

SPAN2021 – The Sounds of Spanish: An Introduction to Spanish Phonetics and Pronunciation

Category: Elective Course

Year: Second or third year of study

Medium of instruction: Spanish (supplemented with English)

Semester: Offered in the first semester

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The main objective of this course is to help students improve their oral skills by reflecting on the phonetic and phonological particularities of Spanish while practicing the language in context. The practice of pronunciation will be carried out through a variety of contextualized activities that will stimulate perceptive, productive and interactive skills. Such activities will be divided into two categories: individual work and in-class interaction. The individual work focuses on perception (from distinguishing phonological pairs to identifying intonation patterns in real pieces of speech) and individual production (in the form of podcasts). The objective of the individual work is to help each student identify his/her personal difficulties dealing with the pronunciation of Spanish. In-class activities focus on group readings, role plays and oral communication in relation to the course content.

The course will pay attention to particular problems that Cantonese speakers encounter when learning Spanish and will establish comparisons between the main phonological and phonetic features of Cantonese, English and Spanish. It will also offer an insight into the linguistic variations of colloquial speech and dialectology.

Besides the linguistic and theoretical nature of the discipline, *The Sounds of Spanish* is structured around lexical, grammatical and cultural themes adequate to the student's level of Spanish as to contextualize the practice of pronunciation.

1.1 COURSE INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- Have a declarative knowledge of the phonetic articulation of Spanish, recognizing the basic features of Spanish sounds (essentially place and manner of articulation, voiced and voiceless opposition).

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Identify and produce the sounds of peninsular Spanish as well as distinguish the main differences with Latin American Spanish.<input type="checkbox"/> Recognize accentuation patterns in Spanish. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Identify and produce word stress patterns in Spanish.<input type="checkbox"/> Identify the most important phonological differences between Cantonese, English and Spanish, especially in those environments where interferences occur easily and may affect understanding.<input type="checkbox"/> Identify the changes produced in fast and conversational speech.<input type="checkbox"/> Use Spanish prosodic features (intonation, rhythm etc.) to convey a message with a linguistic and expressive intention (make a question or a statement, express surprise, irony or doubt...)<input type="checkbox"/> Structure and produce an accurate speech in activities such as oral presentations, dramatizations, games, role-plays, singing, etc. |

1.2 PRE-REQUISITES

Students wishing to be admitted to SPAN2021 must have completed SPAN1002. Spanish I.2. Students wishing to be admitted to SPAN2021 without having previously completed SPAN1002. Spanish I.2 will be required to satisfy the Faculty Board through the Head of the School of Modern Languages and Cultures that they have attained elsewhere the required standard. Students may not enroll in SPAN2021 if they have already completed SPAN2002. Spanish II.2.

Exchange students wishing to enrol in this course should contact the Programme Director, Mrs. Rocío Blasco (roblasco@hku.hk).

1.3 ASSESSMENT

This course is graded on the basis of continuous assessment and is as follows:

- Assignments (60%)
- Written test (Final exam) (30%)
- Participation (10%)

2. COURSE CONTENTS

The course has 2 contact hours per week. Attendance is expected to all classes and nonattendance may affect students' final grade.

There is no textbook for this course, all materials will be provided by the teacher in the classroom or via the Moodle platform. The course has an important component of work outside the classroom which serves as practice/revision of what has been learnt in class. Work may consist of reading assignments, listening comprehension exercises, oral production tasks, etc.

The following chart shows a breakdown of the topics covered in the course:

COURSE TOPICS	
1	Conceptos fonéticos y fonológicos básicos <i>Main concepts in Phonetics and Phonology</i>
2	Fonética articuladora segmental: los sonidos vocálicos. Diptongos y triptongos <i>Segmental articulatory Phonetics: vocalic sounds. Diphthongs and triphthongs.</i>
3	Fonética articuladora segmental: oclusivas <i>Segmental articulatory Phonetics: plosives</i>
4	Fonética articuladora segmental: fricativas <i>Segmental articulatory Phonetics: fricatives</i>
5	Fonética articuladora segmental: líquidas <i>Segmental articulatory Phonetics: liquids</i>
6	Fonética articuladora segmental: africadas y nasales <i>Segmental articulatory Phonetics: affricates and nasals</i>
7	Fenómenos de naturaleza suprasegmental: fenómenos del discurso hablado <i>Suprasegmental phenomena: spoken discourse and casual speech phenomena</i>
8	Fenómenos de naturaleza suprasegmental: la entonación <i>Suprasegmental phenomena: intonation</i>
9	Fonología. Pares mínimos y cambios de significado <i>Phonology. Minimal pairs and meaning distinction</i>
10	Fonología y pragmática <i>Phonology and Pragmatics</i>
11	Fonología del español y variación diatópica <i>Spanish Phonology and diatopic variation</i>