

**SPA 4412G  
Spanish in Contact  
2017-2018**

**Professor: Yasaman Rafat**

**Office: Arts & Humanities Building, Rm 3G28D**

Lectures: Tuesdays: 11:30-12:30 pm and Thursdays: 10:30-12:30 pm

Lecture location: MC 17

Phone: (519) 661-2111, ext. 81092

Email: yrafat@uwo.ca

Office hours: TBA



<https://uwelingo-files.wordpress.com/2013/04/connections.jpg>

**PREREQUISITE: SPA2200**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will use examples of a wide variety of Spanish in contact situations to introduce students to the current theoretical issues in bilingualism focusing on the society, the individual, and language policy and education. In doing so, topics in phonology, morpho-syntax, semantics, and memory will be discussed. Contact situations with languages such as English, Portuguese, Quechua, Guaraní, Tagalog and Arabic will be explored. Students will work on individual or group pilot projects that use language-contact environments as proving grounds for the development and testing of (socio)linguistic theories or will conduct surveys on various aspects of bilingualism/multilingualism in order to development new ideas that can contribute to the creation of a better bilingual/multilingual education systems.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

- Develop students' analytical and critical abilities by discussing theoretical issues in contact situations
- Familiarize students with linguistic phenomena that immerse in Spanish-in-contact communities
- Analyze consequences of language and dialect contact
- Introduce the fundamentals of experimental design
- Help students identify their own areas of interest in bilingualism
- Allow students to question and reflect on different bilingual education policies

## EVALUATION

- Attendance and active participation: 10%  
Students are required to have read the assigned materials for each class prior to coming to class and to have prepared questions and/or comments for discussion.
- Term test 1: 30%  
The date is indicated on the course plan. **There will be no make-up test unless there is a medical reason (see above).**
- Project proposal: 15%  
Students will submit their final project proposals (2-5 pages). The proposal must include the objective of the study, literature review, hypotheses, methodology and bibliography.
- Project presentation: 15%  
Students will present their projects (6 minute presentations)
- Final paper: 30% (Also see below)  
The final paper consists of a pilot study of an aspect of contact situation. The study must contain a critical review of previous research as well as data analysis. The paper should not exceed 10 pages (Times New Roman, 12 pts, 1.5 spaces). Papers must be submitted to the instructor by email. The date of submission is April 6<sup>th</sup>. The term paper must be submitted on time. A late paper will receive a reduced grade. Late papers will receive a penalty of **20%** per day late.

**ETHICS:** Because the final project involves research using human subjects, the student will read the Tri-Council Policy Statement, as well as the relevant information on the office of research ethics website at Western (<http://www.uwo.ca/research/ethics/>). The student will not collect any data until ethics approval has been obtained. Besides, one representative of the REB office will come to class to give a workshop on research ethics.

- **Final project:** The student and her mentor will together discuss the ethical issues surrounding this project and obtain ethics approval via the course-based protocol. The student understands that participants must be recruited

in a way that does not threaten their privacy; that REB approval is needed before data collection; and that she cannot recruit participants from the classes she is TAing. Potential participants will be given a letter of information and a consent form and informed of their right to refuse to participate and to withdraw at any time. They will also be given contact information if they are interested in seeing the final project. All data collected will be encoded to protect participants' confidentiality (e.g. names replaced by numbers). The student understands that the project must not involve more than minimal risk to the participants, as set out in the guidelines posted on the research ethics website.

Participants will be recruited from among acquaintances and other students from their department, never from the classes the student is TAing.

The data will be collected by means of on-line questionnaires, paper and pencil short tasks, or by audio-recording the participants, according to the most appropriate methodology for the topic under investigation. These data will be handled, coded and/or transcribed by the student, who will also analyze them to write the final project report. All data (tapes, spreadsheets created by the on-line survey, paper tasks, messages, etc) will be destroyed after the grade appeal date for Fall 2012 (the mentor will ensure that the data are in fact destroyed). As stated in the syllabus, all testing materials must be justified according to the topic studied and will be carefully reviewed by the professor for approval prior to beginning her study. The student will prepare a letter that contains the details of her project and submit it to her mentor for approval prior to beginning her study.

