

Spanish in Contact and Contrast (A005391)

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 2023-2024

A (semester 1) Spanish Gent seminar
independent work

Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024

De Backer, Laurence	LW06	staff member
Van Den Driessche, Nele	LW06	staff member
Vanhaverbeke, Margot	LW06	staff member
Enghels, Renata	LW06	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024

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

Teaching languages

Spanish

Keywords

Spanish, functional and cognitive framework, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, sociolinguistics, discourse markers, language change, youth speak, grammaticalization, English-Spanish language contact, codeswitching

Position of the course

This course aims at the deepening of the student's knowledge on variation within the Spanish linguistic system. A number of advanced themes are studied within a synchronic, diachronic and sociolinguistic perspective, and within a functional-cognitive framework. The following two main topics are studied in detail: (1) patterns of sociolinguistic variation (including grammaticalization and generation specific language use), (2) language change and variation as a consequence of language contact (mainly between Spanish and English). Exchange students may take this course. It does not require knowledge of Dutch.

Contents

This course aims at making the students aware of the huge amount of variation in Spanish, already within the 'normative' language system, but also through processes of language change and contact. Besides an introduction to the cognitive-functional framework, two well-balanced modules are presented:

- Module 1. The sociolinguistically oriented part is dedicated to the development of discourse markers within a theory of grammaticalisation and historical pragmatics, but also studies generation specific language use, including the main characteristics of youth language.
- Module 2. This part is dedicated to the consequences of language contact within the Spanish speaking world. This module wants to make students conscious of the changing status of Spanish due to contact with English (as a Lingua Franca). Subthemes are (lexical and syntactic) anglicisms, codeswitching.
- Students prepare a paper on a topic that has been treated during the lectures. This work is based on scientific literature and a limited digital corpus. The results have to be exposed in written form (academic Spanish, level C1/C2).

Initial competences

Students have attended the courses Spanish linguistics I, II, III and IV and/or have acquired a sufficient basic knowledge of Spanish morphology, syntax and semantics.
Expected language level at the beginning of the course: C1.

Final competences

- 1 To have good insight into a cognitive and functional approach to the study of language.
- 2 To be able to understand and correctly apply notions of present-day linguistics that have been explained during the course.
- 3 To gain insight into the various dimensions of language variation in Spanish.
- 4 To gain insight into the results of processes of language change and situations of language contact, within the Spanish speaking world.
- 5 To be able to critically assess positive and negative attitudes with respect to language change as a result of language contact, and to formulate his/her own opinion.
- 6 To be able to critically assess linguistic theories.
- 7 To be able to communicate about own research in the domain of (Spanish) linguistics, by writing a report at the C1 level.
- 8 To dispose of a strong awareness of language and its role in human interactions and cultural production.
- 9 To be able to choose an adequate research strategy, to adequately use and critically evaluate it, based upon principles and algorithms of digital search environments.
- 10 To compare, select and use in an adequate and independent way digital methodologies, to critically evaluate them in order to collect and manage digital research objectives.
- 11 To publish research data or results in function of a specific target group.

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

Seminar, independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

- For every theme a theoretical basis is provided during the interactive lectures. When necessary, the students will read scientific articles by means of preparation (guided self-study). During these classes special attention is paid to the development of scientific argumentation, and analytical skills.
- These interactive lectures constitute the starting point for an individual assessment. For module 1 the students conduct an individual corpus research whose results are summarized in a paper.
- There is also an oral examination about module 1 and 2.
- During the seminars, the students have the opportunity to ask questions about their own research.

Learning materials and price

Reader and powerpoints, provided through Ufora.

Didactic material in support of the writing of the paper

- Goethals, P. / De Groote, C. / Enghels, R. / Vandenberghe, J. (2011): Manual de expresión escrita en español. Técnicas de escritura para estudiantes neerlandófonos (B2-C1). Libro de teoría, Gent: Academia Press. (20€)
- Goethals, P. / De Groote, C. / Enghels, R. / Vandenberghe, J. (2011): Manual de expresión escrita en español. Técnicas de escritura para estudiantes neerlandófonos (B2-C1). Libro de

actividades, Gent: Academia Press. (20€)

References

A list of selected literature will be communicated at the start of the course.

Reference works include:

- Matte Bon F. Gramática comunicativa del español
- Bosque I./V. Demonte: Gramática descriptiva del español
- RAE: Nueva Gramática de la Lengua Española
- Moliner M. Diccionario de uso del español

Course content-related study coaching

The professor will guide the individual assessments during and after class.

Students are strongly encouraged to engage in interaction and to ask questions during the classes, and to take additional notes.

Evaluation methods

continuous assessment

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

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

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Oral assessment, participation, assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

Non-periodical evaluation:

(1) individual paper on a topic related to module 1, based on corpus research.

(2) oral assessment at the end of the semester (catch-up week).

(3) presence and participation during classes and guest lectures.

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).

Evaluation of paper and oral assessment. Language proficiency is evaluated at the C1 level. If the language level were insufficient, the student may not pass the paper.

Calculation of the examination mark

100 non-periodical.

(1) paper: 45%

(2) oral assessment: 50%

(3) participation and attendance: 5%

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:

- 1 Possible exemption from certain educational activities requiring student attendance, with alternative tasks.
- 2 Student attendance during permanent evaluation moments is indispensable.
- 3 Possible rescheduling of the deadlines for the tasks.
- 4 Feedback can be given by email