

The University of Alabama at Birmingham
School of Arts and Humanities
Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures
57094 SPA 540-8M-History of Spanish Language¹
HB 431; M 7:00 -9:30pm

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You can download this syllabus at <http://www.uab.edu/foreignlang/syllabus.html>

1. Course Description

This advanced Spanish linguistics course provides a general overview of the evolution of Spanish language, while relating it to relevant historical events. It pays special attention to diachronic change in order to understand the phenomenon of language variation in a multicultural society.

Required Textbooks:

- Pharies, A. (2006), *Breve Historia de la Lengua Española*. Chicago University Press.
(ISBN: 0-226-66681-6)
- Munguía Zatarain et al., *Gramática Lengua Española: Reglas y Ejercicios*. Larousse.
(ISBN: 970-22-0058-X)

2. Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

- To understand the phenomenon of language change.
- To provide a description of the evolution of Latin into other Romance languages, paying special attention to Spanish.
- To review important historical events that influenced diachronic linguistic variation.
- To present a cross-linguistic comparison with other Indo-European languages.
- To identify the different varieties of Spanish and the historical facts that lead to the diversification of the original Latin substratum.
- To understand the origin of important grammatical phenomena.

3. Course Requirements

3.1. Pre-Requisites

12 hours at the advanced level (four 300 level courses in Spanish) for undergraduate students or graduate standing. **Recommended Pre-Requisite:** SPA 300

¹ **Important Note: 1.** In the event that the student decides to drop this course, it is the student's responsibility to do so correctly and officially. Not coming to class does not imply the student has officially dropped the class. If the student's name appears on this course's list at the end of the semester, s/he will be assigned a final grade based on all stated guidelines.

3.2. Web CAPE Score (400 level students)

If students enrolling in this class do not have a minimum score of **425** points in the Web CAPE exam, the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures strongly recommends that they drop back one level until their score improves and they have the level of Spanish required to be successful in the course.

4. Assessment

1. This course is a seminar; therefore class attendance, preparation, participation and contribution are mandatory. Any absence and lack of preparation is going to affect final grade.
2. Weekly assignments/homework (submitted through Blackboard).
3. Four quizzes where your understanding of the course content will be evaluated (computer-based)
4. One oral presentation during the semester, in groups of 4 or 5 students.
5. One documentary and related assignment
6. A final exam, which will include the content of the whole semester.

4.1. Weekly Assignments

Students must read the assigned chapter(s), capítulo, before coming to class (see Calendar). Additionally, there will be weekly assignments related to the material covered in class and/or included in the textbook. They must be submitted through Blackboard before the class begins. Students should bring a hard copy to class, where the assignments will be corrected. The assignments will be posted on Blackboard in advance, and access to them will be automatically blocked at the beginning of the class period where they should be submitted. These assignments cannot be excused, and there is no make-up for them.

4.2. Quizzes

There will be 3 quizzes based on the material covered in class (textbook chapters, power points, classroom activities...). The format of these exams will be mostly multiple-choice, and they will be done in class using Blackboard.

4.3. Presentations

Students are required to give one oral presentation in the semester, in groups of 4 or 5 students. Students must select a topic related to the class, do research on it and make the presentation in Spanish. Once the groups are formed, students are required to meet the instructor in groups to obtain help with the topic and organization. Each presentation should last 5 minutes per student. Longer presentations will be stopped and the student penalized (so practice in advance). Students are required to use visual support. Even though the presentation will be prepared in groups, the grades will be individually assigned. Therefore, each student must submit an electronic version of their presentation on Blackboard to get the whole credit for the activity. Further guidelines will be provided.

4.4. Documentary

Students will watch a documentary that relates archeological and linguistic data. There will be an assignment and readings related to it. Further guidelines will be provided.

4.5. Final Exam

The final exam will cover the whole content of the class. It will follow the same design as the quizzes.

4.6. Attendance, Class Participation and Classroom Policies

Class participation, contribution and actual speaking in the target language is crucial in order to learn a language, therefore class attendance is mandatory, as per departmental policy. **Any absence is going to affect students' class participation and final grade.** If under special circumstances, students need to miss classes, the following attendance policy will be applied:

1-day a week classes: 2 % from the FINAL grade is deducted for EACH absence above 1. More than 3 absences will result in an AUTOMATIC "F".

Students are solely responsible for keeping track of their own grades, assignments turned in, and absences.

