

The University of Western Ontario
Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

Spanish 303a:
The Structure of Spanish
Fall 2007

Lecture: Mondays 2:30pm – 4:00pm (UC 207)
Wednesdays 12:30pm – 1:30pm (UC 114)

Instructor: Elena Valenzuela
UC 152
evalenzu@uwo.ca
519-661-2111 x.80436

Office Hours: Wednesdays 2:00-3:00pm; by appointment

Course Content and Aims:

Can a sentence have more than one meaning? What makes a sentence mean what it means? What is the definition of a word? Does a word have parts? What are the units of sound in the Spanish language? In this course we are going to answer these questions and more. We will examine the sounds of Spanish and how they are organized. We will look at how sentences, phrases and words are put together. Our ultimate aim will be to see why grammar matters and what it can tell us about the organization of the human mind. This class is taught in Spanish. The objective of this course is not to teach you to speak Spanish, I will assume you already do so moderately well. Rather, the objective is to understand the architecture of language.

Textbook:

Hualde, J. I., Olarrea, A. y A. M. Escobar (2001) *Introducción a la lingüística hispánica*.
Cambridge University Press.

Evaluation:

Presentation		15%
<i>Handout</i>	5%	
<i>Presentation</i>	10%	
Problem sets (3)		30%
<i>PS1 (due Oct. 3)</i>	10%	
<i>PS2 (due Oct. 22)</i>	10%	
<i>PS3 (due Nov. 19)</i>	10%	
Mid-term exam (Oct. 29)		25%
Final exam (Dec.)		30%

Presentation: You must read and be prepared to discuss the selected chapters from your textbook. To help you understand the text, a reading guide for each chapter covered in class has been prepared. You will find this reading guide in the course's WebCT site. In groups of two (depending on class size), students present a selection of the reading guide questions. Students will be asked to prepare a handout for this presentation. Your mark will be based on the handout (5%) and the presentation (10%).

Problem sets: You will be asked to carry out an analysis of a certain amount of data. Problem sets are completed at home. You may work with another student, but you must inform the professor of who you are working with. Late work will not be accepted unless you have a valid excuse.

Exams: Both the mid-term and the final exam will consist of a mixture of analysis of data and essay-type questions. A doctor's note is necessary if you cannot attend an exam.

Plagiarism and other Scholastic Offenses: Collaboration is normal in linguistics as in other sciences; plagiarism is a serious academic offence at UWO and elsewhere, punishable by penalties up to and including permanent expulsion from the University. The 2005 Western Academic Calendar quotes, on page 39, the following definition of plagiarism: "The act of appropriating the literary composition of another, or parts or passages of his writings, or the ideas or language of the same, and passing them off as the product of one's own mind." If you have any uncertainty about whether or not a certain way of completing work for the course constitutes plagiarism, be sure to consult the instructor. University regulations on scholastic offences will be strictly enforced in this course.

Attendance, Late Penalties and Accommodation for Medical and Compassionate Circumstances: Students are expected to attend every class unless medical or other valid circumstances prevent them from doing so. Because attendance is so important, any student who, in the opinion of the course coordinator, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course (see UWO Academic Calendar. If you miss class for an extended period of time or if you miss a term test, accommodation will only be possible if appropriate documentation of medical or compassionate circumstances is submitted to the academic counseling office of your Faculty or College of registration.