

## **SPAN3026 – Spanish in Latin America and Bilingualism in the U.S.**

**Category: Elective Course**

**Year: Third or fourth year of study**

**Medium of instruction: Spanish**

**Semester: Offered in the first semester**

### **1. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The main objective of the course is to offer an introduction to Spanish Dialectology as well as to develop students' communicative competence in a horizontal way, that is, by linking theory and practice the course intends to make students familiar with the main dialect areas of the Spanish-speaking world, their evolution, and the influence of other languages (mainly indigenous languages, creoles, Portuguese and English) on the Spanish spoken in certain areas of the world.

The course will present basic concepts related to the fields of Sociolinguistics and Dialectology, and will also raise awareness of the current widespread extension of the Spanish language and its future prospects. There will be a special emphasis on the characteristics of each particular dialect area at the levels of phonology, lexis and grammar, as well as on the Spanish spoken in the U.S. and the different phenomena related to bilingual speech / bilingual language acquisition.

The methodology of this course is a *blended-learning* one. Students will need to access Moodle on a weekly basis, read the corresponding document and do the language practice exercises and tests in preparation for the lecture. In class students will have the opportunity to discuss the contents of the lesson, previously prepared at home, and will be exposed to language excerpts taken from real printed and audiovisual materials which will help to illustrate the contents previously examined at home and further discussed in class. Different language activities will be conducted in class for students to put into practice what they have learned and to promote "learning by doing", in some cases with the help of native speakers who will be attending the lectures in order to provide students with real language exposure.

#### **1.1 COURSE INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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

- Demonstrate an understanding of the linguistic diversity of Spanish as well as geographically locate the territories where big communities speak Spanish
- Develop a declarative knowledge of some of the main features of the different geographic

varieties spoken in the Spanish-speaking world at a phonological, lexical and grammatical level
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use and understand a wider range of vocabulary applicable in different geographic contexts within Latin America</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Show a positive attitude towards the multiplicity of language manifestations, understand them in context and communicate efficiently with speakers of a wider range of varieties of Spanish</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase their reading and listening comprehension skills in different varieties of Latin American Spanish</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relate the historical evolution of Spanish with its current linguistic and demographic diversity</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an understanding of the situation and relevance of Spanish as a global language and its economic impact</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have an understanding of the current linguistic situation in the U.S. as well as of different phenomena related to bilingual speech / bilinguals (Spanglish, code-switching, code-mixing, heritage speakers, transitional bilinguals, incomplete acquisition, attrition, etc.)</li> </ul>

## 1.2 PRE-REQUISITES

Students wishing to be admitted to SPAN3026, must have completed SPAN2002 - Spanish II.2. Students wishing to be admitted to SPAN3026 without having previously completed SPAN2002, 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](mailto:roblasco@hku.hk)).

## 1.3 ASSESSMENT

This course is graded on the basis of Continuous Assessment and is as follows:

- Weekly Moodle quizzes 60%  
 Quizzes will consist of two parts:
  - a. Reading comprehension on theoretical aspects of Dialectology / varieties of Spanish in preparation for the following lecture.
  - b. Practical skills (listening and/or reading comprehension of a document in the variety of Spanish dealt with the previous week)
- A two-hour in-class test at the end of the course 40%

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 non-attendance 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 will be or has been learnt in class. This work will be fully assessed and feedback will be provided.

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

COURSE TOPICS	
1	Una introducción a la Sociolingüística y la Dialectología
2	El español en el mundo
3	El español en Latinoamérica: principales características e introducción histórica
4	El español de México y Centroamérica
5	El español andino
6	El español austral
7	El español caribeño
8	El español chileno
9	El español en los Estados Unidos. Demografía e historia
10	El español en los Estados Unidos. Fenómenos sociolingüísticos, el cambio de código ( <i>code-switching</i> ) y el <i>Spanglish</i>
11	Los hablantes de herencia de español en los Estados Unidos. Procesos que intervienen en su desarrollo lingüístico. El futuro del español en EE.UU