

Spanish Linguistics: Syntax and Semantics (A005700)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0

Study time 150 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 2)	Spanish	Gent	group work	0.0h
			seminar	0.0h
			independent work	0.0h

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Claassen, Simon	LW06	staff member
Legaz Torregrosa, Helena	LW06	staff member
Roels, Linde	LW06	staff member
Santa Maria, Aaron	LW06	staff member
Enghels, Renata	LW06	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Spanish)	5	A
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Spanish)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Spanish)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Spanish)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Spanish)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Iberian-Romance Languages)	5	A

Teaching languages

Spanish

Keywords

Spanish, linguistics, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, simple and complex sentence structures, functional approach.

Position of the course

This advanced course provides an in-depth study of the syntax and semantics of Spanish.

Exchange students may take this course. It does not require knowledge of Dutch.

Contents

- This course describes general concepts within the domain of syntax and semantics (e.g. deixis, anaphora, agentivity, transitivity, iconicity, prototype theory etc.) and describes all elements that could be part of the nominal and verbal group.
- The following themes and grammatical categories are described: determiners, the adjective (classification and syntactic position), adnominal complements, the

relative clause, morphological, syntactic and semantic classification of verbs (incl. notions such as transitivity, lexical aspect, etc.), the dative in Spanish, pronominal constructions, constructional alternations.

- Students prepare a paper on a topic that has been treated during the lectures. This work is based on comparison of academic sources and a limited digital corpus. The results have to be exposed in written and spoken form, in correct academic Spanish (level B2).

Initial competences

Students have followed the courses Spanish linguistics: Introduction and Spanish linguistics: Morphology or have acquired the necessary skills by other means. Expected language level at the start of the course: B1.

Final competences

- 1 To have thorough knowledge of the syntax, semantics and pragmatics of the nominal and verbal phrase in Spanish.
- 2 To have insight into the syntactic and semantic uniqueness of Spanish.
- 3 To be able to distinguish different kinds of relational structures in a Spanish sentence.
- 4 To be able to assimilate and reproduce a linguistic reasoning.
- 5 To be able to understand scientific texts on linguistics (in casu grammars) of Spanish and to write a report on this investigation, if necessary, with responsible use of GenAI where needed or relevant."
- 6 To be able to conduct a syntactic and semantic analysis of a linguistic item in Spanish.
- 7 To be able to formulate a reasoning fluently and accurately in spoken and written (academic) Spanish (level B2).
- 8 To dispose of a strong awareness of language and its role in human interactions and cultural production.
- 9 Make use of digital research environments and search strategies to identify research objects.
- 10 To use digital methods to collect and manage analogue or digital research objects in a structured way.
- 11 To publish research data or results taking into account a specific target audience.
- 12 To be familiar with the basic concepts, and inter- and transdisciplinary possibilities of Digital humanities.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Group work, Seminar, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

- During the lectures a series of notions and theories are presented. These are further practiced during seminars and applied to concrete case studies. Several topics are supported by videos on Ufora.
- There is a mix of on campus and online activities: a number of chapters are acquired through blended learning (short video's, learning path and well-oriented feedback on campus).
- For several topics a set of extra exercises (incl. correction key) is provided on Ufora.
- Group work: paper and presentation.
- Lecture-based sessions can be recorded and made available to specific target groups (upon request).

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Manual de expresión escrita en español - handboek

Indicative price: € 20

Optional: yes

Language : Other
Author : Carine Degroote, Renata Enghels, Patrick Goethals, Ana Ibáñez Moreno, Jasper Vandenberghe
ISBN : 978-9-03821-766-6
Number of Pages : 330
Oldest Usable Edition : 2020
Online Available : No
Available in the Library : Yes
Available through Student Association : Yes
Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : regularly
Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : regularly
Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : occasionally

Type: Syllabus

Name: Lingüística Española - Sintaxis y Semántica del español: SN y SV
Indicative price: € 10
Optional: no
Language : Other
Number of Pages : 115
Oldest Usable Edition : 2024
Available on Ufora : No
Online Available : No
Available in the Library : No
Available through Student Association : Yes

Type: Slides

Name: Lingüística Española: Sintaxis y Semántica del español
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : Other
Number of Slides : 400
Oldest Usable Edition : 2024
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : Yes
Available in the Library : No
Available through Student Association : No

Type: Audiovisual Material

Name: Lingüística Española: Sintaxis y Semántica del español - kennisclips
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : Other
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : Yes
Available in the Library : No
Available through Student Association : No
Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : regularly
Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : one-time
Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : not

References

- Van Dale: Groot woordenboek Spaans-Nederlands / Nederlands-Spaans
- RAE & ASALE (2010): Nueva Gramática de la lengua española, Manual, Madrid: Espasa Libros
- Moliner M. Diccionario de uso del español. Madrid: Gredos.
- Gómez Torrego, Leonardo. 2011. Gramática didáctica del español. 10a ed. Madrid: SM.
- Bosque, I. & V. Demonte: Gramática descriptiva de la lengua española. Madrid: Espasa Calpe.

Course content-related study coaching

Professor (lectures) and assistants (seminars and group work).
Students are strongly encouraged to engage in interaction, to ask questions during the classes, and to take additional notes.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Presentation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

Theory: written examination; open questions based on concrete case studies.

Evaluation of paper and presentation. Language proficiency is evaluated at the B2 level. If the language level were insufficient, the student may not pass the paper and/or presentation. During the evaluation of the oral proficiency a rubric is used. When calculating the final score, the outcome of the peer assessment by the group members is taken into account. Students are surveyed via a questionnaire about the use of GenAI for specific parts of this work.

Presence during theoretical classes is strongly recommended. Presence in seminar classes dedicated to the group assignment, including the feedback session, is obligatory.

Students are required to complete mandatory learning paths on Ufora that enable them to participate in the practical classes.

See also article 76 of the OER with respect to absence during the exam. When a student cannot attend the periodical or continuous evaluations due to sickness or other unforeseen circumstances, he has to inform the responsible teacher(s) before the test takes place.

Students who do not take part in the assessment of one or more parts of the course evaluation cannot pass the course evaluation. Should the average mark be higher than 10/20, the final mark will be reduced to the highest non-pass mark (= 9).

Calculation of the examination mark

Periodical exam (70%) and non-periodical (30%).

Non-periodical: 20% assignment and 10% presentation.

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:

- 1 Possible exemption from certain educational activities requiring student attendance.
- 2 Student attendance during permanent evaluation moments is indispensable.
- 3 Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year.
- 4 Feedback can be given by email