

**The Structure of Spanish**  
*Syllabus*

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 10:00-10:50  
U 413  
Office hours: M & T 4-5, and by appt.  
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This course will survey aspects of Spanish phonetics, phonology, morphology, and syntax from a linguistic point of view. The coursework will consist of weekly homework assignments, a mid-term and a final. The homework is a required part of the course. Much of the material is cumulative and there is no textbook; therefore, regular attendance is important. From time to time I will post fairly detailed handouts covering some of the material discussed in class. You should use these to make sure you understand the material. Please read these carefully, and ask me any questions you may have.

The homework, midterm, and final are all necessary to pass the course. The final grade will be an average between the midterm and final, with some adjustment on the basis of the homework scores (see *Grading Policy*).

I encourage you to work with other students in the class. You may work together on any of the homework assignments and on the exams. **However, you must write up the results independently.**

LIGN 101 is a prerequisite for the course, students who have not had this might be admitted with the understanding that they will need to learn basic phonetics and phonology during the first few weeks of the quarter. We will only spend a few class sessions on phonetics. A knowledge of Spanish will be helpful, although not required.

The following is a rough outline of the topics that may be covered:

<i>Phonetics and Phonology</i>	Articulatory phonetics of Spanish, the relation between phonetics and Spanish orthography, major phonological rules, certain dialect differences, the history of Spanish sibilants - Peninsular vs. Latin American dialects, Palatals in Latin American dialects.
<i>Morphology</i>	Grammatical gender, verb morphology and phonological changes associated with certain verb classes.
<i>Syntax</i>	Basic sentence structure, the syntax of pronominals

## Grading Policy

There will be about seven homework assignments and two exams. The course grade will be determined as follows:

- (1) Both exams must be taken to pass the course.
- (2) The two exams will be averaged. This average will be adjusted based on the homework scores.

### Homework

It is very important to do all the homework in a professional manner. Each assignment should be written up as a short paper; that is, unless specified otherwise, it will be necessary to write prose. Be sure to use complete sentences, and illustrate your points with examples. Do your best to explain your analyses as clearly as possible.

I encourage you to work in groups. However, it is essential that the results are written up independently. **Papers that are not done independently are very obvious, and, according to Departmental and University policy, will be reported to the Dean.** If you write sufficient prose, the difference between papers of those who work together should be substantial. You must also list the names of the people you work with on each assignment.

Homeworks will be graded with +, ✓+, ✓, ✓-, and - :

+	Nearly perfect analysis, good, professional presentation.	Add 2% to final score
✓+	Good analysis and good presentation; perhaps a few errors, and/or minor problems in presentation.	Add 1% to final score
✓	Good effort; perhaps some more severe problems with the analysis, and/or more severe problems in presentation.	No effect on final score
✓-	Marginal; incorrect analysis and/or minimal presentation.	Subtract 1%
-	Minimal effort or incomplete	Subtract 2%

Late homework will be accepted up to a week after the due date, but will not receive a grade higher than ✓-.

As can be seen, the homework can have a significant effect on the final grade. For example, if someone received 7 +s, the final score would be increased by 14%. Thus, even a 76% (C) average on the exams would result in a course grade of **A-**. Conversely, someone who did no homework would not receive no better than a **B** for the course, even if their exams averaged 100%. In practice, of course, those who do the homework consistently tend to do better on the exams; those who do little or no homework almost always do very poorly on the exams.