



Independent Learning

University of Nevada, Reno

SPAN 312.WC1 - Spanish Phonetics and Phonology

Professor: Casilde A. Isabelli

IMPORTANT: These course details are subject to change without notice. Students must refer to the course site for current assignment details, course policies, and additional information.

Overview

¡Bienvenidos! a SPAN 312, una introducción a la fonética y la fonología. This course introduces the theoretical notions and analytical tools necessary to study and classify sounds in Spanish, transcribe sentences, and retrain your mouth to correctly pronounce Spanish sounds that give Americans problems. Therefore, this course is both theoretical and practical. The practical part of the course will help the non-native Spanish speaker (who has completed at least SPAN 211—third semester Spanish) improve his/her pronunciation in Spanish (that is, minimize his/her American accent), becoming more aware of the particularities of some Spanish sounds as compared with their English counterparts. This course is also beneficial for Heritage and Native Spanish speakers in helping them understand the Spanish language.

About the Professor



Hi, I am Dr. Casilde A. Isabelli, your professor for this course. I am an Associate Professor of Spanish and have been with the Department of Foreign Languages at the University of Nevada, Reno since August 2000. I received my Ph.D. in Spanish Applied Linguistics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2001, and my research concerns adult second language acquisition in the formal classroom and study-abroad setting, multilingualism, and pedagogy. I have taught and/or currently teach: Teaching of Foreign Languages (FLL 703), Romance Applied Linguistics (FLL 455/655), and Introduction to Spanish Linguistics (SPAN 441/641), Spanish Composition (SPAN 305, 306), Spanish Phonetics (SPAN 312), and beginning and intermediate Spanish courses (SPAN 111, 112, 211, and 212). I was the coordinator of the Basic Spanish Language Program from 2001 until 2010.

I am originally from the Chicago-land area and before completing my Ph.D. at UIUC, I received my B.S. in mathematics from Illinois State University and my M.A. in Hispanic linguistics and literatures from the University of Iowa, Iowa City. In addition to teaching at UIowa and UIUC, I have taught at the University of Minnesota (1994–1995) at the University of Barcelona (1997–1998) and at Sonoma State University.

Course Objectives

In the process of completing this course, you will:

- Most Important: MINIMIZE YOUR AMERICAN ACCENT in SPANISH!
- Learn how to classify and describe the sounds of a language from an articulatory point of view
- Be able to describe of the phonemes of Spanish and their allophones
- Understand the basic Spanish syllable
- Understand syllabic structure
- Understand Spanish stress
- Learn phonetic symbols from the International Phonetic Alphabet to represent sounds graphically
- Learn to do phonetic transcriptions of words and sentences
- Complete both written and oral practice
- Learn about significant dialectal variants of Spanish

Do not expect this course to be about improving Spanish communication and writing skills. However, you will be improving your reading skills since the notes are written entirely in Spanish and your listening skills since the lessons are dictated almost entirely in Spanish.

Materials

The following textbook is optional (the ASUN bookstore does NOT carry this optional text). The class notes are based on this textbook.

- Stokes, Jeffery. *iQué bien suena! Mastering Spanish Phonetics and Phonology*. Stokes. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2005.

Office Hours (Horas de consulta)

There are various to receive help from me:

- You can email me (isabelli@unr.edu)
- Wimba Live Classroom (there is a link every week for that).



Study Guidelines

Common sense tells us that the more time you spend on something, the more progress you will make. This is especially true for language learning. "Going through the motions" by doing the work just to get it done is not enough if you expect to perform well. You should plan to spend **6-9 hours per week** of concentrated study, writing, and practice. This seems like a lot, but remember that this is a 3-hour course, and **2-3 hours** of work for every hour of class is not unreasonable. The more time you spend with the language, the better your performance will be.

The most productive way to study Spanish phonetics and phonology is to spend time on it every day, rather than to cram for exams or when assignments are due. You will find that the exercises are helpful for review for exams, and you may want to do exercises from earlier chapters as a general review. In general, you should keep going back to material you have already learned to keep it fresh in your mind.

The homework assignment for each class includes pages to be studied and assignments to be written. When you study, read slowly. Talk to yourself about what you are learning; periodically, you should close your book and try to explain to an imaginary partner what you have just learned. If you are to write out the answers to a particular exercise or activity, try to figure out what the purpose of the activity is and how it relates to the material in the book. Try to make your time and effort productive and meaningful. In other words, take the time you need to think about the material and take responsibility for your own learning.

It will require a lot of persistence and patience to improve your skills with regards to pronunciation. Research suggests that, as second-language learners, we often focus so much on our message as we speak that it is often challenging to pay close attention to how we sound. The intention of this course is for you to learn and apply concepts and skills on an ongoing, long-term basis, far beyond the ending of the course in which you are currently enrolled.

Grade Breakdown & Grade Scale

Grade Breakdown

Midcourse Exam.....	20%
Final Exam.....	20%
Grabaciones (3).....	25%
Tareas (7).....	30%
Participation (Discussions, Comments & Quizzes).....	5%

How to Check your Grades within WebCT

Click on the following [link](#) to see a video on how to check your grades within WebCT.

Grade Scale

A 100-93%	C 76-73%
A- 92-90%	C- 72-70%
B+ 89-87%	D+ 69-67%
B 86-83%	D 66-63%
B- 82-80%	D- 62-60%
C+ 79-77%	F 59-0%

Course Components

Homework (*Tarea*)

There will be two types of homework assignments: not-graded and graded.

