# Spanish Language 1 (Language and Phonology) Year 1, Three-Year Course Students

## Prof. Alessandra Ceribelli

**Spanish Language Classes (Year 1, Three-Year Course Students)**

## Silvia Cuenca Barrero, Luca Fiocchi

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***Text under revision. Not yet approved by academic staff.***

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to provide students with the knowledge and skills they need to understand the phonetic and phonological variants of the Hispanic world. By the end of the course, students will be able to understand and distinguish between the phonetic and phonological segments that characterise the diatopic variation of the main Hispanophone regions. Students will also be able to phonetically and phonologically transcribe and identify the allophones of the Spanish phonemes, as well as recognise their main prosodic features.

***COURSE CONTENT***

- The Spanish vowel and consonant system.

- Syllabication and stress;

- The main phonetic and phonological phenomena: neutralisation, dephonologisation, assimilation, lenition, strengthening, metathesis and differentiation;

- The neutralisation phenomena of phonological oppositions: *seseo, ceceo, yeísmo, rehilamiento, rotacismo lambdacismo*,

- Allophones in free and contextual distribution;

- Prosodic variation in different Hispanophone areas.

***READING LIST***

Hualde, Ignacio. *Los sonidos del español,* Cambridge, Cambridge University press, 2014

Quilis, Antonio. *Principios de fonología y fonética españolas,* Madrid, Arco Libros, any edition.

Vaquero De Ramírez, María, *El español de América I – Pronunciación,* Madrid, Arco Libros, any edition.

Details of further reading material will be communicated at the beginning of the course and uploaded onto Blackboard and the lecturer's webpage

The above applies equally to attending and non-attending students.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures in class, phonetic and phonological transcription exercise, language lab activities.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed by means of a computer-based test on Blackboard and an oral test. To be allowed to sit the exam, students must register on the course on the above-mentioned platform and verify access using their log in details. The online test is made of 31 closed questions worth one point each. Wrong or missing answers will be awarded 0 points. 31 correct answers will be awarded 30 marks with *lode*. The pass mark is 18/30. Students must pass the computer-based test in order to take the oral component. The questions on the online test are designed to assess students on their understanding of key concepts covered during the course and their ability to apply them to practical examples, recognising the main phonetic and phonological phenomena of the Spanish language. During the oral exam, students will be asked to carry out short phonetic and phonological transcription exercises. The oral component will be marked from 1 to 3, which will be added to the computer-based test result.

NB: Students can only take this exam after having passed the written and oral interim Spanish language tests on the Faculty study plan. The weighted average of the results of the spoken and written language interim tests will contribute to the final mark.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

As this is an introductory course, there are no prerequisites in terms of content. As lectures will be held in Spanish, students require basic comprehension of the spoken language.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.

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***COURSE AIMS***

The aim of the course is for students to build up basic knowledge of the language and develop expertise and skills corresponding to the A2/B1-level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). The course activities are designed to help students master the basic morpho-syntactic and lexical structures of the Spanish language, with a particular focus on analysing and comparing it with Italian. Based on communicative criteria and methods, the course aims to develop reading, listening, speaking and writing skills simultaneously with regard to basic-medium difficulty messages and texts of an everyday nature. It will also begin to refine the techniques for tackling basic translation into L2.

***INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

By the end of the course, students are expected to have learned the grammatical and lexical content covered during the course and to be able to understand intermediate-level written and oral texts. At the communicative level, students should be able to express in simple forms opinions and thoughts on the subjects of the oral activities carried out in class, and to interact with the lecturer and course mates in Spanish. Students should also acquire the ability to grasp and resolve the difficulties related to the main contrasting aspects between Italian and Spanish.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The syllabus includes three essential aspects of the language: phonology, morphology and syntax. The section relating to phonology will present the Spanish vowel and consonant, hyphenation and accentuation systems. In terms of morphology, the course will analyse the parts of speech: nouns and distinctions of gender and number, particularities and exceptions; adjectives and pronouns and their classification: the possessive, demonstrative, indefinite, interrogative, exclamative and numeral; the definite and indefinite article; personal pronouns (subject and complement) and relative pronouns; the verbal system: regular and irregular conjugation; adverbs of time, mode and quantity; prepositions. Syntax forms the basis of the study of discourse: the simple proposition; the complements of the verb; the main uses and functions of the verbs ser and estar and the verbs haber and hacer in the impersonal; the meaning and use of indicative moods and tenses, the imperative and subjunctive; the impersonal forms of the verb, as well as the main periphrastic forms.

