

DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND CULTURAL STUDIES  
<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

**2018-2019 SPAN 370 A1: THE SOUNDS OF SPANISH  
FALL TERM**

Instructor: Dr. Yvonne Lam  
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Time: TR 2:00-3:20  
Place: HC 2-30  
Office Hours: TR 10:30-11:30 or by appointment

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**Course Prerequisite:**

SPAN 300 or 306 or consent of department. It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate prerequisites for the course.

**Course Description, Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:**

This course examines how the sounds of Spanish are formed, in which contexts they occur, and how they interact with each other. We will also examine differences between the English and Spanish sound systems as well as across different varieties of Spanish. This is not a pronunciation course; the primary emphasis is on describing the sound system of Spanish, although an understanding of this will certainly help to improve pronunciation. No previous knowledge of linguistics is required.

At the end of the course, successful students will be able to:

- describe how the sounds of Spanish are articulated and in what way (if any) they differ from English
- describe how sounds affect each other when combined together
- transcribe the sounds represented in a written text or used in an oral recording using the International Phonetic Alphabet
- identify some of the dialectal variants of Spanish sounds

**Text (optional):**

Schwegler, Armin, Juergen Kempff & Ana Ameal-Guerra. 2010. *Fonética y fonología españolas*. 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons.

The material for this course corresponds more or less to this textbook (Chapters 1-16). However, due to its prohibitive cost (>\$150), it is **not required** for the course. The library's copy has been placed in the Rutherford Reserve room for consultation if desired. **You will be evaluated only on the material covered in class, regardless of whether it is in the textbook or not.**

Summaries of class discussions will be posted on eClass, but these are not a substitute for regular attendance in class.

**Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):**

<b>Component</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Due dates</b>
Practice exercises	10%	ongoing
Quizzes	30% (5 quizzes x 6% each)	see weekly schedule
Test #1	25%	Oct 9
Test #2	35%	Dec 6

**Explanatory Notes on Assignments and Tests:**

Practice exercises: Throughout the course, you will be assigned exercises on eClass to do at home in order to practice phonetic transcription. These exercises will be announced in class and will also be visible on eClass. The exercises are due **at the beginning of the following class** (i.e. submission of the assignment on eClass will be closed after that time). The exercises will not be graded by the instructor; rather, the answers will be available on eClass immediately after submission for self-correction. However, you will receive credit for having completed the exercises on time. Your mark for this component will be based on how many of the practice exercises you completed (e.g., 8 of 10 assigned exercises = 80%).

In cases of excusable absences, you must complete the exercise by the new due date that you negotiate with the instructor. Otherwise, no credit will be given for completion. For an unexcusable absence, or if you simply forgot, a mark of zero will be recorded for the exercise. **Not knowing that an exercise was assigned because you failed to attend class is not considered an acceptable excuse as you are responsible for checking eClass regularly.**

No "extra" assignments for extra marks will be offered for any student.

Quizzes: There will be 5 in-class quizzes of approximately 20 minutes each. The quizzes will be based on the practice exercises done in class and at home, and/or on the theoretical concepts discussed in class. The tentative dates of the quizzes are listed on the weekly schedule.

Quizzes must be taken on the announced date. In cases of excusable absences, the weight of the missed quiz will be transferred to the remaining quizzes. For an unexcusable absence, a mark of zero will be recorded.

Tests: The tests will include the theoretical concepts studied in class as well as the practice exercises. The first test (worth 25%) will cover the material seen to date; the second test (worth 35%) will cover the new theoretical concepts discussed since the first test, as well as the practice exercises done in the entire course, as phonetic transcription is a cumulative skill.

All tests must be taken on the scheduled date. In cases of excusable absences, a make-up test will be administered at the earliest mutually convenient time and date. If you fail to show for the make-up test, a mark of zero will be recorded. For an unexcusable absence, a mark of zero will be recorded.