- A. The not-graded assignments will be the exercises that I provide to you. You can self-correct these exercises with an answer key that I have provided online.
- B. The graded assignments will be worksheets that you will download from the course website and that you will complete and send to me via WebCampus before the **5pm** on the date stated (see the course Calendar). There are seven graded assignments ranging from word transcriptions to sentence transcriptions. Starting with *Tarea #2*, you will need to start inserting phonetic symbols. You are required to use **DoulosSIL** font for all the phonetic symbols. See the page about the [optional textbook and required materials](#) under course information for instructions on how to download and install this font.

Oral Recordings (*Grabaciones*)

There will be three recordings (and many practice ones) that you will complete via the **Voice Board** in **WebCampus**. You will download the script and follow the directions. Each recording that you will need to complete is accompanied by a sample of how you should sound. You should practice **many times** before submitting your recordings. Each recording that you will complete is a reflection of the theoretical material seen in the previous material practicing: stress, vowels, and consonants.

Participation

Your participation in the course will be graded on **three** components:

- a) your comments on the Tarea Grabaciones of your classmates;
- b) your **four** discussions on the Discussion Board;
- c) and your score on the quizzes (*Scavenger Hunt, Midterm Practice, and Final Exam Practice*).

Exams

The midcourse exam and the final exam (not comprehensive) will cover the material seen in the previous lessons. It will test both theoretical and applied information.

Examinations

There are two exams in this course, a midcourse exam and a final exam. They are not cumulative exams, and the final exam will only cover material introduced after the midcourse exam. **The exams will be delivered and completed electronically through WebCT.**

Requirements

Rigorous testing policies and procedures are required of an accredited university; therefore, exams must always be administered in a proctored/supervised, educational setting.

Students are required to complete all proctored exams and/or proctored writing assignments. Students cannot pass the class without completing all proctored exams and/or proctored writing assignments.

Exam dates: Refer to the weekly learning modules for scheduled exam dates. Late exams are not permitted.

Students Testing in the Reno/Sparks Area

Students living in the Reno/Sparks area are required to take their exams at the Independent Learning Office or at the Redfield Campus. (The Redfield Campus is open during limited days and times; call Independent Learning for availability.) Space is limited; therefore, **students are required to make an appointment with Independent Learning at least ONE WEEK in advance, but is best to do so TWO WEEKS in advance.**

Students Testing Outside of the Reno/Sparks Area

Students living outside the Reno/Sparks area must also take their exams in a proctored/supervised setting. You may request your test by completing the online exam request form (available in the weekly learning modules). You may also e-mail this proctor/test supervisor information to iltesting@unr.edu or fax it to (775) 784-1280.

Exam requests **MUST BE SUBMITTED TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO THE TEST DATE. Failing to request that your exam be sent to an out-of-town proctor TWO WEEKS before the test date may result in a "0" for the exam.** The faxing of exams is NOT allowed. Failure to request exams in a timely manner could mean that the test does not arrive to your proctor site by the testing deadline and you will be assigned a grade of "0" for the exam. **Requesting exams late will result in a fee of \$60.**

Note: Please be aware a proctoring fee may apply. All fees associated with proctoring are the responsibility of the student.

Semester at a Glance

<i>SPAN 312 / PRIMAVERA 2011</i>		<i>PROGRAMA</i>	<i>DR. ISABELLI</i>
DÍA	CAP	EN CLASE	ENTREGAR
SEMANA 1 1/24-1/28			
	INTRO	INTRODUCCIÓN	
	1	LA SILABIFICACIÓN (CONSONANTES)	TEST GRABACIÓN SCAVENGER HUNT
SEMANA 2 1/31-2/4			
	2	SILABIFICACIÓN (VOCALES)	
			TAREA #1
SEMANA 3 2/7-2/11			
	3	ACENTO ORTOGRÁFICO	
	4 & 5	ENLACE & SINALEFA	TAREA #2
SEMANA 4 2/14-2/18			
	6	ACENTUACIÓN	TAREA #3
			DISCUSSION #1
SEMANA 5 2/22-2/25			
	7	PROBLEMAS ORTOGRÁFICOS	GRABACIÓN #1
	8	LA TRANSCRIPCIÓN FONÉTICA	TAREA #4
SEMANA 6 2/28-3/4			
	9	LAS VOCALES	
	10	LAS VOCALES	GRABACIÓN #2
SEMANA 7 3/7-3/11			
		EXAMEN PARCIAL	
SEMANA 8 3/14-3/18			
	13	CONSONANTES: LUGARES	
	14	MODOS DE ARTICULACIÓN Y SONORIDAD	DISCUSSION #2
SEMANA 9 3/21-3/25 SPRING BREK			
SEMANA 10 3/28-4/1			
	16	FONEMAS OCLUSIVAS SORDOS / p t k/	TAREA #5
	17	FONEMAS OCLUSIVAS SONOROS / b d g/	DISCUSSION #3
SEMANA 11 4/4-4/8			
	18	FONEMAS FRICATIVOS SORDOS	
	19	AFRICADO ALVEOPALATAL Y PALATALES	TAREA #6
SEMANA 12 4/11-4/15			
	20	LOS FONEMAS NASALES /m, n, ñ/	
	20	LOS FONEMAS NASALES /m, n, ñ/	DISCUSSION #4
SEMANA 13 4/18-4/22			
	21	EL FONEMA LATERAL /l/	
	22	LOS FONEMAS VIBRANTES /r, r/	TAREA #7
SEMANA 14 4/25-4/29			
		EXAMEN FINAL	GRABACIÓN #3