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SPAN 302.01: Spanish Phonetics and Oral Expression

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M/W 10-12 & by appointment

Fall 2006
MWF 1:10 – 2:00
LA 304

Span302: Spanish Phonetics and Oral Expression

Course Description: In this course we will study the linguistic sound system of Spanish, contrasting parts of this system with the sounds of English. The following are our main objectives:

1. To study the Spanish sound system (e.g., vowels, consonants, syllable structure).
2. To identify which parts of the Spanish sound system are the most difficult for speakers of English in order to:
 - a. improve students' pronunciation of Spanish.
 - b. expand future teachers' awareness of typical difficulties in the acquisition of Spanish as a foreign language.
3. To cover a few basic theoretical concepts of linguistic sound systems in general.
4. To cover several topics related to Spanish dialectology and sociolinguistics.

Main Text:

Schwegler & Kempff, (2007). *Fonética y Fonología Españolas 3rd Edition*. Wiley & Sons.
(S&K will be available in the bookstore on 8/28/06)

Secondary Readings:

Available on e-reserve & Blackboard. Password for e-reserve = phonetics. See the course bibliography and schedule (below) for more information. Additional readings may be uploaded during the semester.

Course Requirements/Grading:

- **Readings:** Students must arrive to class prepared. It is important that students read the obligatory reading assignments *before* coming to class.¹
- **Online material:** Your textbook is accompanied by an online website that includes practice exams and exercises, some of which will be assigned as H.W.
www.wiley.com/college/Schwegler
- **Written assignments/Recordings**
 - *Research project:* Students will complete an original research project, which will include recording yourself and other learners of Spanish and a final paper consisting of 5-8 pages.² See the document called 'Research Project' for more information. This project counts for **20%** of the final grade.
 - *Homework assignments:* There will be various H.W. assignments during the semester, 3 will be related to the final project (see course schedule below and document titled 'Research Project, others will be from the book/online site (these will be announced in class and/or presented in written form in class & uploaded to the Blackboard site). Your average score for these H.W. assignments counts for **20%** of the final grade.

¹ If it becomes clear that students are not preparing for class, surprise quizzes might be integrated into the evaluation system. Students will find it useful to read chapters before and after they are covered in class.

² This paper will be written in the student's dominant language.

- **Exams:** If you have to miss an exam (only in case of serious emergencies, for which you must provide documentation), you call/email in advance so as to reschedule the exam. Make-up exams will be essay-based, whereas in-class exams will include various types of questions (multiple choice, fill-ins, etc.).
 - *Midterm:* Oct. 20. This exam counts for **20%** of your grade.
 - *Final exam:* Thurs., Dec. 14. (1:10 – 3:10)
See final exam schedule: http://cyberbear.umt.edu/instructions/finalsschedule_aut06.htm
This exam counts for **20%** of your grade.
- **Quizzes:** There will be 10 quizzes (marked in bold-face in the schedule below). The average of these quiz scores will count for **20%** of your final grade. In-class quizzes will short (~ 5 questions) and will consist of multiple choice and/or true/false questions. If you have to miss a quiz, you must call/email in advance to schedule a make-up. All make-up quizzes will consist of short answer and/or essay questions. One quiz grade will be dropped. Quizzes will normally be given at the beginning of the class period. If you arrive late for a quiz (even a few minutes), you'll have to make-up the quiz outside of class.
- **Participation:** Your presence and participation in this class is of the utmost importance. After 3 unexcused absences, your grade will be lowered two percentage points for each unexcused absence.³
- All students must access their **email** and our **Blackboard** site frequently.⁴
- There will be no extra credit opportunities.
- **All students must practice academic honesty.** Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at <http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm/page/1321>

Grading scale

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

Students with disabilities: If you have a documented disability that may require assistance, please contact the Disability Services for Students (DSS), which is located in the Emma B. Lommasson Center, Room 154, x2243.

³ For example, the grade will be lowered from a 95 to a 93.

⁴ I prefer that you check your email every day, if possible.

COURSE SCHEDULE⁵

Dates	Topics	Assignments
Phonetics & phonology, basic notions		
8/28	Introduction to course What is phonetics? Phonology? Introduction to phonetic transcription	<i>Read S&K, pp. 1-7</i>
8/30	Stress	<i>Read S&K, pp. 7-13</i>
9/1	'Standard Spanish,' 'dialects' Prescriptive vs. descriptive grammar Review	<i>Read S&K, 13-16</i> <i>Read Fromkin et al. "What grammar?"</i>
9/4	LABOR DAY – NO CLASS	
Articulatory phonetics: vowels		
9/6	Quiz #1 (S&K Chapter 1) Articulatory phonetics: vowels	<i>Read S&K, 23-29</i>
9/8	Articulation of vowels in Spanish and English Oral/nasal vowels	<i>Read S&K, 30-34</i> <i>Hand in Recording Project</i>
The syllable, diphthongs, hiatus		
9/11	Quiz #2 (S&K Chapter 2) Open & closed syllables, Syllable separation	<i>Read S&K, 37-48</i>
9/13	Diphthongs & triphthongs, Hiatus	<i>Read S&K, 48-61</i>
Consonants [j] and [w], diphthongs and semivowels		
9/15	Quiz #3 (S&K Chapter 3)	<i>Read: S&K, 63-74</i>
9/18		<i>Read: S&K, 75-87</i>
The syllable – vowels – rhythm		
9/20	Quiz #4	<i>Read: S&K, 89-110</i>
9/22		
Vowels in contact, more about the schwa, review of some important points		
9/25	Quiz #5	<i>Read: S&K, 111-129</i>
9/27		<i>Hand in Recording Project</i>

⁵ This schedule may change frequently. Changes will be announced in class and updated written versions of this syllabus will be uploaded to Blackboard as often as possible.

Articulatory phonetics: consonants		
9/29	Quiz #6	<i>Read S&K, 131-164</i>
10/2		
Phonetic Transcription		
10/4		<i>Read: S&K, 167-181</i>
10/6		
Phonemes and allophones: phonology & phonetics		
10/9	Quiz #7	<i>Read: S&K, 183-203</i>
10/11		
Phonemic stops /p, t, k/, the affricate stop /tʃ/, Nasal consonants		
10/13		<i>Read: S&K, 205-211</i>
10/16		<i>Read: S&K, 213-225</i>
10/18	TBA & Review for midterm	
10/20	MIDTERM	
Voiced stops: /b, d, g/ -- [ɟ]		
10/23		<i>Read: S&K, 227-248</i>
10/25		
Liquids: Rolled consonants: simple /r/ and trill /r/ & Lateral consonant /l/		
10/27	Quiz #8	<i>Read: S&K, 249-261</i>
10/30		<i>Read: S&K, 263-267</i>
Fricative phonemes /f, s, x/		
11/1	Quiz #9	<i>Read: S&K, 269-277</i>
11/3		<i>Hand in: Recording Project</i>
Intonation		
11/6		<i>Read: S&K, 279-287</i>
11/8		
11/10	VETERAN'S DAY – NO CLASS	
The English vowel system		

11/13		<i>Read: S&K, 289-298</i>
Spanish yesterday & today		
11/15	Quiz #10	<i>Read: S&K, 299-317</i>
11/22	THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS	
11/24		
Peninsular Spanish		
11/27		<i>Read: S&K, 319-327</i>
11/29		
Latin American Spanish		
12/1		<i>Read: S&K, 329-350</i>
12/4		<i>Hand in Recording Project FINAL PAPER</i>
Spanish in the U.S.		
12/6		<i>Read: S&K, 353-368</i>
12/8		
12/14	FINAL EXAM 1:10 – 3:10	