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SPNS 391.01: Special Topics - Accents of the Spanish Speaking World

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**SPNS 391 SPECIAL TOPICS: ACCENTS OF THE SPANISH SPEAKING WORLD
(Fall 2021)**

MWF 12:00-12:50 p.m., LA 138

Instructor: Dr. Dora LaCasse

Email: dora.lacasse@mso.umt.edu

Office: LA 429

Office Hours: T& Th 10:00-11:00, W 2:00-3:00, or by appointment. Office hours will be via zoom

Course Description

This course deals with the sound systems of the Spanish language and how they systematically vary across world dialects. Across the semester we will learn about the sounds of Spanish and major phonological alternations using the International Phonetic Alphabet. Additionally, we will focus in turn on 5 dialectal regions: Peninsular Spanish, Caribbean Spanish, Rioplatense Spanish, Mexican/Central American Spanish, and Highland and Chilean Spanish. During each section, we will learn about characteristics unique to the region. Major objectives of this course are to strengthen your Spanish pronunciation, and to grow your knowledge of dialectal variation, and there will be various opportunities to assess your progress throughout the semester.

Course Objectives

After this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Describe the sounds of Spanish in phonetic terms, and transcribe these sounds using the International Phonetic Alphabet
- 2) Define basic theoretical concepts of the sound system of any language (front vowel, fricative, etc.)
- 3) Compare and contrast the 5 dialect groups studied across the semester, systematically identifying similarities and differences
- 4) Produce many Spanish sounds accurately from many different dialects
- 5) transcribe stretches of speech using the International Phonetic Alphabet

Materials

1. Lipski, J. (2011). *El español de américa*. Madrid: Catedra. Available at the UM Bookstore.
2. Moodle website for class will include PowerPoint lectures, other readings, announcements and updates in course schedule (if necessary), and gradebook.

Course Requirements and Grading

In this class we will be using a point system. This means that for each assignment you will receive points. You can easily predict the performance on the course as the semester unfolds by adding up the points you have so far and compare that to the table below:

Grading scale

Letter grade	Points	Letter grade	Points
A	93-100	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	0-59

Graded assignments are as follows:

Dialect recordings (30 points of final grade): 5 graded dialect recordings, 6 points each. After each section of the course, you will submit a recording in which you practice the features of the dialect(s) we have been studying. Each recording will be accompanied by a brief analysis highlighting areas of improvement and areas where more practice is required. More information will be provided in class

Presentations (20 points of final grade): 2 presentations, 10 points each
You will give 2 presentations during the semester concerning a historical/social/cultural phenomenon. Each presentation will be about a different dialect region.

Midterm Exam (15 points of final grade): The midterm exam will be taken in class.

Final writeup (15 points of final grade):

Students will be asked to analyze 3 recordings, identifying the dialect used in each and justifying these identifications.

Participation/Preparation/Attendance (20 points of final grade):

1. Quality of in-class participation (**10 points**)

This part of your participation grade is based on the quality of daily in-class participation, an important component of this course. In order to receive full credit in this area, students must **regularly** demonstrate knowledge of the readings by answering questions in class, consistently participate in in-class activities and discussions in a way that shows focus and dedication, and refrain from distracting, disrespectful, or otherwise objectionable behaviors (like using a cell phone). *More than 3 unexcused absences from the class will result in a loss of 2 participation points per subsequent absence.*

2. Quality of preparation (**10 points**)

I don't expect you to know everything when you come to class, but I do expect you to have done your readings, and to be ready to ask questions about what you didn't understand. This grade may include spot checks of preparatory assignments or pop quizzes.

Other Policies and Information

E-mail/Companion site/Moodle: All students must frequently access their email, the student companion site to the textbook, & our Moodle site. What kind of technical assistance is available for students?

- UOnline Help Desk: 406-243-4999, 1-866-225-1641 or umonline-help@umontana.edu.
- Accessibility issues with Moodle: Marlene Zentz at 406-243-6434 or marlene.zentz@umontana.
- NetID and email accounts and general computer technical assistance: IT Central Help Desk, 8am-5pm: 406-243-4357
- General registration information: Contact the Registrar's Office in the Lommasson Center at 406-243-2995

Extra credit: Don't expect extra credit assignments in this class.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism: All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. See: http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php

Special Considerations and/or Disabilities: The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and the Office for Disability Equity. If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with the Office for Disability Equity, please contact them in Lommasson Center 154 or 406.243.2243. I will work with you and the Office for Disability Equity to provide an appropriate modification.

