

*The University of Western Ontario*  
**Department of Modern Languages and Literatures**  
**SPANISH - SP 3317B**  
**“The Spanish Sentence”**  
Syllabus



[keusta.net/blog/index.php/2006/04/24/297-free](http://keusta.net/blog/index.php/2006/04/24/297-free)

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**Prerequisite:** Spanish 3303 or permission of the department

**Antirequisite:** None

**Constraints:** Oral and written comprehension and production in Spanish

### **A. Course Description and Objectives**

How do you put words together to form sentences? How does the way we build our sentences contribute towards interpretation? Why are some sentences ambiguous? Does the concept of grammaticality exist in the mind, or is it a social construct?

This course aims at understanding ways in which these questions and others may be approached, and how they contribute to our understanding of the human mind. More than solving problems, we hope to learn to think scientifically about language, that is, we will try to analyze sentences in different ways, making different hypotheses about them. Then we will try to weigh the evidence that supports each of these hypotheses.

The course is taught twice a week. It is taught in Spanish.

There is no textbook for this course, but a summary of the course content will be posted on OWL.

## B. Methodology

In almost every class the students will receive a list of sentences that we will discuss and try to understand from a linguistic point of view. In other words, the class is based on the practice of thinking more than on explanations or theory, although there is a clear theoretical background to our approach.

## C. Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, you will be able to:

- Understand the relevance of all types of linguistic data to linguistic analysis.
- Form hypotheses about the structure of sentences based on data.
- Produce arguments in support of certain analyses.
- Compare different analyses and understand their relation to the data.
- Understand how sentences are put together to form meaning.
- Understand the relations between different parts of the sentence.
- Understand the different causes of ambiguity.
- Construct visual representations of the structure of sentences and parts of sentences.
- Question any analysis that does not include evidence.

## D. Evaluation

Participation	20%
Assignments	20%
Summary	10%
Problem set	10%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final exam	20%

- *Participation*: Students should propose analyses for the sentences that are under scrutiny and try to defend their interpretation. They must participate actively in the discussions.
- *Assignments*: You will receive sentences that you will try to assign a structure to. There will also be questions regarding the proposed structure. Assignments will be reviewed at the beginning of class.
- *Exams*: There is one mid-term and one final exam. The final exam is cumulative, and will cover everything covered in class. In the spirit of the aims of the course, in both exams you will be asked to illustrate the structure of sentences and explain why you think your analysis is correct.

- *Problem set:* you will receive a set of data that you will have to analyze. Your analysis and the justification for it should be written up in a short paper. You may work with one partner for this.
- *Reading summary:* You will read a short published article for which you will write a short abstract (one page)

**Absenteeism:** Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

UWO's Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness:

(<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>)

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca> under the Medical Documentation heading

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Information on Student Support Services is found at <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offense Policy in the Western Academic Calendar). Plagiarism is the inclusion of someone else's verbatim or paraphrased text in one's own written work without immediate reference. Verbatim text must be surrounded by quotation marks or indented if it is longer than four lines. A reference must follow right after borrowed material (usually the author's name and page number). Without immediate reference to borrowed material, a list of sources at the end of a written assignment does not protect a writer against the possible charge of plagiarism. **This also applies to work facilitated or written for students by third parties.** The University of Western Ontario uses a plagiarism-checking site called [Turnitin.com](http://Turnitin.com).

<b>Enero</b>
<b>5</b> Introducción a la sintaxis: la gramática como ciencia Algunos conceptos básicos
<b>10, 12</b> Algunos conceptos de gramática tradicional: Categorías gramaticales y léxicas Categorías funcionales, rasgos gramaticales, ambigüedad
<b>17, 19</b> Ensamble (combinación). Tipos de constituyentes. Papeles temáticos
<b>24, 26</b> Diagnósticos de la estructura de una oración

<b>Febrero</b>
<b>31, 2</b> Funciones sintácticas. Modificadores y complementos. La frase verbal.
<b>7, 9</b> Proyecciones funcionales. Inflexión.
<b>14</b> Examen 1 <b>16</b> La oración.
<b>21-23</b> Semana de lectura
<b>28, 2</b> La oración. Introducción al movimiento. Posición de los adverbios. <i>Entrega del conjunto de problemas.</i>

<b>Marzo</b>
<b>7, 9</b> La oración, continuación. La frase nominal. Movimiento en la frase nominal.
<b>14, 16</b> Introducción a la interrogación. Movimiento de frases.
<b>21-23</b> Cláusulas subordinadas. <i>Resumen de la lectura</i>
<b>28, 30</b> El sujeto. Tópicos y focos. Pronombres de objeto

<b>Abril</b>
<b>4, 6</b> Cláusulas relativas; repaso

**Nota: Este plan de curso puede cambiar**