5. Classroom Policies

1. Quizzes and exams are **ONLY** taken on dates and times indicated on the syllabus. If in case of **medical emergency** students miss an exam or quiz, they need to appeal in order to be considered eligible for a make-up test no later than one day after having missed the exam (appropriate **medical documentation must be presented**).
2. Classes begin promptly at hours scheduled.
3. No credit will be given for homework turned in late. Only assignments properly submitted through Blackboard are acceptable.
4. Phones and pagers should be turned off and put away while in class.
5. No leaving the room before class is over (unless in an emergency). Such behavior will count as an absence, as well as arriving late.

- Important dates:
 - August 18th: Classes begin
 - August 25th: last day to drop/add the course
 - September 7th: Labor day
 - October 14th: last day to withdraw (Undergraduate)
 - October 15 – 18: Fall Break
 - November 25th: No classes held
 - November 26th – 29th: Thanksgiving holiday
 - December 3rd: Last day of the class
 - December 3rd: Last day to withdraw (Graduate)
 - December 4th: Weather make- up
 - December 10th: Final exam (4:15 PM – 6:45 PM)

5. Cultural Events

Students must attend **two** cultural events. Students will sign in at the end of the event on the forms that will be provided. If you attend a cultural event in the community you must bring a

one-page composition explaining the event. In any case, you must log your events in Blackboard. You can find an updated list of event at the Department Calendar. To access the calendar, go to www.uab.edu/foreignlang, and select the "Event Calendar" link.

Activities sponsored by the department of foreign languages and literatures (inter alia):

Students can gain extra practice and cultural learning by participating in the following activities:

El Club de Español: Join *el club de español* and participate in the activities that they offer. For a monthly schedule and more information visit the website at www.uab.edu/foreignlang/spanish

Foreign Language Film Series: A series of foreign movies with English subtitles is offered by the Department every semester (free admission). For the film schedule visit www.uab.edu/foreignlang/films.html

Tertulias: Schedule will be provided.

Lectures and presentations: The Department usually sponsors two or three visiting scholars or cultural events during the semester. To find out when these events will occur, visit the Department's website www.uab.edu/foreignlang or notice the flyers on the fourth floor of the Humanities Building.

6. UAB ACADEMIC HONOR CODE

UAB expects all students to function according to the highest ethical and professional standards. Academic misconduct undermines the purpose of education. Unacceptable behaviors such as abetting, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication and misrepresentation are serious violations of the UAB Academic Honor Code and are punishable by a range of penalties. For more information, please visit the UAB web site at <http://www.catalog.uab.edu/UAB-Catalog2004-2006/>

7. Grading

Weekly Assignments/Homework: 10%

Quizzes: 45% (3*15=45)

Documentary: 5%

Oral Presentation: 10%

Final Exam: 20%

Class preparation, participation: 5%

Cultural Events: 5%

Total: 100%

A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C =70-79; D = 60-69; F = 0-59

Calendar²

Consult the following calendar in order to prepare for class.

Dates	Material covered, Assignments/Examinations/ Holidays
Aug. 24	Course Introduction; Placement Exam <u>Fonética y Fonología</u>
Aug. 31	<u>Morfología</u> : elementos básicos, el sustantivo, el adjetivo, el artículo, el pronombre, el verbo (accidentes gramaticales)
Sept. 7	Labor Day
Sept. 14	<u>Morfología</u> : El verbo (Voz pasiva, clasificación de los verbos, perífrasis verbales, formas no personales del verbo), el adverbio, la preposición, la conjunción, la interjección
Sept. 21	<u>Sintaxis</u> : Elementos básicos, elementos de la oración, la oración compuesta
Sept. 28	Quiz Breve H ^a de la Lengua Española: Introducción Capítulo 1: el cambio lingüístico Capítulo 2: la genealogía del español
Oct. 5	Capítulo 3: H ^a externa de la Península Ibérica hasta el s. XIII Capítulo 4: La lengua latina
Oct. 12	Capítulo 5: Del latín al castellano medieval: la fonología
Oct. 19	Capítulo 6: Del latín al castellano medieval: Morfología y sintaxis
!Oct. 26	Quiz (Capítulo 7: Del castellano medieval al español moderno) OR (D&A)
!Nov. 2	Documentary and Assignment (D&A)
Nov. 9	Capítulo 7: Del castellano medieval al español moderno. Capítulo 8: H ^a del léxico español Capítulo 9: Dialectología española
Nov. 16	Capítulo 9: Dialectología española (continuación)
Nov. 23	Presentations
Dec. 30	Presentations Quiz
Dec. 4	No class. Weather make-up day (if needed)
Dec. 7th	Final Exam: 7:00-9:30pm³

² This schedule can be changed at instructor's discretion.

³ Per university policy, students may not take more than 2 final exams in one day, please consult your calendar and advise Dr. Mayoral if this policy affects you.