



SPANISH SOUNDS

**Syllabus, SP 3318A “Spanish Sounds”
Winter 2018
Department of Modern Languages & Literatures
Western University**

Professor : Dr. Yasaman Rafat	Office : Arts & Humanities Building, Rm 3G28D
Lectures : Tuesdays: 11:30-12:30 & Thursdays: 11:30-1:30	Office hours : Thursdays 12:30-1:30
Location : TC 202	Telephone: (519) 661-2111 ext. 81092
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the main aspects of the Spanish sound system. We examine the principal articulatory properties and acoustic characteristics of each sound in Spanish, phonetic variants and phonological distribution, differences between the Spanish and the English sound systems, and the main aspects of phonological variation across Spanish dialects. Readings, movies and sound files will be used to demonstrate the existing phonological variation between different varieties of Spanish in the Hispanic world and Peninsular Spanish and to train students to differentiate between different varieties of Spanish. Experimental paradigms most often used in laboratory research will be presented and some of the theories of variation and sound change will be introduced.

OBJECTIVES

- 1) To introduce students to the articulatory and acoustic characteristics of Spanish sounds and some of the theories of variation and sound change.
- 2) To train students in phonological variation in Spanish and dialect/accent recognition.
- 3) To familiarize students with some of the most studied phenomena and phonological processes in Spanish phonology.
- 4) To help students develop skills in experimental design and data analysis.

- 5) To provide the necessary discussions for students to develop their analytical and critical thinking and identify their area of interest.

TEXT MATERIALS: RECOMMENDED BUT NOT REQUIRED

Hualde, J. I. (2005). *The sounds of Spanish*. Cambridge: CUP.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance and participation:	10%
Term test 1:	20%
Term test 2:	20%
Final project proposal:	10%
Oral presentation:	10%
Final paper:	30%

- Attendance and active participation (10%): Students are required to have read the assigned materials for each class prior to coming to class and to have prepared questions and/or comments for discussion.
- Term tests: there are two term tests (each worth 10%). They are comprehensive in that they include all material covered in the course up until the day of the particular assignment, quiz or term test. See “Course Calendar” for dates. The tests are a combination of multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answers (4-5 line sentences), transcriptions, etc. They will include both lecture materials and text readings.
- Final project proposal (10%): this will involve submitting an outline of your project including the main research question(s) and hypotheses; (some of) the previous research on the topic; a brief outline of possible experimental methodology including the task(s) and stimuli; and potential variety of Spanish to be tested.
- Oral presentation (10%): You will present your study’s goals, research questions, hypotheses, methodology, results, discussion and conclusions in a 20 minute PowerPoint presentation in class.
- Term paper (30%): The final paper consists of a pilot experimental study of some aspect (consonants, vowels/or prosody) of a variety of Spanish. The study must contain a critical review of previous research as well as data analysis. The paper should not exceed 10 pages (Times New Roman, 12 pts, 1.5 spaces). A hard copy of the papers together with an electronic copy must be submitted to the instructor by email. The date of submission is last day of class, April 10th. The term paper must be submitted on time. A late paper will receive a reduced grade. *Late papers* will receive a *penalty* of **20%** per day *late*.

CALENDAR

<u>Week/Date</u>	<u>Theme / Structure (Target language)</u>	<u>Readings & Assignments</u>
1: Tues, January 9	Introduction and interests	Ch. 1
2: Thurs, January 11	Variation in Spanish pronunciation	Ch. 2
3: Tues, January 16	Variation in Spanish Pronunciation (cont.)	Ch. 2
4: Thurs, January 18	Consonants and vowels	Ch. 3

5: Tues, January 23	Consonants and vowels (cont.)	Ch. 3
6: Thurs, January 25	Acoustic characterization of the main classes of Spanish speech sounds	Ch. 4
7: Tues, January 30	Spanish sounds and transcription	Ch. 4
8: Thurs, February 1	The syllable How to write a proposal	Ch. 5
9: Tues, February 6	Vowels	Ch. 7
10: Thurs, February 8	Vowels (cont.)	Ch. 7
11: Tues, February 13	Main phonological processes Ethical experimental conduct	Ch. 6
12: Thurs, February 15	Term Test 1	
13: Tues, February 20	READING WEEK	
14: Thurs, February 22	READING WEEK	
15: Tues, February 27	Ethics officer's visit	Ch. 8 Final project proposal due
16: Thurs, March 1	Plosives	Ch. 8
17: Tues, March 6	Fricatives and affricates	Ch. 9
18: Thurs, March 8	Fricatives and affricates	Ch. 9
19: Tues, March 13	Data analysis	Ch. 10&11
20: Thurs, March 15	Nasals and liquids	Ch. 10&11
21: Tues, March 20	How to write a paper	
22: Thurs, March 22		Term test 2
23: Tues, March 27		Oral presentations
24: Thurs, March 29		Oral presentations Final course paper due
25: Tues, April 3	Final remarks	Oral presentations
26: Thurs, April 5	Final remarks	Course paper due

CLASS MANAGEMENT

- Students are expected to come to class regularly, having read the materials assigned and prepared to take part in pair and group discussions.
- Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. It is your responsibility to contact me **prior to** or **within the week** of a missed course term test, or assignment.
- UWO's Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness: (<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>)
- Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca> under the Medical Documentation heading

- Course materials and announcements: Lectures and announcements will be posted on SAKAI. Student must therefore set up a SAKAI account. The address for SAKAI is <http://owl.uwo.ca/portal>. In order to access SAKAI you must have a UWO account. To log on the system will ask you to give your account name and your secret password.

