

**FLS 333: “The Sounds of Spanish”
Fall 2009**

Instructor: Dr. Jim Michnowicz
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Course page: <http://vista.ncsu.edu/>

Prerequisite: FLS 202

TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS:

(1) Teschner, *Camino oral* (CO), 2nd Edition; with accompanying CD, McGraw-Hill, 2000.
ISBN 0-07-365520-1. \$177.20 new, \$87.90 used

There is a copy on 2-hour reserve in the library.

(2) Audio files exemplifying typical traits of English interference in Spanish that are covered in the initial diagnosis, and which will be covered in class. These are .mp3 files which can be downloaded and copied. They are very short, a few seconds apiece. They are available on the Vista webpage for this course: <http://vista.ncsu.edu/>

(3) Additional materials placed on the course website by the instructor

OBJECTIVES:

This course is an introduction to the **phonology** (the *system* of sounds) and the **phonetics** (the *pronunciation* of those sounds) of the Spanish language. The course has been designed with two primary goals in mind. First, the study of phonetics/phonology will enable you to improve your pronunciation (assuming you are not a native Spanish-speaker). Second, you will be introduced to the systematic, scientific study of language: *linguistics*. You will learn to transcribe written and oral language, focusing on areas of difficulty for English-speaking students of Spanish. Finally, we will examine the ways in which Spanish pronunciation differs systematically throughout the world. Note that the department of FLL is in the process of changing the catalog description for this course; in spite of the “official” name, this is not a conversation course. It is a linguistics course, about Spanish and taught in Spanish.

Specifically, at the end of this semester, students will be able to:

- Systematically describe the articulation of the vowels and consonants of Spanish using the appropriate linguistic terminology
- Identify areas of difficulty in their own pronunciation and apply the knowledge gained in the course to more closely approximate native-norms
- Accurately transcribe Spanish speech using the phonetic alphabet
- Identify and describe traits of phonetic variation throughout the dialects of the Spanish-speaking world

ATTENDANCE, PARTICIPATION AND MAKE-UP WORK:

You are expected to come to class prepared, having read the required material and having completed the assignments for the day. Participation on an individual level as well as at a group level is normal for this class. Importantly, the class is conducted entirely in Spanish; do not worry about making mistakes; what is important is that you speak and participate. **Three absences (excused or unexcused) will be permitted for this class, and should be saved for emergencies, religious observances, etc; after three absences 1% will be taken off the final grade for each subsequent unexcused absence.** Special situations should be brought to the attention of the instructor as soon as the student becomes aware of the situation. Consistently arriving late to class disrupts class for everyone, and each time will count as an absence after 2 late arrivals.

Given the expected upswing in H1N1 flu during the fall, **do NOT attend class if you are sick.** If this will require you to miss a HW assignment or an exam, notify the instructor beforehand.

Documentation may still be required.

Homework assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day assigned. No credit will be given for late assignments, although the instructor will correct late homework for content at the student's request. If you know you are going to miss a day of class, turn in your homework early, email it to the instructor **before** class, or send it with a classmate. Likewise, no make-up exams will be given; if you miss an exam, you will receive a 0. If you need to miss an exam for an official University-excused absence (i.e. class field trip, religious observance), you are obligated to let the instructor know as soon as possible **before** the date of the exam. Failure to do so will result in a 0 on the exam.

A list of University approved excused absences can be found at:

http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic_affairs/courses_undergrad/REG02.20.3.php

You will earn participation points each week, 3 points per week. Full participation credit is given for coming prepared to class, answering and asking questions as required, working actively in groups, etc. Participation points are deducted for not coming prepared, not participating actively (in Spanish) during conversation times, being unable to participate in class discussions because of not reading and/or completing homework assignments. Since you must be in class in order to participate, no credit will be given for absences or tardies; an exception is made for your first three absences and any unexcused absences thereafter. In this event, your grade (3 points) will be based on your participation during the days that you were present.

