

DEPARTMENT OF ROMANCE STUDIES
BOSTON UNIVERSITY - COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

LS/LX 508 – The Structure of Spanish – Spring 2013

Time:	MWF 10-11am	Location:	CAS 116
Professor:	Daniel Erker	Email:	danerker@bu.edu
Office:	718 Commonwealth Ave Room 501a	Office hours:	M 11a-12:30p T 9:30-11a, also by appt

Course website: The course is hosted on Blackboard

Instructor website: <http://blogs.bu.edu/danerker/>

Course objectives (please note that this course is conducted in Spanish):

The goal of this course is to introduce students to the structure of the Spanish language, with a focus on its morphology and syntax. We will examine the internal structure of words and the inflectional and derivational processes that constrain them. In addition, the course will introduce key concepts such as morpheme, affix, grammatical class, linguistic gender, nominalization, and verbalization. We will also investigate fundamental principles of syntactic theory and analysis, with an emphasis on the hierarchical relationships among words at the phrasal level. We will investigate naturalistic speech data, collected from around the Spanish-speaking world, to critically examine key assumptions and tools of contemporary syntactic theory, including X-bar theory, binary branching, thematic role assignment, and the concept of the sentence. We will give special attention the notion of ungrammaticality as it relates to syntactic and morphological variation and change.

Prerequisites for the course:

CAS LX 250 Introduction to Linguistics and CAS LS 303 or a higher level Spanish course, or permission of the instructor.

Students completing this course will learn:

- To explain the structure of Spanish words
- To demonstrate an understanding of basic morphological processes
- To understand the hierarchical relationships among the constituents of phrases
- To explain basic syntactic processes
- To demonstrate an understanding of graphical representations of syntactic structures, so-called 'syntactic trees'
- To discuss the strengths and weaknesses of contemporary morphological and syntactic theory in regards to linguistic variation.

Required Readings – selected chapters from the following texts (available on Blackboard)

- Fernandez Lagunilla, Maria and Alberto Anula Rebollo. 1995. *Sintaxis y cognición: Introducción a la gramática generativa*. Editorial Sintesis.
- Hualde, José Ignacio, Olarrea, Antxon, Escobar, Anna María and Travis, Catherine E. 2010. *Introducción a la Lingüística Hispánica*. Cambridge University Press.
- Koike, Dale A. and Carol A. Klee. 2012. *Lingüística Aplicada: Adquisición del español como segunda lengua*. Wiley-Nonce.
- Mendieta, Eva. 1999. *El préstamo en el español de los Estados Unidos*. New York Peter Lang.
- *Nueva gramática básica de la lengua española*. 2011. Real Academia Española.
- Wheatley, Kathleen. 2005. *Sintaxis y morfología de la lengua española*. Prentice Hall.
- Zagona, Karen. 2002. *The Syntax of Spanish*. Cambridge University Press.

Course requirements and grading:

- Weekly quizzes (30%)
- Midterm examinations (30%) **Friday March 1 & Monday April 8**
- Final examination (30%) **Tuesday, May 7 (9-11am)**
- Classroom participation (10%)

Weekly quizzes will be given at the beginning of each Friday lecture and will cover reading and lecture material from the previous week. These quizzes, which will take roughly 15 minutes to complete, encourage students to complete the weekly readings, review lecture notes and keep on top of the course material. There will be 12 quizzes in total, the first of which will be practice and will not count towards students' course grade. The lowest quiz grade of the remaining 11 will be dropped, making the quiz grade the result of your 10 best quizzes. If you miss class on a quiz day, you will earn a '0' for that quiz.

Course policies:

Missing exams without receiving explicit verbal permission from me beforehand automatically drops your grade 10%, and makeups will be given *only* at my discretion and convenience, provided that there is a good and compelling reason for your absence. Sending me e-mail does not constitute receiving verbal permission unless I have responded to you.

Procedures. Class time will be devoted to presenting information which the readings reinforce. All lectures slides for the course will be posted on Blackboard. It is your responsibility (1) to read designated texts *before* coming to class, (2) to attend class promptly and regularly, (3) to obtain any class notes for sessions you miss. I encourage you to come visit me during office hours (even if you are doing well in the course!) if there is any issue that you would like to discuss with me.

Attendance. I will take attendance every time we meet. More than two unexcused absences will result in a failing 'Classroom Participation' grade. Please feel free to speak with me regarding any and all absences. It is not my intent to punish students for getting sick or having genuine and compelling reasons for missing a class.

