class meeting builds strongly upon the prior one.

Use of Cell Phones in Class:

The use of cell phones or any other electronic devices for non-academic purposes in class is strictly prohibited. Sending/receiving calls and/or text messages, listening to music and playing electronic games during class are disrespectful and will result in a **lower participation grade.**

Policy on Student Cheating Including Plagiarism/Academic Integrity:

The following is taken from your Student Handbook:

“Union University upholds the highest standards of honesty. Students are to refrain from the use of unauthorized aids on examinations and all graded assignments, to refuse to give or receive information on examinations and all graded assignments and to turn in only those assignments which are the result of their own efforts and research. Faculty are to accept the responsibility for discouraging cheating. They are to make every effort to provide physical conditions which will deter cheating. They are to be aware at all times of activity in the testing area. Any student found guilty by the instructor of cheating will be subject to disciplinary action by the instructor.”

In addition to seeking or giving assistance on exams, cheating also includes: failure to complete your own work on daily assignments (i.e., copying another person’s homework answers); taking credit in a group presentation if you did not participate in the group’s work; failure to document sources on research and/or homework assignments; using native speakers or internet resources such as online translators to complete your writing exercises. If the instructor determines that you have cheated on a homework assignment or did not contribute to your group’s work, you will receive a zero on that activity. Plagiarizing (copying work from other students or from sources such as the Internet without crediting those sources) on an assignment will result in a failing grade for the course. This includes the use of online translators, which always results in an F for the course. **Cheating on an exam or quiz will also result in a failing grade for the course.**

ADA Policy/Accommodations:

Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is encouraged to speak with the course instructor during the first two weeks of class regarding their needs. All discussions will remain confidential. Students with disabilities must contact Mr. Jonathan Abernathy, Director of Disability Services to register for accommodations. No accommodations can be given without first registering with Mr. Abernathy. Finally, students who choose to activate accommodations (e.g. extended time on tests) must notify the course instructor two weeks before the exam so appropriate accommodations can be made.

Course Requirements:

Required Texts:

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Components of the Final Grade:

The following components are designed to assess to what extent a student is meeting the course’s goals. Thus, the final grade will be based on these components:

Participation	10%	Grading Scale
Quizzes (5)	15%	A: 93-100
Exams (2)	20%	B: 85-92
Homework	10%	C: 75-84
Oral Exams (2)	15%	D: 65-74
Transcriptions (2)	15%	F: below 65
<u>Final Exam</u>	15%	
	100%	

I. You will receive a **participation (10%)** grade each day. All students are expected to **actively** participate in class. Active participation includes arriving to class on time and being prepared for all activities by having completed all assigned readings and/or activities. Students who participate actively participate in all of the class assignments, use Spanish with the instructor and/or peers, and are consistently prepared for class.

The instructor will give daily participation grades based on the student's level of participation in class. Unexcused absences will result in a daily participation grade of a 0. Reasons for students not receiving full credit for participation may include (but are not limited to): sending/receiving text messages during class, doing homework for another course in class, sleeping, not paying attention, using too much English in class, not participating in all activities, not actively participating, being disrespectful to the instructor and/or peers, having a negative attitude, etc.

II. **Quizzes (15%)** will be announced in advance and will focus on specific units of content.

III. Our two **tests (20%)** will include transcription exercises, analysis, and objective material.

IV. **Homework (10%)** will be assigned daily from the textbook or other additional handouts. The instructor will often check to see that students have completed the homework on the day that the work is due.

V. Two **oral exams (15%)** will be completed during the semester. The students will complete these exams in pairs. The students will meet with the instructor and carry on a natural conversation. Students will be assessed based on their pronunciation and not grammar. The rubric that will be used to grade the oral exams will be given to the students before the first oral exam.

VI. Each student will complete at least two extended **transcriptions (15%)**.

VII. The **final exam (15%)** will be comprehensive and will measure attainment of the course objectives.

Horario tentativo de clases: Primavera 2013

Fecha	Temática del día
01/31	Introducción al curso, La ortografía
2/5	La ortografía
2/7	La ortografía/La silabificación
2/12	La silabificación
2/14	La silabificación
2/19	La acentuación
2/21	La acentuación
2/26	El fonema
2/28	El fonema
3/5	Las vocales
3/7	Las vocales, Examen Oral 1
3/12	Las vocales
3/14	Examen 1
3/19	Las vacaciones de primavera
3/21	Las vacaciones de primavera
3/26	Las consonantes/el aparato fonador
3/28	Las consonantes
4/2	Las oclusivas sordas
4/4	Los fonemas /b,d, g/ y la asimilación
4/9	El obstruyente palatal sonora/El lleísmo
4/11	El fonema /x/, Examen Oral 2
4/16	Las vibrantes, repaso
4/18	Examen 2
4/23	El fonema /s/; los sibilantes y la dialectología
4/25	El fricativo y el africado
4/30	Los nasales
5/2	Los nasales/La dialectología
5/7	La dialectología y breve repaso de los estudios lingüísticos
5/9	Repaso

Examen final: jueves, 16 de mayo, 11:00-1:00