ASSIGNMENTS:

(1) Diagnostic recording

At the beginning of the semester, each student will provide a recording of his/her pronunciation in Spanish. The recording consists of reading a word list, and then recording at least **three minutes** of spontaneous speech (i.e. do not read), on any subject. The recording should be made

in mp3 format, with the student's full name as the file name (instructions for downloading free software and recording your file are available on the course website), or as an audio CD. The instructor will listen to each recording, and provide a written classification of each student as a non-native speaker of Spanish or a native speaker of Spanish (based only on pronunciation traits). Those students classified as non-native speakers will be given a list of traits that need to be improved. These traits will be discussed and exemplified throughout the course, and will form the basis for the final oral exam. The final oral exam for students classified as non-native speakers of Spanish will consist of a word list and free conversation in which attention will be paid to improving the traits noted at the beginning of the semester. Students classified as native speakers of Spanish based on their pronunciation will come to the oral final exam prepared to discuss their own pronunciation of Spanish according to the phonetic terminology developed during the course. **The diagnostic recording is due by 11pm, Friday, August 28.** Note that since the final oral exam is based on improving on this initial recording, if you fail to turn it in by the due date, you will still be required to complete the assignment, although no credit will be given. This counts as part of your oral exam grade.

In order to make your recording, you will need computer recording software and a microphone (both available in the Foreign Languages computer labs). A good, free option for recording software is Audacity, which can be downloaded at: <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>. There are instructions for recording your file on this course's Vista page.

Second recording: Students will also make a second recording towards the end of the semester. This second recording will form the basis for the final paper. This recording counts as part of your final paper grade. More information will be provided later in the semester.

(2) Homework

There will be periodic homework assignments, either from the text or from handouts. They may be written, oral or auditory (students are expected to listen to the auditory sections of the book indicated by headphones). The audio is found on the CD that accompanies the text. The written assignments are due at the beginning of the class period, unless otherwise specified. If you have questions relating to the assignment, contact your instructor by e-mail, or raise these concerns in class. Generally, assignments include reading chapters for class and completing exercises at the end of the chapter. These assignments may change depending on the material, chapters, etc. Any changes will be announced in class.

(3) Exams

There are three written partial exams during the semester, plus a written final exam. See schedule for dates. The partial exams are not designed to be cumulative, but due to the nature of the subject matter, material from previous tests will necessarily appear on later exams. The written final exam is cumulative.

(4) Oral Exam

A final oral exam will evaluate how well you have assimilated and applied concepts of Spanish pronunciation throughout the semester. Non-native speakers are expected to demonstrate improvements on any difficulties listed on the comment sheet from the initial diagnostic recording. The format will be reading a list of words and free conversation; there is no need to

prepare any materials. Although you are not expected to have a completely native accent by the end of the semester, you will be graded against “native-like” pronunciation, since that is the ultimate goal. Students classified as native Spanish speakers will give a detailed description of their own pronunciation during the oral final exam, using the terminology developed in the course. The final oral exam will take place on a one-to-one basis with the instructor during the last two weeks of class (**November 30-December 2**). There will be no regular class on these days; you will come for your exam time only. The remaining time should be used to complete your final project.

(5) Final Project

There will be a final paper consisting of the analysis of either your (for non-native speakers) or a partner's (for native speakers) phonology, with special focus on certain problematic aspects of Spanish phonology for American speakers. More information on specific requirements will be provided during the semester. **Due the last day of classes, December 4.**

GRADING POLICIES:

5% Attendance and Participation
15% Homework assignments
10% Final project
35% Written partial exams
30% Written final exam
5% Final oral exam

GRADING SCALE:

A+ 97-100%	C+ 77-79.9%
A 93-96.9%	C 73-76.9%
A- 90-92.9%	C- 70-72.9%
B+ 87-89.9%	D+ 67-69.9%
B 83-86.9%	D 63-66.9%
B- 80-82.9%	D- 60-62.9%
	F 59.9-0%

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to demonstrate honest scholarship at all times, as stated in the University policy on academic integrity found in the Code of Student Conduct Policy (POL11.35.1). Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: turning in another student’s work as one’s own, failure to cite sources, copying work from another student, cheating on an exam, plagiarism, lying about absences, etc. Students who break this policy will be referred to the student conduct office on campus.