## CLASS MANAGEMENT

- Students are expected to come to class regularly and attendance will be strictly monitored. Points are not given for mere attendance but for your participation and for showing progress (see *Participation* above). All absences will affect the participation grade; students with more than 4 absences per semester will get 0 on the participation grade. Because attendance is so important in language courses, **any student who, in the opinion of the course coordinator, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course (see UWO Academic Calendar).**
- 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
- *Participation:* Active participation in class in the different activities and group discussions, focus on the work in hand, in class progress, awareness of mistakes and self-correction, self-discipline (daily preparation of assigned work, written work handed in on time, etc.) will account for the participation grade. Students are advised to keep up with the work day by day in order to make progress. It is very difficult to catch up in a language class if you fall behind. There will be a great deal of group work. Lack of focus on the objectives of the activity will severely affect your mark.
- Course materials and announcements: Lectures and announcements will be posted on SAKAI. Student must therefore set up a SAKAI account. The address for SAKAI is <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>. In order to access SAKAI you must have a UWO account. To log on the system will ask you to give your account name and your secret password.

**PLAGIRISM:** 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](https://www.turnitin.com).

#### **CAVEAT**

This syllabus is not etched in stone, and any information on this syllabus is subject to change at any time. Although we try to minimize change as much as possible, we may need to make some necessary adjustments (not, however, test, quiz or assignment dates). Any changes will be announced in class and on the course webpage. Thus, it is your responsibility to be there, ask your fellow classmates or the instructor, or check the course webpage to be informed of any such changes.

#### **COURSE MATERIALS**

Text: Montrul, Silvina. 2012. *El Bilinguismo en el mundo hispano-hablante*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell

Additional articles will be supplemented.

**SELECTED WEB-BASED RESOURCES**

- IPA Fonts (Go to Fonts > SIL Encore IPA Fonts > DoulosSIL)  
<http://www.sil.org/>
- The sounds of Spanish, English and German:  
<http://www.uiowa.edu/~acadtech/phonetics/>
- The sounds of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA):  
<http://www.sil.org/computing/speechtools/ipahelp.htm>
- IPA chart, IPA handbook, Online phonetics lab:  
<http://web.uvic.ca/ling/resources/ipa/handbook.htm>
- Variation in Spanish:  
<http://www.uiowa.edu/~acadtech/dialects//>  
<http://lab.chass.utoronto.ca/rescentre/spanish/>
- Information about the world’s languages:  
<http://www.ethnologue.com>

**Course Calendar**

Month	Day	Readings	Assignments/evaluations
Jan.	R, 5	Introduction	
	T, 10	Ch. 1 & Ch. 2. Who is a bilingual & Social aspects of bilingualism	
	R, 12	Ch. 3. Bilingualism in Spain	
	T, 17	Ch. 3. Bilingualism in Spain	
	R, 19	Ch. 4. Bilingualism in the Hispanic world	
	T, 24	How to write a proposal	
	R, 26	Ch. 5 Spanish in USA	
	T, 31	Ch. 5 Spanish in USA	
	R, 3	Thanksgiving, No classes	
	T, 7	Ch. 6. Psycholinguistic aspects of bilingualism	
	R, 9	Ch. 6. Psycholinguistic aspects of bilingualism	
	T, 14	Ch. 7. Child language acquisition	
	R, 16	Ch. 7. Child language acquisition	
	<b>T, 21</b>	<b>Reading Week</b>	

	<b>R, 23</b>	<b>Reading Week</b>	
	T, 28		Term test 1
March.	R, 2	Ch. 8 Second language acquisition	
	T, 7	Ch. 8 Second language acquisition	Project proposal
	R, 9	Ch. 9. Attrition and incomplete acquisition	
	T, 14	Ch. 9. Attrition and incomplete acquisition	
	R, 16	Ch. 10. Fundamentals of bilingual education	
	T, 21	Ch. 11 & 12. Bilingual education in Spain and the Hispanic worlds	
	R, 23	Ch. 13 Bilingual education in USA and Canada	
	T, 28	How to write a paper	
	R, 30		Project presentations
	T, 4		Project presentations
	R, 6	Revision	Final paper



[http://linguistics.utah.edu/\\_images/speech%20linguistics.jpg](http://linguistics.utah.edu/_images/speech%20linguistics.jpg)