

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
PRINCIPLES OF SPANISH LINGUISTICS
SPN 367 - CID: 6060
PLACE: Evans 315
TIME: Tuesday-Thursday 5:00 – 6:20

Instructor: Dr. Enrique Mallen
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Office hours: Tuesday-Thursday 12:00 – 3:00

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This class involves a study of the science of language. Language is one of our most distinctive characteristics as humans, and it is also one of the most frequently misunderstood. The of this class is to take a look at the objective facts about human language. Except in case of severe brain damage, speaking a language is something that seems effortless and intuitive for all adults. Similarly, any child can learn to speak any human language if (s)he is exposed to that language from an early age, with almost no explicit teaching. And yet a close look at any human language shows that it is an extremely sophisticated system. This suggests that there is something special about the human mind that enables it to learn and use language. Linguistics is a science which aims to discover how human languages work, and what it is about humans that makes them able to learn and use language. The study of linguistic knowledge is divided into several areas: the study of sounds and their patterns (Phonetics and Phonology), words (Morphology), sentences (Syntax) and meanings (Semantics). Linguistics also study how linguistic knowledge is applied in social situations in different cultures (Sociolinguistics), how people learn languages (Language Acquisition), and how language is processed in the human brain (Neurolinguistics). We will be covering all these areas in the course.

GOALS OF THE COURSE: Part of your success in this course will depend on arriving at class well prepared and able to respond quickly when called upon. The study of linguistic knowledge is divided into several areas: the study of sounds and their patterns (Phonetics and Phonology), words (Morphology), sentences (Syntax) and meanings (Semantics). Linguistics also study how linguistic knowledge is applied in social situations in different cultures (Sociolinguistics), how people learn languages (Language Acquisition), and how language is processed in the human brain (Neurolinguistics). We will be covering all these areas in the course. The questions that we will be concerned with include: What are the units of human languages? What is it about humans that gives us this special ability to master language? What are some of the properties that are common to all human languages? What is the difference between formal written 'standard' English and colloquial forms of the language? How do children learn language? and What circumstances lead to language disorders?

COURSES MATERIALS: Fromkin & Rodman. *An Introduction to Language* (6th edition) (1997) is the basic textbook for this course. We will also recommend reading certain sections of Ray Jackendoff's book on linguistics *Patterns in the Mind* (Basic Books, 1994). In addition, we will make extensive use of on-line materials.

COMPUTATION OF YOUR GRADE:

10 Assignments:	20%
2 Tests:	20%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam:	25%
Participation:	10%

ASSIGNMENTS: There are regular homework assignments for this course. They account for a substantial part of the course credit - in fact, as much as all of the tests and the final exam combined. Therefore, you should take the homework assignments as seriously as you take the tests and exams. It would be a big mistake to give little attention to the homeworks and expect to make it all up on the tests. The homework assignments will be graded carefully. Clearly presented answers, and well-reasoned short essays will be greatly rewarded; unclear presentation and murky reasoning will be penalized. Assignments will generally be due by class time on Tuesday and will be returned in discussion sections or during the Thursday class. Homework must be handed in on time, or you will receive no credit for it. You may submit homework either in hard copy or via email (send to your discussion section leader), but we cannot be held responsible for the foibles of the email systems. If you do submit your homework via email, it is much more reliable to send a simple text file than to try to send an attachment with fancy formatting. There will be no make-ups for exams. We have to be strict about this in order to be fair to all students in the class.

TESTS & FINAL EXAM: There will be two tests, spaced roughly at the end of the major areas of linguistics, a midterm and a final exam. The tests and the exam will all be cumulative. These are worth a total of 70% of your grade. The tests and exams will be based on class lectures and notes, homework assignments, and readings. More specific guidelines will be given in class, but you should know that it is not enough to simply memorize facts from the textbook.

