

Spanish Dialectology (LING 147GS – 4 Units)

Syllabus

John Moore, Professor, Department of Linguistics, UCSD

Proposed UCSD Global Seminar – Cádiz, Spain

Prerequisites: Upper-division standing

This course will examine the history and diversity of Spanish dialects. Spanish has the third largest number of native speakers in the world (around 400 million), and exhibits extensive dialect variation. This course will approach Spanish dialectology from both historical and synchronic perspectives. Thus, we will study the origin of Spanish, as a dialect of Vulgar Latin spoken in Northern Spain, its extension throughout most of the Iberian Peninsula during the reconquest of Islamic Spain, and its dissemination in the Americas during Spain's colonial period. The synchronic perspective will provide a linguistic description of major Spanish dialects, as spoken today and will discuss the social factors that determined their distribution.

Since the course will be conducted in English and no knowledge of Spanish will be assumed, the readings will be in English (but readings in Spanish will be mentioned and summarized in lectures). Coursework will include readings, a midterm, group presentations, and a class project. Both the class presentation and the final project will be done in groups (4-6 students each). These groups will pair Spanish-speaking students with students with less Spanish. The presentation will present aspects of a specific dialect area. The final project will document the variety of Spanish spoken in and around Cádiz. Cádiz, as a main port of departure for the Americas, has played a central role in exporting Andalucian dialect innovations to the New World. By cataloging actual Andalucian dialect features in present-day Cádiz, students can compare these to other New World varieties. This will require that students spend time listening to the Spanish spoken around them, allowing for an interesting cultural experience. Even students who don't speak Spanish should be able to benefit from this experience, if guided by students with a background in Spanish. This course is the companion course for my other proposed global seminar on the structure, history, and language of flamenco. Flamenco is integrally tied with the language and culture of Andalucía, particularly in the province of Cádiz. Therefore, these courses complement one another. Furthermore, excursions planned for the flamenco course can provide exposure to the types of language data that are relevant to the dialectology course.

This course will satisfy an upper-division requirement for Spanish Language Studies majors – it will count as the Structure of Spanish (LIGN 143) course offered bi-annually in the Department of Linguistics. Structure of Spanish has a prerequisite of LIGN 101 – Introduction to linguistics. This is often waived, however, and I will not require it for this course. Instead, I will introduce the necessary linguistic concepts as part of the class. This course will also satisfy an elective requirement for Linguistics majors.

Topics:

Week 1: Basic articulatory phonetics

Phonetics and phonology of Standard Spanish

– Castilian versus Latin American

Overview of dialect areas in Spain and the New World

Regional and social dimensions of dialect variation

READING: On-line Phonetics Training.

Week 2: The development of Castilian Spanish from Medieval Spanish through the reconquest of Islamic Spain

Castilian Spanish in contact with other languages of Spain

READING: Penny, chapters 1-3.

Week 3: The development of Andalucian and Canary Island Spanish

The development of Latin American dialects as a result of differing colonial patterns

READING: Lipski, chapter 2, Penny, chapter 4-5.

MIDTERM

Week 4: Explaining the dialect variation in Latin America.

The influence of Andalucian Spanish on Latin American Spanish

READING: Penny, chapter 5. Canfield, selected chapters.

Week 5: The influence of Indigenous languages of the Americas on Latin American Spanish

Afro-Hispanic influences

READING: Lipski, Chapters 3-4

PROJECTS DUE

Readings:

Canfield, D. Lincoln. 1981. *Spanish Pronunciation in the Americas*. The University of Chicago Press, Chicago.

Lipski, John M. 1994. *Latin American Spanish*. Longman, New York.

Penny, Ralph. 2000. *Variation and change in Spanish*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

On-Line Phonetics Training: <http://ling75.arts.ubc.ca/ling200/study/index.php>, Units 1, 2:1-5, 4