Academic Integrity. All students are responsible for understanding and complying with the BU Academic Conduct Code, available at <http://www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code/>

Grading policies:

We will go over the quizzes immediately after taking them, and I will return graded quizzes the following week. I am committed to grading exams promptly.

Grading standards:

93-100	A	78-79.99	C+
90-92.99	A-	73-77.99	C
88-89.99	B+	70-72.99	C-
83-87.99	B	60-60.99	D
80-82.99	B-	< 60	F

Course roadmap (subject to adjustment)

Week Dates	Fri Quiz	MAIN TOPICS Sub-topics	Reading for next week (on Blackboard)
1 1-16 1-18	NO	INTRODUCCIONES MORFOLOGÍA ESPAÑOLA GENERAL <i>Conceptos básicos de la morfología</i>	1 - GRAMÁTICA DE LA LENGUA ESPAÑOLA (a)
1-21	No hay clase		
2 1-23 1-25	Q*	MORFOLOGÍA ESPAÑOLA GENERAL <i>Morfología flexiva de la lengua española</i> La derivación en español: <i>sufijos emotivos, nominalización, adjetivación</i> *Practice quiz	2 – MORFOLOGÍA LÉXICA
3 1-28 1-30 2-1	Q	MORFOLOGÍA ESPAÑOLA GENERAL La derivación en español: <i>verbalización, adverbialización, prefijación</i>	3 – EL SISTEMA VERBAL
4 2-4 2-6 2-8	Q	MORFOLOGÍA ESPAÑOLA GENERAL <i>Palabras Compuestas</i> <i>La estructura jerárquica de las palabras</i>	4 – EL SISTEMA PRONOMINAL
5 2-11 2-13 2-15	Q	SINTAXIS ESPAÑOLA GENERAL <i>Conceptos básicos de la sintaxis</i>	5 – GRAMÁTICA DE LA LENGUA ESPAÑOLA (b)
2-18	No hay clase		
6 2-20 2-22	Q	SINTAXIS ESPAÑOLA GENERAL <i>Constituyentes sintácticos</i>	6 – LA ESTRUCTURA DE LE ORACIÓN
7 2-25 2-27 3-1		SINTAXIS ESPAÑOLA GENERAL <i>La oración en español</i> <i>Repaso Intermedio 1</i> MIDTERM EXAM 1	7 – MODOS DE TRATAMIENTO FAMILIAR

8 3-4 3-6 3-8	Q	TEMA PARTICULAR I: VARIACIÓN MORFOLÓGICA <i>Los pronombres en el mundo hispanohablante: modos de tratamiento de 2nd pers.(tú, vos, Ud.)</i>	8 – VARIACIÓN MORFOSINTÁCTICA
No hay clases - Spring Break, 11-15 Marzo			
9 3-18 3-20 3-22	Q	TEMA PARTICULAR I: VARIACIÓN MORFOLÓGICA <i>Otros fenómenos variables: para/pa, aquí/aca, allí/allá, Dequeísmo</i>	9 – GRAMÁTICA GENERATIVA (primera mitad)
10 3-25 3-27 3-29	Q	TEMA PARTICULAR II: LA SINTAXIS GENERATIVA <i>La teoría de Principios y Parámetros</i>	9 – GRAMÁTICA GENERATIVA (segunda mitad)
11 4-1 4-3 4-5	Q	TEMA PARTICULAR II: LA SINTAXIS GENERATIVA <i>La teoría de la X-con-barra Repaso Intermedio 2</i>	10 – EL PRÉSTAMO LÉXICO
12 4-8 4-10 4-12	Q	MIDTERM EXAM 2 TEMA PARTICULAR III: LA VARIACIÓN MORFOSINTÁCTICA EN EL ESPAÑOL EN EEUU <i>El español en los Estados Unidos La noción del Spanglish</i>	11 - - EL LLAMADO ESPANGLISH
4-15	No hay clase		
13 4-17 4-19	Q	TEMA PARTICULAR III: LA VARIACIÓN MORFOSINTÁCTICA EN EL ESPAÑOL EN EEUU <i>El cambio de código La innovación lexica</i> 4-18 and 19 – Dr. Ricardo Otheguy visits BU	TBD
14 4-22 4-24 4-26	Q	TEMA PARTICULAR III: LA VARIACIÓN MORFOSINTÁCTICA EN EL ESPAÑOL EN EEUU <i>'Simplificación' en el sistema verbal Expresión del pronombre de sujeto</i>	TBD
15 4-29 5-1		REPASO GENERAL CLASE FINAL	