COLLABORATION: You can learn a lot from working through problems with others, and for this reason collaboration on homework assignments is encouraged in this class. But, collaboration can only work if you do so responsibly, and follow acceptable practices of academic honesty. If you work in a group, you should do the following: (1) write up your assignment by yourself, even if you have worked on it as part of a group; and (2) if you work as part of a group, you must write this at the top of your assignment, and give the names of the people you worked with.

PARTICIPATION: You will get far more out of this course, both in terms of learning and grades, if you participate actively in the course. If you actively think and talk about the topics covered in the course your chance of remembering and understanding is greatly increased. The participation component of the course grade is an opportunity to receive credit for taking this initiative in your learning. It is not a stick to beat you with for not showing up at class, nor is it automatic credit. Active participation involves: (1) attending classes and the discussion section that you are registered for; (2) reading and thinking about assigned readings before the class in which they are discussed; and (3) coming to discussion sections prepared to ask questions, contribute ideas, and listen to other students ideas

GENERAL COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES AND DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES POLICIES

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the University. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. The students should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If a student has a disability that may affect adversely his/her work in this class, then the student is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how best to deal with the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. **NOTE: No accommodation can be made until the student registers with the counseling Center.**

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

"Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

This policy is not intended to discourage the occasional visiting of classes by responsible persons. Obviously, however, the visiting of a particular class should be occasional and not regular, and it should in no way constitute interference with registered members of the class or the educational process.

CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT

Please refer to <https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Please refer to Academic Policy Statement 810213.

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of f resource materials.

YOUR ENROLLMENT IN THIS CLASS CONSTITUTES YOUR LEGAL AND MORAL OBLIGATION TO THE HONOR CODE. Because this course is a listening, speaking, reading, and writing one, I encourage you to work together. HOWEVER, plagiarism--copying others' work with out crediting them for it--is legally and ethically unacceptable--AND GROUNDS FOR FAILURE, NOT JUST IN THE ASSIGNMENT, BUT IN THE CLASS. Paraphrases, as well quotes, must be documented. See the article, *Plagiarism*, posted in documents in Blackboard.

PHILOSOPHY

This is an UNIVERSITY-LEVEL ACADEMIC COURSE WITH APPROPRIATE ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS. You earn your grade on that basis. You do not receive university credit for "ethnic consciousness" or language ability per se. Academic credit is based upon your intellectual and academic efforts, willingness and ability to reflect upon and respond to requirements of the class.

INTERACTION

RESPECT FOR OTHERS' VIEWS AND SPACE, not necessarily in agreement with one's own, is required on the part of every participant, including what is expressed, shared, etc., in the course of class interaction.

RESPECT FOR OTHERS IN GENERAL, particularly in the case of disagreement about class management issues, is required on the part of every participant. Presentation style is important. Treat others as you would have them treat you!

PERFORMANCE CONCERNS

Faculty are committed to facilitating each student's performance. Students must be committed to maximizing their own performance. This is a dual responsibility.

Please evaluate your personal class progress at least weekly, beginning at the first of the semester, and particularly after your first grade. Take responsibility and action right away! Do not wait until mid-semester and certainly do not wait until late in the semester to act on your concerns.

If you are concerned about your progress, please follow this chronological format:

1. Are you personally spending (minimum) equal time in outside-class preparation as you spend in the classroom itself? (Very many students need more preparation time for language acquisition classes; you may personally need more and you may need study-strategy assistance! Ask for help!)
2. Have you contacted the SAM Center about study-skills suggestions/workshops in general?
3. Are you following the suggested syllabus scenarios to incorporate the target language into your life and maximize your experience?
4. Have you contacted your professor via personal appointment to discuss specific actions which will help you improve your performance?
5. Have you arranged study sessions with other students in the class?
6. Have you contacted the Writing Center and scheduled personal tutoring (free)?

CELL PHONES & PAGERS

Please refer to Section 5.2.22 of the Code of Conduct.

CELL PHONES AND PAGERS must be on vibrate during class time except in pre-arranged-with-the-professor possibility of medical emergency to avoid grade sanctions.

GENERAL STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL MATERIAL, in books, presented in class, etc., whether you are listening or not.