In agreement with the University Honor Pledge, it is the understanding and expectation of faculty that the student's signature on any test or assignment means that the student neither gave nor received unauthorized aid.

DISABILITY ACCESS STATEMENT

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with verifiable disabilities. In order to take advantage of available accommodations, students must register with Disability Services for Students at 1900 Student Health Center, Campus Box 7509, 515-7653. For more information on NC State's policy on working with students with disabilities, please see the Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Regulation (REG02.20.1)

CLASS EVALUATIONS

Online class evaluations will be available for students to complete during the last two weeks of class. Students will receive an email message directing them to a website where they can login using their Unity ID and complete evaluations. All evaluations are confidential; instructors will never know how any one student responded to any question, and students will never know the ratings for any particular instructors.

Evaluation website: <https://classeval.ncsu.edu>

Student help desk: classeval@ncsu.edu

More information about ClassEval: <http://www2.acs.ncsu.edu/UPA/classeval/index.htm>

TENTATIVE CALENDAR OF ASSIGNMENTS (CO = Camino Oral)

Rojo = Leer **Azul = Tarea escrita** **Verde = escuchar el CD**

Día	Fecha	Tema
1	Agosto 19	Introducción; las metas del curso. Read CO Ch. 1
2	Agosto 21	Fonemas y grafemas; Read CO Ch. 2
3	Agosto 24	Cont.; El silabeo; Read CO pp. 33-40 (top) ; Tarea: CO p. 29, Ejercicio 2.5
4	Agosto 26	El silabeo cont.
5	Agosto 28	El silabeo cont.; Tarea: CO pp. 38, Ejercicio 3.1 B ***Diagnostic mp3 due at 11 pm: turn in on Vista page***
6	Agosto 31	La acentuación; Leer CO pp. 40-58 ; Tarea: pp. 58-59, Ejercicio 3.3, A
7	Septiembre 2	La acentuación cont.; Tarea: pp. 59-60, Ejercicio B (no hagan parte 3 – su explicación)
8	Septiembre 4	Cont.; Empezar el repaso
	Septiembre 7	Día del trabajador; No hay clases
9	Septiembre 9	Repaso de los capítulos 1-3
10	Septiembre 11	Examen 1 Capítulos 1-3

11	Septiembre 14	Introducción a la fonética articuladora; los articuladores, la sonorización y las vocales españolas; Leer: CO pp. 63-72; Tarea: pp. 70-71, Ejercicio 4.2, C-D
12	Septiembre 16	La fonética articuladora, las vocales cont.
13	Septiembre 18	Actividad en Vista; no nos reunimos; La fonética articuladora; las consonantes y las semivocales. Leer: CO pp. 73-85; Tarea: pp. 78-79, Ejercicio 4.3, A and B
14	Septiembre 21	La fonética articuladora; las consonantes y las semivocales cont.; Tarea: pp. 79-81, Ejercicio 4.3 C and D
15	Septiembre 23	Repaso de la fonética articuladora; Tarea: p. 84 Ejercicio 4.4
16	Septiembre 25	Fonemas y alófonos; Leer: CO pp. 87-98; Tarea: CO pp. 92-93, Ejercicio 5.1, C, PARA ENTREGAR # 2, 5, 7, 10, 15
17	Septiembre 28	Fonemas y alófonos cont.; Leer: CO pp. 99-109; Tarea: CO pp. 104-105, Ejercicio 5.2, B, PARA ENTREGAR # 2, 4, 9, 14, 18
18	Septiembre 30	La fonología cont.; Tarea: CO pp. 105-106, Ejercicio 5.2 C, PARA ENTREGAR # 2, 7, 8, 9, 12
19	Octubre 2	La fonología cont.; Tarea: CO pp. 110-111, Ejercicio 5.3, A, PARA ENTREGAR # 3, 8, 10, 12, 16
20	Octubre 5	Repaso de la fonética y la fonología (Capítulos 4-5)
21	Octubre 7	Examen 2 Capítulos 4-5
22	Octubre 9	Descanso del otoño; No hay clases
23	Octubre 12	Capítulo 6: La sinalefa, el ritmo silábico; Leer: CO pp.113-16/118-19/121; Tarea: pp. 117-118, Ejercicio 6.1, B, PARA ENTREGAR # 6, 15, 18, 19, 20
24	Octubre 14	Cont.; La sinalefa, el ritmo silábico;
25	Octubre 16	Capítulo 7: Cómo mejorar la pronunciación: Las vocales; la sinalefa; Leer: CO pp. 131-138

