Course Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course name:</th>
<th>Introduction to formal Spanish linguistics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course code:</td>
<td>SP1V17004</td>
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<tr>
<td>Credits:</td>
<td>7.5 EC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Category/Level:</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course type:</td>
<td>Introductory course</td>
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<td>Language of instruction:</td>
<td>English</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Lecture and seminar times and locations: | Monday: 9.00 – 10.45 hours  
Microsoft Teams  
Wednesday:  
Group 1: 9.00 – 10.45 hours  
Microsoft Teams  
Group 2: 11.00 – 12.45 hours  
Microsoft Teams  
Friday:  
Group 1: 13.15 – 15.00 hours  
Microsoft Teams  
Group 2: 15.15 – 17.00 hours  
Microsoft Teams |
| Course coordinator:| Dr. P.M. Kester                            |
| Lecturers:         | Dr. P.M. Kester, Dr. M. Fuchs               |
| Contact details (incl. times) for lecturer(s): | P.M.Kester@uu.nl, M.Fuchs@uu.nl |

Short description of the course

After a short introduction to the objectives of formal linguistics in general, this course introduces the students to three aspects of the structure of Spanish: the sound structure (phonology), the internal structure of words (morphology) and the internal structure of sentences (syntax) in relation to its meaning (semantics). These three aspects will be studied in the light of modern linguistic theory. Students will get insight into how universal aspects of human language surface in Spanish, and how linguistic structures in Spanish differ from those in other languages.

Course Goals

The aim of the course is to introduce students to the analysis of Spanish phonology, morphology and syntax by means of literature on these topics, as well as by numerous exercises. The students prepare the exercises for discussion in class, benefitting from each other’s feedback.
Learning objectives and skills

After completing the course, students will be able to:

(i) describe and analyze phonological, morphological and syntactic characteristics of Spanish;
(ii) carry out a research assignment, involving the collection of a small set of data.

Academic skills

(i) Writing a small research report (maximally 2000 words, excluding references and the appendix).
(ii) Making use of RefWorks for bibliographical references in accordance with the guidelines of the APA.

Learning outcomes

After completing the course, students will have:

(i) knowledge and analytical skills concerning the phonological, morphological and syntactic characteristics of Spanish;
(ii) academic skills to write a short research report;
(iii) academic skills to include references in accordance with the guidelines of the APA, by making use of RefWorks.

Course materials

Selected sections of the following books, as indicated in the course schedule. Both books are available for the students from the library (the book shelf Intro to formal Spanish linguistics).


Week-by-week Schedule

Students should read the texts and submit the exercises for each class, as indicated in the course schedule below. The exercises will be published on Blackboard. The students will submit the exercises in the corresponding folders (in Blackboard).

Week 1: Introduction

Monday (November, 9): Introduction
Wednesday (November, 11) Introduction

Friday (November, 13)
Prepare: exercises (Blackboard)

**Week 2: Phonology**

Monday (November, 16): Phonology

Wednesday (November, 18) Phonology

Friday (November, 20) Phonology
Prepare: exercises (Blackboard).

**Week 3: Morphology**

Monday (November, 23) Morphology

Wednesday (November, 25) Morphology
Morphological structure in tree diagrams.
Prepare: exercises (Blackboard).

Friday (November, 27) Morphology
Prepare: exercises (Blackboard)

**Week 4: Morphology and test 1**

Maandag (November, 30) Morphology
Prepare: Pountain (2003): Chapter 3: Spanish words and their structure, section 3.3 Spanish affective suffixes (p. 52-55)

Wednesday (December, 2) Morphology
Prepare: exercises (Blackboard).

Friday (December, 4) **Test 1** (about introduction, phonology and morphology)
Blackboard, Teams
**Week 5: Syntax**

Monday (December, 7) Syntax  

Wednesday (December, 9) Syntax  
**Prepare:** exercises (Blackboard).

Friday (December, 11) Syntax  
**Prepare:** exercises (Blackboard)

**Week 6: Syntax**

Monday (December, 14) Syntax  
**Prepare:** Fromkin et al. (2014) Argument structure, p. 162-165.

Wednesday (December, 16) Syntax  
**Prepare:** Pountain (2003) Thematic roles (p. 70-80).  
**Prepare:** exercises (Blackboard)

Friday (December, 18) Syntax  
**Prepare:** exercises (Blackboard)

**Holidays**

**Week 7: Academic writing and test 2**

Monday (January, 11) Academic writing & working with RefWorks (to prepare the written assignment).

Wednesday (January, 13) **Test 2:** Syntax  
**Blackboard, Teams**

Friday (January, 15) No class meeting.

**Week 8**

Friday (January, 22) **Deadline** for submission of the written assignment

**Week 10**

Friday (February, 5) Re-sit (final grade between 4,0 and 5,5)  
**Blackboard, Teams**
Assessment

The final grade for this course is composed of three parts of required work:
Test 1 (40%)
Test 2 (40%)
Written assignment (20%)

If the final grade corresponds to minimally 4,0 and maximally 5,4 the student will have the opportunity to resit one of the tests or the written assignment. The teachers will decide on the part to resit and will communicate their decision to the individual student by e-mail.

Rules and Regulations

Attendance

Read article 4.4 in the general part of the Rules applying to education and exams (OER) of the Humanities Faculty, concerning mandatory attendance and obligation to do your work. Students are allowed to be absent for no more than 2 sessions of this course. In case of more frequent absences, students’ results will be declared invalid, unless the study advisor issues a formal statement to the course coordinator to the effect that there are valid reasons for prolonged absence.

Missing exams due to illness or force majeure

Rules with respect to missing exams can be found on the following websites:

Dutch version:


English version:

https://students.uu.nl/en/hum/literary-studies/practical-matters/academic-policies-and-procedures/guideline-exams-missed-due-to-illness-or-force-majeure
**Fraud and Plagiarism**

Scientific integrity is the foundation of academic life. Utrecht University considers any form of scientific deception to be an extremely serious infraction. Utrecht University therefore expects every student to be aware of, and to abide by, the norms and values regarding scientific integrity. The most important forms of deception that affect this integrity are fraud and plagiarism. Plagiarism is the copying of another person’s work without proper acknowledgement, and it is a form of fraud. If fraud or plagiarism is detected, the study programme’s Examination Committee may decide to impose sanctions. The most serious sanction that the committee can impose is to submit a request to the Executive Board of the University to expel the student from the study programme.

(Extract of the Faculty of Humanities’ September 2014: “PLAGIARISM RULES AWARENESS STATEMENT”)

**Evaluation**

At the end of every study period, students are invited to evaluate the course(s) they took in that period. Students are regularly asked to take part in curriculum evaluations, in which an entire year of the programme, or the degree programme as a whole, is assessed. The results are discussed in the Curriculum Committee (“Opleidingscommissie”, OC). The OC makes recommendations to course coordinators, the department and to the Director of Studies (Onderwijsdirecteur). They then consider the OC’s findings when planning the next year’s teaching.

The student members of the OC, your representatives, play an important role in this evaluation process. They rely on you to complete the evaluation forms, even if your response is neutral, or satisfied, and you do not feel that you have much to contribute. The response rate should be such that results can be deemed significant and used to improve the quality of the course.