

University of Houston

Department of Hispanic Studies

**SPAN 3394 (23813)**

**Introduction to the Study of Spanish Language**

Spring 2012

T/TH: 1-2:30 (AH-203)

Prof. Manuel J. Gutiérrez

Office Hours (432-AH: T 12-1 / TH 2:30-3:30)

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**Goals for the Bachelor of Arts in Spanish**

- Students will be able to converse with ease and confidence when dealing with most routine tasks and social situations that require an exchange of basic information related to work, school, recreation, particular interests and areas of competence.
- Students will be able to demonstrate analytical and critical skills when writing in Spanish.
- Students will demonstrate professional readiness for language-related fields of study and work.

**Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students will be able to discuss orally and in writing about the main characteristics of languages.
2. Students will be able to describe orally and in writing about the origins of the Spanish language.
3. Students will be able to apply linguistic concepts to the analysis of sounds, words and sentences of Spanish.
4. Students will be able to describe situations in which Spanish is in contact with other languages.
5. Students will be able to develop a basic analysis of live discourse.

**Students' responsibilities:**

Attendance to scheduled sessions  
Active participation in discussions  
Two exams  
Written paper\*

\*Linguistic description based on an interview with a Spanish speaker (see project's description).

**Text:** -Ávila, Raúl. *La lengua y los hablantes*. México, D.F.: Trillas, 1991.  
-Selected articles.

**Evaluation**

Exam 1	35%	Exam 2	35%
Paper:	25%	Participation:	5%

**Weeks**

1/17 - 1/19      Introducción: ¿de dónde viene y cómo se formó el español?

1/24 - 1/26      La lingüística como ciencia cognitiva

1/31 - 2/2      El signo y los signos  
El signo lingüístico

2/7 - 2/9      Significado y contexto  
Las lenguas y su organización

2/14 - 2/16      Lengua y habla  
La comunicación lingüística y sus funciones

2/21 - 2/23      La situación comunicativa

2/28 - 3/1      Repaso  
**Examen 1 (3/1)**

3/6 - 3/8      El idioma español y sus modalidades

**3/12 - 3/17      Spring holyday**

3/20 - 3/22      Los fonemas

3/27 - 3/29      Enunciados y oraciones

4/3 - 4/5      Lenguas en contacto  
El español de los Estados Unidos

4/10 - 4/12      Las gramáticas del español

4/17 - 4/19      Repaso  
**Examen 2 (4/19)**

4/24 - 4/26      Presentaciones del trabajo

**Entrega del trabajo: 5/3**

## PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a serious form of cheating. To plagiarize is to claim another's ideas or writing as one's own. It is a form of stealing.

Plagiarism can take several forms. Students often associate the term with writers who copy entire passages from a book, magazine, encyclopedia, or other printed source and turn them in to an instructor as their work. This is, perhaps, the most blatant form of plagiarism as well as the easiest for instructors to detect. After all, instructors can usually recognize a passage lifted from Time magazine or other sources with distinctive styles. In fact, instructors can almost always recognize professional writing, even if they cannot immediately identify its source.

But plagiarism takes several other forms. For instance, students plagiarize when they borrow ideas from other writers without giving them credit. In this case, students might not even use the other writer's language; nevertheless, they are stealing the writer's content. Students also plagiarize when they present another student's work *{or the work of a professional paper writing service, or work copied from a Web Site}* as their own. Thus, documentation involves more than just citing the source of direct quotations.

Because plagiarism is such a complex concept to come to grips with in its entirety, take note of the following summary definition:

1. Plagiarism includes the **literal repetition without acknowledgement of the writings of another author**. All significant *words, phrases, clauses or passages* in a student's paper which have been taken directly from the source material must be enclosed in quotation marks and acknowledged either in the text itself or in foot or endnotes.
2. Plagiarism includes borrowing without acknowledging another writer's **general plan, outline, or structure of argument** in the creation of one's own organization.
3. Plagiarism includes borrowing another's **ideas** and representing them as one's own. To **paraphrase** the thoughts of another writer without acknowledging them is to plagiarize.
4. Plagiarism includes allowing **any other person or organization (including those found on the internet)** to prepare the paper and submitting it as one's own work.

**Plagiarism in the course will not be tolerated.** Penalties for plagiarism include, but are not limited to, failure in the course, suspension, and permanent expulsion from the university. For more information, consult the University of Houston Undergraduate Studies handbook, section on "Academic Honesty."