

Spanish Linguistics: Historical Evolution (A005703)

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 1)	Spanish	Gent	independent work	0.0h
			peer teaching	0.0h
			lecture	0.0h
			seminar	0.0h

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Jansegers, Marlies 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, morphology, syntax, lexis, diachronic change, historical (synchronic and diachronic) variation, grammaticalisation

Position of the course

This advanced course is an in-depth study of the history of the Spanish language, while taking into account the role of the dialects in historical language variation. Exchange students may take up this course unit, for which no prior knowledge of Dutch is required.

Contents

In this module students will study the evolution of the Spanish language from the Middle Ages to the present day. The variation and change in the various levels of language will be examined as well as the interaction between these. Competing theories and hypotheses are discussed and critically evaluated.

Initial competences

To have completed the course Spanish linguistics I, II and III or to have acquired the necessary skills by other means.

Final competences

- 1 To describe and explain the morpho-syntactic, semantic, and lexical changes in Spanish.
- 2 To have insight into the linguistic methodology: Reproduce and apply methods of linguistic analysis and interpretation techniques.
- 3 To understand and assimilate a linguistic analysis.
- 4 Analyze Spanish historical texts from a linguistic perspective.
- 5 Analyze Spanish historical texts from a linguistic perspective, if necessary, with responsible use of generative AI where needed or relevant.
- 6 Being able to synthesize scientific texts on the (historical) linguistics of Spanish and communicate them to fellow students in an interactive way.
- 7 Make use of digital research environments and search strategies to identify research objects.
- 8 To be familiar with the basic concepts, and inter- and transdisciplinary possibilities of Digital humanities.
- 9 Apply theoretical insights to empirical data in a historical corpus.
- 10 Collaborate with others on a common project.
- 11 Report verbally and in writing on the research results.

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, Lecture, Independent work, Peer teaching

Extra information on the teaching methods

- Interactive seminars, based on concrete examples.
- Guided self-study: preparation of lectures and seminars.
- Microteaching: students (group work per 2) prepare a micro-teaching session on a related topic.
- Lecture-based sessions are recorded and made available to specific target groups (upon request).

Study material

Type: Syllabus

Name: syllabus

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Other

Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Slides

Name: slides

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Other

Available on Ufora : Yes

References

- Cano Aguilar, R. (1988) El español a través de los tiempos. Madrid: Arco Libros.
- Cano Aguilar, R. (ed., 2004) Historia de la lengua española. Barcelona: Ariel.
- Company Company, C. (ed., 2006-2014) Sintaxis histórica de la lengua española. 3 vols. México: UNAM.
- Dworkin, S. (2018) A Guide to Old Spanish. Oxford: OUP
- 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€)
- Lapesa, R. (1980) Historia de la lengua española. Madrid: Gredos.
- Lloyd, P. (1987) From Latin to Spanish. Philadelphia: American Philosophical

Society.

- Penny, R. (2000). Variation and Change in Spanish. Cambridge: CUP.
- Penny, R. (2002). A History of the Spanish Language. Cambridge: CUP.
- Pharies, D. (2007) A Brief History of the Spanish Language. Chicago: UCP.
- Pons Rodríguez, L. (2010) La lengua de ayer: Manual práctico de historia del español. Madrid: Arco Libros.
- Pountain, C. (2001). A History of the Spanish Language through Texts. London: Routledge.
- Torrens Álvarez, M.J. (2007) Evolución e historia de la lengua española. Madrid: Arco Libros.

Course content-related study coaching

feedback during the lectures; individual coaching by ZAP.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Written assessment with open-ended questions

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

Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

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

- Theoretical questions based on corpus material or on a theoretical problem.
- Exercices on different kinds of topics from Spanish historical linguistics, developed from a bibliographical and empirical viewpoint.
- Assignment
- Assessment of the presentation and powerpoint (microteaching).
- Students are surveyed via a questionnaire about the use of GenAI for specific parts of this work.
- See also **article 75** 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/she 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).
- When a student has less than 10/20 for at least one of the components, he/she cannot pass the entire course unit. Should the final mark be higher than 10/20, this will be reduced to the highest non-pass mark (= 9).

Calculation of the examination mark

- Periodical examination (70%): exam
- Continuous assessment (30%): micro-teaching + assignment (with peer assessment). In determining the mark for each student in case of group work, final responsibility on whether or not to deviate from peer assessment marks, or to disregard the peer assessment marks altogether lies with the lecturer.

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:

- 1 Possible exemption from certain educational activities requiring student attendance (if class recordings are available, they will be shared with the working students).
- 2 Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year