Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2026-2027

Spanish Linguistics: Spanish in Contact and Contrast (A006699)

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 |
| | | | seminar | 0.0h |

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Claassen, Simon	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**
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 topics are studied in detail: patterns of sociolinguistic variation (including generation specific language use), 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 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 historical pragmatics, but also studies generation specific language use, with a special focus on 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).

Topics include (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 digital corpus. The results have to be exposed in written form (academic Spanish, level C1/C2). This can involve responsible use of GenAI where needed or relevant.

Initial competences

Students have attended the courses Spanish linguistics: Introduction, Morphology, Syntax and semantics, and Historical development 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 have insight into the various dimensions of language variation in Spanish.
4 To have insight into the results of processes of language change and situations of language contact, within the Spanish speaking world.
5 To critically assess positive and negative attitudes with respect to language change and language contact, and to formulate his/her own opinion.
6 To critically assess linguistic theories.
7 To communicate aboute own research in the domain of (Spanish) linguistics, by writing a report at the C1 level, with responsible use of GenAI where needed or relevant.
8 To dispose of a strong awareness of language and its role in human interactions and cultural production.
9 To be able to chose an adequate research strategy, to adequately use and critically evaluate it, based upon principles and algorithms of digital search environments.
10 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. The students will read scientific articles by means of preparation (guided self-study). During these classes special attention is payed to the development of scientific argumentation, and analytical skills.
- The interactive lectures constitute the starting point for an invididual assessment. Students conduct an individual corpus research whose results are summarized in a paper.
- There is an oral examination about module 1 and 2.
- During the seminars, the students have the opportunity to ask questions about their own research.
- 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 espanol - 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: Slides

Name: El español en contacto y en contraste
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: Reader

Name: El español en contacto y en contraste - artículos
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : Other
Number of Pages : 100
Oldest Usable Edition : 2024
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : Yes
Available in the Library : Yes
Available through Student Association : No

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.

Assessment moments

continuous assessment

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

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

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Oral assessment, Participation, 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

Non-periodical evaluation:
(1) individual paper on a topic related to the course, 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: Language proficiency is evaluated at the C1 level. If the language level were insufficient, the student may not pass the paper. Students are surveyed via a questionnaire about the use of GenAI for specific parts of this work.

Calculation of the examination mark

100 non-periodical.
(1) paper: 40%
(2) oral assessment: 55%
(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