## Grading:

Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#)). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student's level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

### “MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”

Descriptor	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	%
<b>Excellent.</b> A+, A or A- is earned by work which is superior in content and form and demonstrates an exceptional grasp of the subject matter. The grade of A+ designates work that far exceeds course expectations. Grades in the A range are normally achieved by a small number of students.	<b>A+</b>	4.0	<b>97-100</b>
	<b>A</b>	4.0	<b>93-96</b>
	<b>A-</b>	3.7	<b>90-92</b>
<b>Good.</b> B+, B or B- is earned by work that demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the course material and a good command of relevant skills. Grades in the B range are normally achieved by the largest number of students.	<b>B+</b>	3.3	<b>87-89</b>
	<b>B</b>	3.0	<b>83-86</b>
	<b>B-</b>	2.7	<b>80-82</b>
<b>Satisfactory.</b> C+, C or C- is earned by work that demonstrates an adequate grasp of the course material and relevant skills. Grades in the C range designate work that has met the basic requirements of the course.	<b>C+</b>	2.3	<b>77-79</b>
	<b>C</b>	2.0	<b>73-76</b>
	<b>C-</b>	1.7	<b>70-72</b>
<b>Poor/Minimal Pass.</b> D+ or D is earned by work that demonstrates minimal familiarity with the course material. Grades in the D range generally indicate insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.	<b>D+</b>	1.3	<b>65-69</b>
	<b>D</b>	1.0	<b>60-64</b>
<b>Failure.</b>	<b>F</b>	0.0	<b>0-59</b>

**Course-based Ethics Approval** in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

Yes       No, not needed, no such projects approved.

**Community Service Learning Component:**

Required     Optional     None

**Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available:**

- Exam registry – Students' Union: <http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>
- See explanations below
- Document distributed in class
- Other
- N/A

**Additional Mandatory Instructional Fees (approved by Board of Governors):**

- Yes
- No

**Required Notes:**

Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar.

**Student Responsibilities:****Academic Integrity**

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at [www.governance.ualberta.ca](http://www.governance.ualberta.ca)) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#). If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

**Learning and Working Environment**

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students; faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the [Office of the Student Ombuds](#). Information about the [University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures](#) is described in [UAPPOL](#).

### **Territorial Statement**

“The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.” (*from the beginning of the Calendar*).

### **University of Alberta Sexual Violence Policy**

The Sexual Violence Policy was approved by GFC in June 2017. It plays a vital role in ensuring a safe and respectful learning and working environment. As defined in the policy, **sexual violence** is any sexual act or act of a sexual nature, or act targeting sexuality, whether physical or psychological, committed without consent. **Sexual violence** is a complex and serious problem in society and on university campuses. Sexual violence can affect individuals of all gender identities, gender expressions, and sexual orientations, as well as those from all ages, abilities, racial, cultural and economic backgrounds. Through this policy, the University of Alberta recognizes its responsibility to reduce sexual violence in the University community. The university aims to do so by fostering a culture of **consent** and support through education, training and policy. The University recognizes the possible effects of trauma on those who have experienced sexual violence and supports the efforts of individuals to seek support and recover.

To read the policy in more detail, please visit:

<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Policies/Sexual-Violence-Policy.pdf>

### **Recording of Lectures**

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

### **Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components**

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections [Attendance](#) and [Examinations](#) of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the Code of Student Behaviour.

In this course, quizzes and tests are based on the material discussed in class; therefore, regular

attendance is strongly emphasized. The optional textbook and the eClass materials are merely supplementary and may not reflect everything that was discussed in class. In addition, phonetic transcription is a skill that improves with regular practice. If you must miss a class, you are responsible for finding out what material you missed. You are expected to check eClass regularly, regardless of whether you are able to attend class or not. See "explanatory notes" for procedures related to missed grade components.

### **Policy for Late Assignments**

All assignments are due at the beginning of the scheduled class time unless arrangements have been made **in advance** with the instructor. In cases of medical or other emergency, the student is responsible for notifying the instructor by email within two days. See "explanatory notes" for details regarding specific course components.

### **Disclaimer**

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

### **Student Resources:**

The best all-purpose website for student services is: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

### **Accessibility Resources (1 – 80 SUB)**

The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) webpage.

### **The Academic Success Centre (1-80 SUB)**

[The Academic Success Centre](#) offers a variety of workshops on effective study and exam strategies. There are in-person and online sessions available for a modest fee.

### **The Centre for Writers (1-42 Assiniboia Hall)**

The [Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

### **Health and Wellness Support**

There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the [Health and Wellness Support](#) webpage.

### **Office of the Student Ombuds**

The [Office of the Student Ombuds](#) offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.

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