

Structure and Meaning in Spanish Grammar

Code: 104614
 ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500248 Spanish Language and Literature	OT	3	0
2500248 Spanish Language and Literature	OT	4	0

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Use of Languages

Principal working language: spanish (spa)
 Some groups entirely in English: No
 Some groups entirely in Catalan: No
 Some groups entirely in Spanish: Yes

Prerequisites

This is a course that tackles interpretative and formal aspects in the scope of Spanish grammar. Therefore, to do it, knowledge about Spanish grammar and general linguistics is required.

Objectives and Contextualisation

In this course, we tackle one of the main subjects that concern to the meaning of complex expressions, that is, their compositional nature. This approach implies the assumption that not all the linguistic units that form a complex expression contribute in the same way to its interpretation. In addition, it implies the assumption of the close relation that exists between syntax and semantics. The intention of this course is that the student, at the end of the course, can:

- Identify what aspects of meaning compete to compositional semantics.
- Analyze semantically Spanish complex expressions by following the principles of compositional semantics.
- Master the basic concepts and tools that train for analysis and argumentation in compositional semantics.
- Recognize the existing links between compositional semantics and other subjects, both linguistic (syntax, lexicology, pragmatics), and non-linguistics (philosophy, logic, mathematics).

Competences

Spanish Language and Literature

- Describe the structure of the Spanish language, and distinguish the systematic and normative aspects.
- Identify grammar component belonging to linguistic phenomena basic analysis of Spanish language (phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, vocabulary, semantics and discourse).
- Know and proper use of traditional and electronic own resources Spanish language and literature and be able to work with them academic work.
- Students must be capable of applying their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional way and they should have building arguments and problem resolution skills within their area of study.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.

- Students must develop the necessary learning skills to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
- Typological framing the main phenomena of the Spanish language and relate them to similar phenomena in other Romance languages.

Learning Outcomes

1. Analyze the semantic structure of simple sentences.
2. Analyze the structure of words by morphological structure: derivatives and compounds.
3. Apply the experimental method to the study of phonetics.
4. Carrying out oral presentations using appropriate academic vocabulary and style.
5. Exploit the full potential of electronic dictionaries.
6. Identify and analyze the infinitive sentences and quantified.
7. Identify non-normative syntactic constructions of the Spanish language.
8. Solving problems autonomously.
9. Submitting works in accordance with both individual and small group demands and personal styles.
10. Summarising acquired knowledge about the origin and transformations experienced in its several fields of study.

Content

1. The nature of denotative meaning.
2. The semantic information of simple sentences.
3. The semantic structure of simple sentences.
4. Modification.
5. Determination and quantification.

Methodology

This course will be based on theoretical and practical sessions. The former will deal with the main contents of the program; the latter will be dedicated to the resolution of exercises, to comment the relevant bibliography and to discuss the problems, doubts or difficulties that may come up from the development of the course syllabus. The practical sessions will also train the student in the application of semantic argumentation. The learning of this subject by the students is distributed as follows:

- Directed activities (35%). These activities are divided into master classes and seminars and classroom practices led by the faculty, in which theoretical explanation is combined with discussion of all types of texts.
- Supervised activities (10%). These tutorials are programmed by the teacher, dedicated to correcting and commenting on problems at the different levels of linguistic analysis.
- Autonomous activities (45%). These activities include both time devoted to individual study and analytical comments written, as well as oral presentations.
- Assessment activities (10%). The assessment of this subject will be taken by oral presentations and written tests.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Directed activities	42	1.68	4, 9, 8, 10

Type: Supervised			
Supervised activities	20	0.8	1, 4, 7, 9, 10
Type: Autonomous			
Autonomous activities	65	2.6	1, 4, 7, 9, 8, 10

Assessment

The assessment of the course will be done in the following way:

- An oral presentation (individually or in groups) on an article chosen from a series of texts proposed by the teacher (30%)
- Two written tests on the contents seen during the course (35% each)

To pass the course, the student must obtain a final grade equal to or greater than 5. To calculate the final grade, the percentages indicated above will be applied. To be able to apply these percentages, it is essential that you have no test with a grade less than 4. Students who do not meet these requirements must submit to the recovery.

Only the written test can be recovered, by means of a similar test on the dates indicated by the academic calendar.

The student who does not perform any of the activities / tests will be considered "Not assessable". The elaboration of an activity / test supposes, therefore, the will of the student to be evaluated in the subject and, therefore, its presentation to the assessment.

Spelling mistakes (accent marks, punctuation, lexicon, etc.) will have a penalty of 0.2 (without limits) on the final mark in the activities and exams. Repeated mistakes discount too. All activities, works, etc. must be original and the total or partial copy of materials already published in any medium is not allowed. In the case of presenting non-original material without indicating the source, the qualification of the activity or work will be automatically a failing grade (0).

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Oral presentation	30%	20	0.8	1, 4, 9, 10
Test 1	35%	1.5	0.06	2, 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10
Test 2	35%	1.5	0.06	2, 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10

Bibliography

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Bosque, I. & Gutiérrez-Rexach (2009): *Fundamentos de sintaxis formal*. Madrid: Akal.

Cann, R. (1993): *Formal Semantics: An Introduction*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.

Escandell, V. (2004): *Fundamentos de semántica composicional*, Barcelona, Ariel, Cambridge University Press.

Espinal, M.T. coord. (2014): *Semántica*, Madrid, Akal.

Frawley, W. (1992): *Linguistic Semantics*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.

Hurford, J.R. & Heasley, B. (1983): *Curso de Semántica*, Madrid, Visor.

Lyons, J. (1997): *Semántica Lingüística*, Barcelona, Paidós.