PLAGIRISM

Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offense Policy in the Western Academic Calendar). Plagiarism is the inclusion of someone else's verbatim or paraphrased text in one's own written work without immediate reference. Verbatim text must be surrounded by quotation marks or indented if it is longer than four lines. A reference must follow right after borrowed material (usually the author's name and page number). Without immediate reference to borrowed material, a list of sources at the end of a written assignment does not protect a writer against the possible charge of plagiarism. **This also applies to work facilitated or written for students by third parties.** The University of Western Ontario uses a plagiarism-checking site called Turnitin.com. Students are allowed to use their laptops and iPads during class lectures, but they are not allowed to use any electronic device during exam sessions. Ringers must be turned off and laptops, tablets, or other technology must only be used for class purposes. Unauthorized recording or photographing of the class, its members, community partners, and/or the people they serve is prohibited.

SUPPORT SERVICES

The Web sites for Registrarial Services is <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca> and Student Support Services is <https://studentservices.uwo.ca> (including the services provided by the USC listed here: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>). The Student Development Services can also be reached at www.sdc.uwo.ca

Important Notice: Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

EMAIL COMMUNICATION WITH THE COURSE INSTRUCTOR

- At times, the course Instructor may decide to send out important course information by email. To that end, all students are required to have a valid UWO email address. You are responsible for ensuring that your UWO email address is set up.
- Forwarding your UWO.ca email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or other type of email account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from UWO.ca addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo accounts are filtered as junk mail, which means that emails from your course instructor may end up in your spam or junk mail folder.
- You are responsible for:
 - Ensuring you have a valid UWO email address
 - Checking your UWO email account on a regular basis.
- Appropriate use: e-mail correspondence should be used only for administrative matters (e.g. make-up tests due to illness). All inquiries concerning course content including evaluations must be asked in class or discussed during office hours;
- Self identification: please identify yourself clearly by including the course designator 'SP 3318 A' in the subject line and your full name with student number in the message.

- Response time: I will reply to all messages within 24 hours of receiving them. Please note that no correspondence will occur during weekends. If you do not receive a reply within this period, resend your message

SELECTED WEB-BASED RESOURCES

- IPA Fonts (Go to Fonts > SIL Encore IPA Fonts > DoulosSIL)
<http://www.sil.org/>
- The sounds of Spanish, English and German:
<http://www.uiowa.edu/~acadtech/phonetics/>
- The sounds of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA):
<http://www.sil.org/computing/speechtools/ipahelp.htm>
- IPA chart, IPA handbook, Online phonetics lab:
<http://web.uvic.ca/ling/resources/ipa/handbook.htm>
- Variation in Spanish:
<http://www.uiowa.edu/~acadtech/dialects/>
<http://lab.chass.utoronto.ca/rescentre/spanish/>
- Information about the world's languages:
<http://www.ethnologue.com>

SELECTED MOVIES

1. Argentina: "El secreto de sus ojos" (2009). Director: Juan José Campanella
2. Uruguay: "Miss Tacuarembó" (2011). Director: Martín Sastre
3. Chile: "Machuca" (2005). Director: Andrés Wood
4. Bolivia: "Bolivia" (2009). Director: Adrián Caetano
5. Perú: "Pantaleón y las visitadoras" (2000). Director: Francisco Lombardi
6. Ecuador: "Ratas, ratones y rateros" (1999). Director: Sebastián Cordero
7. Colombia: "María, llena de gracia" (2004). Director: Joshua Marston
8. Venezuela: "Sanoja, tambor y canto" (2008). Director: Víctor Rivas
9. Cuba: "Fresa y Chocolate" (1994). Directores: Tomás Gutiérrez Alea & Juan Carlos Tabío
10. Rep. Dominicana: "Ladrones a domicilio" (2008). Director: Ángel Muñoz
11. Puerto Rico: "Casi, Casi" (2006). Directores: Jaime & Tony Vallés
12. Honduras/El Salvador: "Sin nombre" (2009). Director: Carla Hoole
13. México: "Y tu mamá también" (2001). Director: Alfonso Cuarón
14. Revisión: "Diálogos de una motocicleta" (2004). Director: Walter Salles

SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER READINGS

- Ladefoged, P. & Maddieson, I. (1996). *The sounds of the world's languages*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Lipski, J. (1994). *Latin American Spanish*. New York: Longman.
- Navarro Tomás, T. (1970). *Manual de pronunciación española*. Madrid: CSIC.
- Penny, R. (2000). *Variation and change in Spanish*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

CAVEAT

This syllabus is not etched in stone, and any information on this syllabus is subject to change at any time. Although we try to minimize change as much as possible, we may need to make some necessary adjustments (not, however, test, or assignment dates). Any changes will be

announced in class and on the course webpage. Thus, it is your responsibility to be there, ask your fellow classmates or the instructor, or check the course webpage to be informed of any such changes.