YOU ARE PERSONALLY & SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR ACTIVITIES (ASKING QUESTIONS OR DOING HOMEWORK) IN ORDER TO MEET YOUR PERSONAL EXPECTATIONS AND DESIRE FOR SUCCESS/GRADE. Probable daily time needed for homework outside class will be a minimum of one to two hours per hour spent in class (3-6 hours per week). "Homework" is largely left to your discretion--you must assess how well you understand and how much practice, reading or written work outside of class you need. You are responsible for anything and everything in the syllabus, book or said in class. You are expected to highlight reading and take notes in class. You are expected to keep in contact with the professor and other students as personally needed.

GENERAL FACULTY RESPONSIBILITIES

I INTEND TO BE AVAILABLE TO DISCUSS, ADVISE, ETC., DURING AND OUTSIDE OF CLASS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE but please set prior appointment times via email.

Drop-in visits welcome when my office door is open, TT 3-5 only, although once in a while, I may not be available then due to other appointments/commitments. If so, I will leave a note as to my return. If the door is closed, I am not available.

Please also either honor your appointment or call to cancel. I will afford you the same courtesy if I have an unavoidable conflict.

Email is always better than telephoning.

I INTEND TO RETURN ASSIGNMENTS WITH COMMENTARY AND/OR GRADES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, usually within a week.

INSTRUCTOR EVALUATIONS

Students will be asked to

-complete a short anonymous informal course/instructor evaluation to questions after the first and second thirds of the semester

-complete an anonymous formal course/instructor evaluation form towards the end of the semester.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: BE IN CLASS, BARRING CONTAGION OR CATASTROPHY!!!

ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED for every SINGLE class meeting. If you are absent without making arrangements with the professor, with or without justification, your grade will be affected.

Students are encouraged to “buddy” with other students to get class notes/assignments. Always refer to your syllabus on Blackboard.

It is the student’s responsibility to request and turn in make-up work, which normally must be completed within one week after returning. Permitting make-up work, granting full or partial credit, etc. are at the discretion of the professor according to university guidelines.

DEADLINES

Syllabus assignments will be performed or handed in at the corresponding class.

Daily grades will be assigned at the professor's discretion. In case of serious illness or death in the family, advance or concurrent notice of your absence is required.

Call or email and leave a message and, if possible, send your corresponding assignment with another student.

NO LATE PAPERS OR EXAMS WITHOUT WRITTEN EXCUSE (DOCTOR, HOUSEMOTHER, MORTICIAN, ETC.) AND USUALLY MUST BE MADE UP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER ABSENCE.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Lecture 1: Introduction

Lecture 2: Descriptive & Prescriptive Grammar

Lecture 3: Languages of the World

Assignment 1 due

Lecture 4: Phonetics

Lecture 5: Phonetics

Lecture 6: Phonetics

Lecture 7: Phonetics

Assignment 2 due

Lecture 8: Phonology

Lecture 9: Phonology

Lecture 10: Phonology

Lecture 11: Phonology

Test 1

Assignment 3 due

Lecture 12: Morphology

Lecture 13: Morphology

Lecture 14: Morphology

Assignment 4 due

Lecture 15: Syntax

Lecture 16: Syntax

Lecture 17: Syntax

Lecture 18: Syntax

Test 2

Assignment 5 due

Lecture 19: Semantics

Lecture 20: Semantics

Lecture 20: Semantics

Midterm Exam

Assignment 6 due

Lecture 23: Language Acquisition

Lecture 24: Language Acquisition

Lecture 24: Language Acquisition

Assignment 7 due

Lecture 25: Brain and Language

Lecture 26: Brain and Language

Lecture 26: Brain and Language

Assignment 8 due

Lecture 21: Sociolinguistics

Lecture 22: Sociolinguistics
Lecture 22: Sociolinguistics

Assignment 9 due

Lecture 26: Language Change
Lecture 26: Language Change

Assignment 10 due

Lecture 26: Language and Writing
Lecture 26: Language and Writing

Final Exam