

DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND CULTURAL STUDIES
www.mlcs.ualberta.ca

SPAN 370 A1: THE SOUNDS OF SPANISH
2015-2016 (FALL TERM)

Instructor: Dr. Yvonne Lam
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Time: TR 2:00-3:20
Place: HC 1-3
Office Hours: TR 11:00-12:00 or by appointment

Course Prerequisite:

SPAN 300 or 306 or consent of Department

Course Description and Objectives:

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 certainly helps to improve pronunciation. No previous knowledge of linguistics is required.

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

- describe how the sounds of Spanish are articulated and in what way (if any) they differ from 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

Texts:

Schwegler, Armin, Juergen Kempff & Ana Ameal-Guerra. 2010. *Fonética y fonología españolas*. 4th edition. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons.

The material for this course corresponds more or less to this textbook. However, due to its prohibitive cost (>\$150), it is **not required** for the course. The library's copy has been placed in the Rutherford Reserve room for consultation if desired. You will be evaluated only on the material covered in class, regardless of whether it is in the textbook or not. A summary of what is discussed in class will be posted on eClass. These materials **are not a substitute for regular attendance in class**.

Additional Mandatory Instructional Fees (approved by Board of Governors):

Yes No

Grade Distribution:

Component	Value	Due dates
Practice exercises	10%	ongoing
Quizzes (20 min)	30% (5 quizzes x 6% each)	Sept 15, Sept 29, Oct 20, Nov 3, Nov 24
Test #1	25%	Oct 6
Test #2	35%	Dec 3

Grading:

Marks for assignments, tests, and exams are given in percentages. Letter grades will be assigned only to the final distribution of mark totals for the course. "Grades reflect judgements of student achievement made by instructors and must correspond to the associated descriptor. These judgements are based on a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class." (University Calendar 23.4(4)) There is no pre-determined quota of letter grades (i.e. a "curve") in a course (University of Alberta Grading Procedure, <http://www.policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

Letter	%	Pts	Descriptor
A+	95-100%	4.0	Outstanding: Superior performance showing understanding and knowledge of the subject matter far exceeding expectations.
A	90-94%	4.0	Excellent: Superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
A-	86-89%	3.7	Very good: Clearly above average performance with complete knowledge of subject matter.
B+	82-85%	3.3	Very good
B	75-81%	3.0	Good: average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
B-	70-74%	2.7	Good
C+	66-69%	2.3	Satisfactory: Basic understanding of the subject matter
C	61-65%	2.0	Satisfactory
C-	58-60%	1.7	Satisfactory
D+	55-57%	1.3	Minimal Pass: Marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.
D	50-54%	1.0	Minimal Pass: Marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.
F	0-49%	0.0	Fail: Unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available:

- Exam registry – Students' Union
<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>
- See explanations below
- Document distributed in class or posted on eClass
- √ Other: There is no final exam in the course. Information about the quizzes and tests administered during the semester will be discussed in class.
- N/A

Community Service Learning Component:

Required Optional None

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

Yes No, not needed, no such projects approved

Required Notes:

Policy about course outlines can be found in Section 23.4(2) of the University Calendar.

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 (online at <http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx>) and avoid any behaviour which 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.

Academic Honesty:

All students should consult the information provided by the Office of Judicial Affairs (<http://www.osja.ualberta.ca/Students.aspx>) regarding avoiding cheating and plagiarism in particular and academic dishonesty in general (see the Academic Integrity Undergraduate Handbook <http://www.osja.ualberta.ca/en/Students/UndergraduateHandbook.aspx> and Information for Students <http://www.osja.ualberta.ca/Students.aspx>). If in doubt about what is permitted in this class, ask the instructor.

Students should be aware that on-line “translation engines” produce very dubious and unreliable “translations.” Students should also be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, **excessive editorial and creative help** in assignments is considered a form of “cheating” that violates the code of student conduct with dire consequences.

An instructor or coordinator who has reason to believe 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 (<http://www.osja.ualberta.ca/TheDisciplineProcess.aspx>).

Learning and Working Environment:

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

(<http://www.ombudservice.ualberta.ca>). Information about the University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures is described in UAPPOL at <https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Pages/DispPol.aspx?PID=110>.

Student Accessibility Services:

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let the instructor know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with Student Accessibility Services, contact their office immediately (1-80 Student Union Building; email sasrec@ualberta.ca; phone 780-492-3381; online <http://www.ssds.ualberta.ca>).

Recording of Lectures:

Audio or video recording 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. Recorded material 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 and Absences:

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify the instructor by email within two days. Approval for an excused absence from term work is at the discretion of the instructor. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections 23.3(1) and 23.5.6 of the University Calendar. Unexcused absences may 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. Regardless of the reason for an absence, the student is responsible for the material covered in class.

Policy for Late Assignments and Missed Tests:

All assignments are due at the beginning of the scheduled class time and all quizzes/tests must be written on the specified date unless arrangements have been made **in advance** with the instructor. In cases of medical or other emergency, the student is responsible for notifying the instructor by email within two days, and written documentation may be requested. See below for details regarding specific course components. There will be no “extra” assignments for “extra” marks.

Description of Assignments and Tests:

Practice exercises (ungraded): Throughout the course, you will be assigned exercises to do at home in order to practice what we discussed in class. The total number of practice exercises assigned will depend on how the course progresses. These exercises will be announced **in class** and are due **at the beginning of the following class**. The exercises will not be graded by the instructor; rather, the answers will be posted on eClass for self-correction. However, you will receive credit for having completed it on time. Your mark for this component will be based on how many of the practice exercises you completed (e.g., 8 of 10 assigned exercises = 80%).

In cases of excusable absences, no marks will be deducted. For an unexcusable absence, a mark of zero will be recorded. **Not knowing that an exercise was assigned because you didn't attend class is not an**

acceptable excuse and will result in a loss of credit for the exercise in question. You are allowed to miss a total of **TWO** practice exercises without penalty due to an excusable absence. Any further missed exercises will result in a loss of credit, **regardless of the reason for absence**. The student is responsible for the material from all the exercises, with no exceptions.

Quizzes: There will be 5 in-class quizzes of approximately 20 minutes each. The quizzes will be based on the practice exercises done in class and at home. The dates of the quizzes are listed on the schedule; any postponement of the date will be announced in the class prior to the originally scheduled date.

Quizzes must be taken on the announced date. In cases of excusable absences, the weight of the missed quiz will be transferred to the remaining quizzes. For an unexcusable absence, a mark of zero will be recorded.

Tests: The tests will include the theoretical notions studied in class as well as the practice exercises. The first test (worth 25%) will cover the material seen to date; the second test (worth 35%) will cover the theoretical notions covered since the first test as well as the practice exercises done in the entire course, as phonetic transcription is a cumulative skill.

The tests must be taken on the scheduled date. In cases of excusable absences, a make-up test will be administered at the earliest mutually convenient time and date. If the student fails to show for the make-up test, a grade of zero will be recorded. For an unexcusable absence, a mark of zero will be recorded.