26	Octubre 19	Las vocales cont.; Las consonantes; Las oclusivas sordas/sonoras: /p/, /t/, /k/, /b/, /d/, /g/; Leer: CO pp. 145-146 (arriba); Tarea: pp. 144-145, Ejercicio 7.6, A (transcripciones), PARA ENTREGAR # 3, 8, 10, 14, 18; CD: Ej. 7.1 A, B, C; 7.2; 7.3; 7.4, 7.5, 7.6
27	Octubre 21	Las consonantes cont.; Leer: CO pp. 146-151; /s/, “ci”, “si”, “ti”, “u”, “h”, ; CD: Ejs. 7.7; 7.8; 7.9; 7.10
28	Octubre 23	Las consonantes, cont.; Leer: CO pp. 152-163; /l/, /r/, “rr”, /x/; CD: Ejs. 7.11; 7.12 A, B, C; 7.13; 7.14
29	Octubre 26	Las consonantes cont.; Tarea: pp. 161-162, Ejercicio 7.13, A (transcripciones), PARA ENTREGAR # 3, 4, 8, 9, 11
30	Octubre 28	Repaso de los capítulos 6 y 7.
31	Octubre 30	Examen 3 Capítulos 6-7
32	Noviembre 2	Introducción a la dialectología; los aspectos sociales de la lengua; Leer: CO, pp. 180-196
33	Noviembre 4	Los dialectos principales de España y Latinoamérica; Tarea: p. 197, Ejercicio 8.1 (sólo preguntas 8-13)
34	Noviembre 6	Las zonas dialectales
35	Noviembre 9	Los 20 procesos dialectales; Leer: CO pp. 197-210 arriba
36	Noviembre 11	Los 20 procesos dialectales cont; Tarea: pp. 221-222, Ejercicio 8.2 A
37	Noviembre 13	Los 20 procesos dialectales cont.; Leer: CO pp. 210-221; Tarea: pp. 223-224, Ejercicio 8.2 B
38	Noviembre 16	Análisis de un dialecto;
39	Noviembre 18	Repaso de la dialectología
40	Noviembre 20	Temas en la lingüística hispánica:¿ahora qué?
41	Noviembre 23	Repaso de los problemas debido al inglés para el examen oral
	Noviembre 25	Descanso para el día de la acción de gracias; No hay clases

Noviembre 27	Descanso para el día de la acción de gracias; No hay clases
Noviembre 30	Exámenes orales
Diciembre 2	Exámenes orales
Diciembre 4	Repaso para el examen final

Final Exam: Chapter 8 (Dialectology); cumulative: transcription; phonemes and allophones;

NOTE: This calendar of assignments is a guide and as such, is subject to change. It will be adjusted, as necessary, to time constraints and other factors. Students are responsible for all syllabus changes made in class.