

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**
<https://ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

2020-2021 SPAN 370 B1: The Sounds of Spanish
(Winter Term)

Note: Remote Delivery

Instructor: Dr. Yvonne Lam
Office: REMOTE
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Time: MWF 2:00-2:50pm
Place: REMOTE
Office Hours: by appointment only

Bachelor of Arts / Major in Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:
<https://www.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies/undergraduate-program-information/prospective-undergraduate-students>

Course Prerequisite: SPAN 300 or SPAN 306 or consent of department
It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate prerequisites for the course.

Technology requirements (minimum):

See the University's recommendations: <https://www.ualberta.ca/covid-19/students/computing-recommendations.html>. Specific to this course, you will need the following:

- headphones. We will be listening to a lot of audio files, so headphones are highly recommended for better sound quality (and for not annoying those around you).
- microphone and basic audio recording software. If you wish to participate in the optional pronunciation exercises, you will need a microphone as well as basic audio recording software. There are numerous free apps available, e.g., Quicktime; your phone may also be able to make acceptable recordings.
- a Unicode font on your computer. We will be using special symbols for representing sounds, known as the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). The IPA symbols are built into several of the most common fonts, including Times New Roman and Arial, so unless you have a very old computer, you should be good. Your browser will also need to support Unicode fonts (all current browsers do).
- Adobe Acrobat Reader. Many of the multimedia files we are using are embedded inside PDF files. The Mac app Preview does not support these files.

It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate technology for the course.

Experiential Learning Component:

- this course has a significant experiential learning component (15% or more of the course grade)

Course-based Ethics Approval in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

Yes x No, not needed

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available:

Exam registry – Students’ Union

<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>

See explanations below

x Document distributed in class

Other (please specify)

N/A

Course Description, Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:

This course examines how the sounds of Spanish are formed, in which contexts they occur, and how they interact with each other. We will also examine differences between the English and Spanish sound systems as well as across different varieties of Spanish. This is not a pronunciation course; the primary emphasis is on describing the sound system of Spanish, although an understanding of this will certainly help to improve pronunciation. No previous knowledge of linguistics is required.

At the end of the course, successful students will be able to:

- explain how the sounds of Spanish are articulated
- compare the sounds of Spanish with the sounds of English
- describe how sounds affect each other when combined together
- transcribe the sounds represented in a written text or used in an oral recording using the International Phonetic Alphabet
- identify some of the dialectal variants of Spanish sounds

Course Format:

The course will consist of online lessons, practice exercises, quizzes, and tests. The course will be delivered primarily through asynchronous means, along with the occasional synchronous session in small groups (see schedule on eClass).

Texts:

There is no textbook for this course due to the high price of the textbooks that would be suitable for this course (>\$100). All materials will be on eClass or accessible online.

Additional Course Fees:

Yes x No

Important Dates: [See Academic Schedule in current Calendar](#)

First Day of Class: January 11, 2021

Add/Delete Date: January 22, 2021

50% Withdrawal Date: February 10, 2021

Winter Term Reading Week: February 16-19, 2021

Withdrawal Date: April 9, 2021

Last Day of Class: April 16, 2021

Components of Course Grade (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Component	Value	Due date
Lesson completion	10%	ongoing
Quizzes	40% (multiple)	ongoing
Tests	50% (2 x 25% each)	Feb 26, Apr 16

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Further details will be given on eClass. No “extra” assignments for “extra” marks will be offered for any student.

Lesson completion: The course material will be divided into lessons. Some lessons will take only one class, while others may span several classes. Each lesson will be accompanied by one or more practice exercises. These exercises will not be graded by the instructor, but rather the answers will be made available on eClass for self-correction. However, you will receive credit for having completed the exercises on time (this is in place of a “participation” mark). Students are responsible for noting all due dates and times. You must attempt all the exercises associated with the lesson in order to receive credit for completion. The score that eClass displays for the lesson is irrelevant. The mark for this component is based on how many lessons you completed (e.g., 12 of 15 lessons = 80% = 8/10).

