

SPAN2030 Key topics in Spanish grammar: From theory to practice

Category: Elective Course

Year: Second / Third / Fourth year of study

Medium of Instruction: Spanish

Semester: Offered in the second semester

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will help students strengthen and further develop the grammar skills acquired during their first 2 years of learning Spanish. The main aim of the course is to provide students with the necessary tools to move from mechanical application of grammar rules to conscious and reflective usage of such rules.

Students will be introduced to linguistic concepts and analysis techniques that will guide them towards a deeper understanding of essential grammar points. Students will then build on these insights in order to complete communicative tasks designed to reinforce the usage of the target structures.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to apply language analysis strategies to identify core grammatical features, and to use appropriate terminology to describe them. They will also be able to apply grammatical insights to evaluate and to demonstrate appropriate usage of the grammar topics reviewed.

This course assumes no prior knowledge of linguistic terminology or analysis. Topics covered include the use of determiners, pronouns, *ser* vs *estar*, preterite vs imperfect, subjunctive, and word order.

1.1 COURSE INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- Demonstrate knowledge of grammatical terminology and linguistic concepts
- Apply linguistic analysis techniques to word structure, sentence structure, and meaning
- Demonstrate deep understanding of key topics of Spanish grammar
- Demonstrate appropriate usage of key topics of Spanish grammar

1.2 PRE-REQUISITES

Students wishing to be admitted to SPAN2030 must have completed SPAN2001 - Spanish II.1. Students wishing to be admitted to SPAN2030 without having previously completed SPAN2001, 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.

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:

- Learning diary (40%)
- Final presentation (25%)
- Midterm exam (15%)
- Final exam (20%)

Attendance and active participation in class will be taken into account for final grading.

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, quizzes, grammar exercises, etc.

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

COURSE TOPICS	
1	Word structure.
2	Determiners and nouns.
3	Noun phrase structure.
4	Verb phrase structure.
5	<i>Haber, estar, ser</i> and verbs of change.
6	Pronouns in Spanish.
7	Tense, aspect and temporal markers.
8	Verbal periphrasis.
9	Subjunctive (hypothesis in present time).
10	Word order in Spanish.