Interactive activities will focus on the following content: presenting yourself, describing physical features of people and the environment; saying hello, saying goodbye, introducing someone, using politeness formulas; asking and giving information on places, people and things; asking and giving information on the weather; using spatial and temporal markers; indicating the presence, existence, quantity and location of persons and objects; speaking about the present, describing daily activities; expressing tastes and preferences; expressing agreement or disagreement; describing your aspirations, desires and future projects; giving and receiving instructions, advice and suggestions; offering or refusing help; communicating quantity and price; remembering, describing and linking past actions (duration or time); making comparisons between people, objects and facts; expressing possibilities, duty and necessity; describing moods, emotions and feelings; expressing opinions, judgements and assessments on people and facts; structuring a story in the present and in the past.

***READING LIST***

KEY TEXTS

For absolute beginners:

- Raquel Pinilla Gómez, Alicia San Mateo Valdehíta, *ELExprés Nueva edición* A1-A2-B1, Libro del alumno (en papel o edición digital) – SGEL.

For intermediate level students:

**-** J. Corpas; A. Garmendia; C. Soriano**.** *Aula internacional Plus 3***-** Libro del alumno o Versión con licencia Premium (libro en papel + plataforma digital), Barcelona, Difusión.

MANDATORY READING TO PREPARE FOR THE ORAL EXAM

**-** Marta Sanz, *Farándula*, Anagrama, Barcelona 2015 (anche in formato e-book).

- David Isa De Los Santos*, España, ayer y hoy*, Edinumen, Barcelona 2012.

During the academic year, students will be provided with further guidance on the part of the syllabus related to Spain, and material made available on the Blackboard virtual platform.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS FOR SELF-LEARNING

- Francisca Castro Viúdez, *Aprende gramática y vocabulario*, Nivel A1 Madrid, SGEL, 2004 (Absolute beginners)

- Francisca Castro Viúdez; Pilar Díaz Ballesteros, *Aprende gramática y vocabulario*, Nivel A2, Madrid, SGEL, 2005 (Absolute beginners).

- Francisca Castro Viúdez; Pilar Díaz Ballesteros, *Aprende gramática y vocabulario 3*, Nivel B1, Madrid, SGEL, 2006 (Intermediate level students).

- L. Aragonés; R. Palencia, *Gramática de uso del español*, Nivel A1-A2, Hoepli, Milano 2009.

- L. Aragonés; R. Palencia, *Gramática de uso del español*, Nivel B1-B2, Hoepli, Milano 2009.

RECOMMENDED DICTIONARIES FOR CHECKING AND CONSOLIDATING VOCABULARY

- C. Maldonado (Ed.), *Clave: Diccionario de uso del español actual*, Madrid, SM.

- L. TAM, *Dizionario spagnolo-italiano. Diccionario italiano-español*, Milan, Hoepli, 2009.

- Real Academia Española, *Diccionario de la Lengua Española*, Madrid RAE, 2014.

- María Moliner, *Diccionario de uso del español,* Madrid, Gredos, 2007 (2 volumes).

- María Moliner, *Diccionario de uso del español,* Edición abreviada, Madrid, Gredos, 2007.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures and in the multimedia language lab.

Practical reading comprehension and writing classes.

Translation of short texts from Spanish into Italian, and vice versa.

Communication activities designed to develop understanding and oral and written expression based on authentic texts (newspapers, films, websites, etc.).

Vocabulary consolidation exercises and introduction to the use of bilingual and monolingual dictionaries.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exams take place in two parts, which are mandatory for all students.

1. A written exam composed of: a dictation, a morphosyntactic test, a translation from Italian into Spanish and a reading comprehension test. The minimum pass mark is 18/30; the maximum mark is 30/30. The weight of each test is as follows: dictation 25%; morphosyntactic test 35%; Italian/Spanish translation 20%; reading comprehension 20%.

2. An oral exam consisting of an interview during which students must conduct a conversation in Spanish based on the content of the required reading as well as from the material seen in lectures. The minimum pass mark for this test is 18/30; the maximum score is 30/30.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Any changes in the reading list will be notified in class and made available on the Blackboard page *Spanish Language (year 1; 3-year course) – Interim test (2022-2023)*. For this reason, students are invited to check Blackboard on a regular basis. For further clarifications, the lecturers will be available before and after classes.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.