

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

**2019-2020 SPAN 476 A1: The Acquisition of Spanish
(Fall Term)**

Instructor: Dr. Yvonne Lam

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Time: TR 2:00-3:20pm

Place: HC 2-30

Office Hours: TR 12:30-1:30pm

or by appointment

Course Prerequisite:

*3 in SPAN at the 300-level excluding 300 and 306, or consent of department.

It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate prerequisites for the course.

Course-based Ethics Approval in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

Yes No, not needed, no such projects approved.

Community Service Learning Component

Required Optional None

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available:

Exam registry – Students' Union

<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>

See explanations below

Document distributed in class

Other (please specify)

N/A

Course Description, Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:

This course looks at how second and foreign languages are learned, with a particular focus on Spanish. We will look at both cognitive and social factors that influence its acquisition and examine research on how particular structures are learned. We will also conduct two mini-projects, one looking at social factors that can impact second language acquisition, and the other involving the analysis of second-language data in Spanish. We will apply what we learn to discuss ways to improve how Spanish is taught as a second language.

At the end of this course, successful students will be able to:

- describe in general terms how second languages are learned
- identify factors that influence the acquisition of Spanish as a second language

- describe the acquisition of particular structures in Spanish by second language learners
- discuss ways to teach Spanish as a second language based on findings from research
- design and analyze a questionnaire on second-language learning experiences
- analyze developmental patterns in Spanish as a second-language

Course Format:

The objectives of the course will be met through class discussions, assigned readings, oral presentations, assignments, and mini-projects involving data collection and/or analysis.

Texts:

Blake, Robert J. & Zyzik, Eve C. (2016). *El español y la lingüística aplicada*. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press.

Additional Course Fees:

Yes No

Important Dates: [See Academic Schedule in current Calendar](#)

First day of class: September 3, 2019
 Add/delete date: September 16, 2019
 50% withdrawal date: October 3, 2019
 Withdrawal date: November 29, 2019
 Last day of class: December 6, 2019
 Final exam date: December 16, 2019

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable): Please consult the following site:
<https://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=806#Examinations> (Exams)

Deferred Final Examination: For information on how to apply for a deferred exam, see [“I Missed my Final Exam, Now What?”](#)

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Component	Value	Due dates
End-of-chapter questions	20% (8 chapters)	various
Mini-project #1	15%	Oct 15
Mini-project #2	15%	Nov 5
3-minute presentation	10%	Nov 19 and 21 (reference due Nov 7)
In-class participation	10%	
Take-home final exam	30%	questions posted on eClass on Dec 5 at 2:00pm; answers due on eClass on Dec 16, no later than 12:00pm

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

End-of-chapter questions: These short-answer questions will require you to apply what you learned in each chapter. Questions will be posted on eClass after the chapter has been discussed in class. Evaluation will be based on how well you understood the chapter and the related topics discussed in class, as well as on how well you use the concepts to justify your answers.

Mini-projects: There will be two mini-projects, each involving the collection and/or the analysis of data relevant to the research question(s) that the instructor will provide. Further details will be given in class.

3-minute presentation: You are responsible for finding a research article on a topic about the acquisition of Spanish that interests you. The article may be in English, but the presentation must be in Spanish. Following the 3-Minute Thesis Competition format, you will have 3 minutes maximum to present a summary of the article, with the option of including a single PowerPoint slide. Further details will be given in class.

In-class participation: Your participation is crucial for the success of the class. Participation includes regular attendance, completing the assigned readings on time, and active engagement in class activities. You are expected to speak in Spanish as much as possible.

Take-home final exam: The final exam will be of the take-home type. The questions will be posted on eClass at 2:00pm on December 5 (the last day of class for the course), and the answers are to be submitted via eClass no later than 12:00pm on December 16 (the end of the regularly scheduled final exam time for this course).

Required Notes:

Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar.

Student Responsibilities:***Academic Integrity:***

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the [Code of Student Behaviour](#) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#). If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that the use of on-line translation to complete assignments constitutes a form of cheating as the student's own understanding and work is therefore not reflected. Also, students in language courses should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, excessive editorial and creative help in assignments is considered a form of cheating that violates the Code of Student Behaviour.

Learning and Working Environment:

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students; faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the [Office of the Student Ombuds](#). Information about the [University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures](#) is described in [UAPPOL](#).

It is the policy of the University of Alberta that sexual violence committed by any member of the University community is prohibited and constitutes misconduct. Resources and more information can be found at <https://www.ualberta.ca/campus-life/sexual-violence>

Territorial Statement:

The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.

Recording of Lectures:

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections [Attendance](#) and [Examinations](#) of the University

Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the Code of Student Behaviour.

In this course, attendance in every class is expected and will be taken into consideration as part of the participation grade. If you miss a class, regardless of the reason, it is your responsibility to find out what was discussed and to ensure that you are caught up. If you miss a due date, you are responsible for discussing your options with the instructor. Assignments that are missed because of an unexcusable absence will automatically be assigned a grade of zero.

Policy for Late Assignments:

All assignments are due at the **beginning** of the scheduled class time. Students who consult **in advance** with the instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be given an alternate due date. In cases of medical or other emergency, the student is responsible for notifying the instructor by email within two days. The instructor has the final decision on whether to allow an alternate due date, deduct up to 5% per day of lateness, or refuse to accept the assignment in the case of unexcusable reasons. There will be no “extra” assignments for “extra” marks.

Disclaimer:

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

Student Resources:

The best all-purpose website for student services is: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

Accessibility Resources: (1 – 80 SUB)

The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) webpage.

The Academic Success Centre: (1-80 SUB)

[The Academic Success Centre](#) offers a variety of workshops on effective study and exam strategies. There are in-person and online sessions available for a modest fee.

The Centre for Writers: (1-42 Assiniboia Hall)

The [Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

Health and Wellness Support:

There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the [Health and Wellness Support](#) webpage.

Office of the Student Ombuds:

The [Office of the Student Ombuds](#) offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.

Grading:

Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#)). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student's level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale

Descriptor	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	%
Excellent. A+, A or A- is earned by work which is superior in content and form and demonstrates an exceptional grasp of the subject matter. The grade of A+ designates work that far exceeds course expectations. Grades in the A range are normally achieved by a small number of students.	A+	4.0	97-100
	A	4.0	93-96
	A-	3.7	90-92
Good. B+, B or B- is earned by work that demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the course material and a good command of relevant skills. Grades in the B range are normally achieved by the largest number of students.	B+	3.3	87-89
	B	3.0	83-86
	B-	2.7	80-82
Satisfactory. C+, C or C- is earned by work that demonstrates an adequate grasp of the course material and relevant skills. Grades in the C range designate work that has met the basic requirements of the course.	C+	2.3	77-79
	C	2.0	73-76
	C-	1.7	70-72
Poor/Minimal Pass. D+ or D is earned by work that demonstrates minimal familiarity with the course material. Grades in the D range generally indicate	D+	1.3	65-69
	D	1.0	60-64

insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.			
Failure.	F	0.0	0-59

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