Office hours: One of the best ways to take full advantage of learning in this course is by coming to my office hours. Take advantage of the hours listed above or email me for an appointment if those times do not work for you.

Cell-phone, Tablet, and Laptop Use: You may not use cell phones in class, and you may only use laptops and tablets for class-related activities. Checking email, texting, Facebook, etc. is distracting for you and for me. If you need to use your phone during class, please inform me beforehand.

COVID-19 Considerations:

- Mask use is required within the classroom
- Each student is provided with a cleaning kit. Please clean your personal workspace when you arrive for class, and before you leave the classroom
- Please do not congregate outside the classroom before and after class
- Please choose one seat and use it throughout the semester
- Class attendance will be recorded to support contact tracing efforts

- Drinking liquids and eating food is discouraged within the classroom (which requires mask removal)
- Please stay home if you feel sick and/or if you are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms!
Additionally, please contact the Curry Health Center at (406) 243-4330

Course Schedule ¹				
Day		Date	Topics	Preparatory Work/ Homework
1	M	8/30	Introduction to course, review of syllabus and course requirements. ¿Qué es la fonética?	
2	W	9/1	El acento prosódico(fonético), El acento ortográfico	Schwegler & Ameal-Guerra 1-14
3	F	9/3	El acento prosódico(fonético), El acento ortográfico	Schwegler & Ameal-Guerra 1-14
	M	9/6	Labor Day No Classes	
4	W	9/8	Fonética articulatoria: (Las vocales)	
5	F	9/10	División silábica	Schwegler & Ameal-Guerra 35-38
6	M	9/13	Diptongos, triptongos, el hiato	Schwegler & Ameal-Guerra 48-56
7	W	9/15	Consonantes: Punto y modo de articulación	
8	F	9/17	Consonantes: Sonoridad	
9	M	9/20	the history of Spanish	Pharies 9-19
10	W	9/22	the history of Spanish	Penny 34-39; 44-71
11	F	9/24	the history of Spanish	Penny 34-39; 44-71
12	M	9/27	Peninsular Spanish (encadenamiento)	
13	W	9/29	Peninsular Spanish (encadenamiento)	
14	F	10/1	Peninsular Spanish (encadenamiento)	
15	M	10/4	Peninsular Spanish (encadenamiento)	
16	W	10/6	Peninsular Spanish (encadenamiento): Review and Practice	
17	F	10/8	Caribbean Spanish (la aspiración, los vibrantes)	
18	M	10/11	Caribbean Spanish (la aspiración, los vibrantes)	
19	W	10/13	Caribbean Spanish (la aspiración, los vibrantes)	
20	F	10/15	Caribbean Spanish (la aspiración, los vibrantes)	

¹ This schedule may change. Changes will be announced in class and updated written versions of this syllabus will be uploaded to Moodle as often as possible.

21	M	10/18	Caribbean Spanish (la aspiración, los vibrantes): Review and Practice	
22	W	10/20	Midterm exam	
23	F	10/22	El río de plata (/b,d,g/)	
24	M	10/25	El río de plata (/b,d,g/)	
25	W	10/27	El río de plata (/b,d,g/)	
26	F	10/29	El río de plata (/b,d,g/)	
27	M	11/1	El río de plata (/b,d,g/): Review and Practice	
28	W	11/3	Mexico/ Central America (/l,s,x/)	
29	F	11/5	Mexico/ Central America (/l,s,x/)	
30	M	11/8	Mexico/ Central America (/l,s,x/)	
31	W	11/10	Mexico/ Central America (/l,s,x/)	
	F	11/12	Mexico/ Central America (/l,s,x/): Review and Practice	
32	M	11/15	las tierras altas	
33	W	11/17	las tierras altas	
34	F	11/19	las tierras altas	
35	M	11/22	las tierras altas	
	W	11/24	Thanksgiving. No Class	
	F	11/26	Thanksgiving. No Class	
36	M	11/29	las tierras altas: Review and Practice	
37	W	12/1	Chile	
38	F	12/3	Chile: Review and Practice	
39	M	12/6	Spanish as a world language	
40	W	12/8	Spanish as a world language	
41	F	12/10	Class Wrap Up	

			FINAL	
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