Quizzes: There will be multiple short quizzes throughout the course to check comprehension of some of the course material. The quizzes will be announced on eClass at least 48 hours in advance. These quizzes will be done online during the scheduled class time, as you are expected to have that time slot reserved for the course. Although you may consult your notes, there will be a strict time limit. Each quiz will contribute equally to the 40% (e.g., if there are 5 quizzes, they will be worth $40/5=8\%$ each).

Tests: There will be two tests at the mid-point and endpoint of the course to assess comprehension of the course material. The tests must be taken during the scheduled class time. Although you may consult your notes, there will be a strict time limit. There is no final exam in this course.

Required Notes:

Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar.

Student Responsibilities:

Academic Integrity

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the [Code of Student Behaviour](#) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#). If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

Learning and Working Environment

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students, faculty and staff are able to work and study in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the [Office of the Student Ombuds](#). Information about the [University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures](#) is described in [UAPPOL](#).

Sexual Violence Policy

It is the policy of the University of Alberta that sexual violence committed by any member of the University community is prohibited and constitutes misconduct. Resources and more information can be found at <https://www.ualberta.ca/campus-life/sexual-violence>

Territorial Statement

The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.

Recording of Lectures

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is

not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections [Attendance](#) and [Examinations](#) of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed in or completed as a result.

Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the Code of Student Behaviour.

In this course, students are responsible for checking eClass **each class day** (Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 2pm) for instructions and materials. It is the student’s responsibility to stay caught up with the materials. Although there is no mark for attendance at synchronous sessions, students are expected to be present at the assigned times, as these are one of the few chances they have to interact directly with the instructor.

If a student misses an assignment, quiz or test for an excusable reason, or if a student cannot keep up with the course because of illness or extenuating personal circumstances, they must notify the instructor by email as soon as possible, preferably within two days, to discuss their options. The instructor has the final decision on whether to set an alternate schedule, transfer the weight of missed work to other components, or assign a mark of zero for the missed work.

Policy for Late Assignments

All due dates are listed on the course calendar in eClass. Please note the due time as well; even submissions that are only one minute late are flagged by eClass. For the timed quizzes and tests, please ensure that you leave enough time for the submission to reach the server, otherwise you will be blocked from submitting your answers and a grade of **zero** is automatically recorded. **No retakes will be allowed under these circumstances.**

Students who consult **in advance** with the instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be given an alternate due date. If students cannot complete an assignment on time due to illness or an emergency, they must notify the instructor by email as soon as possible, preferably within two days, to discuss their options. All other reasons for handing in a late assignment will result in a mark of zero.

Disclaimer

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

Student Resources:

The best all-purpose website for student services is: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

Accessibility Resources (1 – 80 SUB)

The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) webpage.

The Academic Success Centre (1-80 SUB)

[The Academic Success Centre](#) offers a variety of workshops on effective study and exam strategies. There are in-person and online sessions available for a modest fee.

The Centre for Writers (1-42 Assiniboia Hall)

The [Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

Health and Wellness Support

There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the [Health and Wellness Support](#) webpage.

Office of the Student Ombuds

The [Office of the Student Ombuds](#) offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.

Grading:

Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#)). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student's level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”

Descriptor	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	%
Excellent. A+, A or A- is earned by work which is superior in content and form and demonstrates an exceptional grasp of the subject matter. The grade of A+ designates work that far exceeds course expectations. Grades in the A range are normally achieved by a small number of students.	A+	4.0	97-100
	A	4.0	93-96
	A-	3.7	90-92

Good. B+, B or B- is earned by work that demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the course material and a good command of relevant skills. Grades in the B range are normally achieved by the largest number of students.	B+	3.3	87-89
	B	3.0	83-86
	B-	2.7	80-82
Satisfactory. C+, C or C- is earned by work that demonstrates an adequate grasp of the course material and relevant skills. Grades in the C range designate work that has met the basic requirements of the course.	C+	2.3	77-79
	C	2.0	73-76
	C-	1.7	70-72
Poor/Minimal Pass. D+ or D is earned by work that demonstrates minimal familiarity with the course material. Grades in the D range generally indicate insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.	D+	1.3	65-69
	D	1.0	60-64
Failure.	F	0.0	0-59

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