

Prospectus

SPAN 3120 (Fall 2024) – History of the Spanish Language Prereqs: SPAN 1800 or 1900 (or permission)

Description

As we move through the semester, we shall explore and weave together two main threads:

(1) The external history of the Spanish language: How do linguists read history? What cultural and historical events are important for the development of the Spanish language? As linguistic historians, we shall follow a canonical chronology that will examine pre-Roman influences, Iberian Latinity, the linguistic fragmentation of the Peninsula, medieval attempts at standardization, and the transition to linguistic modernity. As critical readers, we shall interpret these linguistic cultures in light of their foundational ideologies and how they contribute towards the creation of a national linguistic imaginary.

(2) The internal history of the Spanish language: How did the sounds of Latin become the sounds of Spanish? Was there really a lisping king? What about Spanish nouns and verbs? Why does Spanish have gender and so many verb forms? Stem-changing verbs, and those pronouns! Do we really know when Latin “became” Spanish?

Objetivos del curso

- Explorar en su marca diacrónica la relación entre la historia y la evolución de la lengua española – la historia *externa* del español.
- Adquirir un conocimiento básico de los procesos del cambio lingüístico y la evolución del sistema fonológico y morfológico de la lengua española - la historia *interna* del español.
- Entender los sobredichos fenómenos como el resultado de procesos históricos, sociales, económicos y políticos.

Materials

I will try my best to select and assemble free, open, or low-cost materials whenever possible.

Assessment and Evaluation (subject to minor changes):

- **engagement, contribution, and collaboration (ECC) – 15%**
 - This portion of your grade is based on your ability to demonstrate, both in and out of class, your engagement with the material, assignments, and discussion activities, and your willingness to show that you have read, prepared, and reflected upon the assigned materials by participating in class and in assigned discussion blogs. Remember: a good question is as helpful as a good answer!
- **homework and quizzes – 50%**
 - There will be frequent homework assignments on Canvas.

- There will be three in-class quizzes, during the semester. The purpose of the quizzes is to help you prepare for the exams.
- **mid-term examination – 15%**
 - There will be an in-class mid-term examination.
- **final examination – 20%**
 - There will be a take-home final exam/project. Due date TBD.

Course Policies

An Important Note on Absences

Given the emphasis that must be placed on participation and interaction in this class, students are required to attend all classes. You are allowed a maximum of **three (3)** absences during the semester, which you should reserve for short illnesses and unforeseen emergencies.

If you accumulate 4 absences, your final ECC grade for the course will be lowered by one sign (e.g., a grade of A- will be lowered to a B+). For each subsequent absence, your final participation grade will be lowered by an additional sign. You are expected to arrive to class on time; repeated tardiness will be counted as an absence.

Please note that there are no “excused absences” – if you miss class, you are responsible for making up any work and for knowing the material covered. You are also responsible for submitting all the required homework.

For further information regarding attendance, especially with regards to religious holidays, please consult the official College webpage on Policies Governing Class Attendance.

Academic Integrity

The Department of Romance Languages fully supports and adheres to all university policies and procedures regarding academic dishonesty (plagiarism, fabrication, cheating, etc.). The work you submit in this class is expected to be your own. If you submit work that has been copied from any published or unpublished source (including the Internet) without attribution, or that has been prepared by someone other than you or that in any way misrepresents somebody else's work as your own, you may face serious disciplining by the University.

It is expected that all students read and abide by the University's [Code of Academic Integrity](#), refraining from any activity constitutive of academic dishonesty as defined therein. For additional information, please consult the [Mutual Commitment to Academic Integrity](#).

You should also never hesitate to consult with me in the event of any uncertainty as to what may constitute academic dishonesty.

Course Citizenship and Inclusion

Our aim in this course is to foster a safe, stimulating, comfortable, and inclusive learning environment. Therefore, in our class community, persons from different backgrounds and beliefs will be welcome and respected, regardless of race, gender identity, sexual orientation, ethnicity, or religion.