CIEE Seville, Spain

Course title: Contrastive Grammar: Spanish-English
Course code: SPAN 4011 CSCS
Programs offering course: Advanced Liberal Arts, Business and Society, Communications, New Media and Journalism, Spanish, Liberal Arts

Language of instruction: Spanish
U.S. semester credits: 3
Contact hours: 45
Term: Fall 2020

Course Description

The aim of this course is that the students gain a solid and practical understanding of Spanish through comparative analysis of English and Spanish. The students will focus on certain grammatical, syntactical and lexical aspects of the Spanish language which tend to present the greatest challenge for native English speakers. The ultimate goal of this contrast between the two languages is to improve the students’ language level.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

Through the contrastive analysis of the most relevant syntactic aspects of Spanish and English students are expected to eliminate the transfer problem when switching code (English → Spanish), which should be conducive to a relevant gain in language proficiency concerning her/his master of Spanish. Similarly, students are expected to be aware of the fact that this contrastive analysis should result in a sound knowledge of the two languages as well as more coherent and precise usage to the language above.

Course Prerequisites

The course requires a good working knowledge of conversational Spanish, grammatical concepts and terminology (direct object, indirect object, prepositions, adverbs, adverbial phrases, etc.).

Methods of Instruction
This professor will provide succinct and contextual explications of the theoretical aspects of this course, to be followed by practical exercises. Together the class will enact everyday situations in which the student can implement the theoretical lessons learned in class.

Program

1. Articles: Definite and Indefinite. Contrasts. The article as a nominalizer.
4. Pronouns: Subject and object. Verbs + Indirect object construction (gustar, encantar, etc.)
5. The Spanish neuter LO. Neuter demonstrative pronouns.
7. Uses of “SE”. Pronominal verbs. Becoming verbs (ponerse, volverse, quedarse, convertirse, etc.)
8. Noun and adverbial clauses: Problems of mood (indicative vs. subjunctive)
11. Comparative structures. Adjectives and Adverbs
12. Prepositions and Conjunctions: Contrasts
14. Miscellaneous: colloquial expressions, English - Spanish
15. False friends English-Spanish

Academic Honesty: Students are expected to act in accordance with their university and CIEE’s standards of conduct concerning plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Use of online translators for work in Spanish will result in an automatic failure.

Linguistic Resource Center: In this class, bring one whose objective is learning the language based on previous knowledge and skills, ALL STUDENTS ARE PROHIBITED FROM USING THE WRITING CENTER. All assignments turned in to the professor will be reviewed and handed back with comments; therefore, any previous corrections will detract from the learning process and objective of this course.
The professor has office hours available where the student may consult any question or doubt, he/she may have. On the other hand, it is recommended that the student use the Spanish language tutoring services.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. 1st Exam 25%
2. 2nd Exam 30%
3. Compositions (4) 25%
4. Classroom Exercises 10%
5. Participation 10%
   TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements

1st Exam
2nd Exam

Two exams will be given throughout this course (one mid-term exam and one final exam). The combined score of both exams will constitute 55% of the student’s final grade. The remaining 45% of the final grade will be based on four compositions distributed throughout the course as well as classroom exercises and active participation.

Compositions (4)

Students are to write 4 compositions throughout the course covering the four types of textual typology, namely, description, narration, exposition and argumentation. These compositions, whose length will consist of 750 words, will be assessed in terms of textual coherence, grammar and lexical correctness, lexical variety, adequacy to the topic suggested and format. Each one of the aforesaid criteria will have a weigh of 20 points out of 100 points.

Classroom Exercises

Students are expected to complete different exercises covering a wide variety of grammatical aspects. Many of the aforesaid exercises should be completed at home and reviewed and analysed in detail during the lecture.
Participation

Students must participate actively during the class, inasmuch as this class implies a continuous and active effort to show the supposed improvement of the different skills practised in it.

Out of class activities: Students will attend an acoustic concert where several prestigious Sevillian musicians will perform an unplugged concert. We will compare the lyrics of popular Spanish songs to those of popular English songs. Similarly, students will compile typical Spanish colloquial expressions given by the professor and try to find their meaning by interacting with native speakers on the streets. Finally, they are expected to find out the equivalent in their language in order to give a 10-minute presentation by explaining their meaning in Spanish and their translation into English.

Attendance

Students are not allowed to miss class for unjustified reasons. For each unexcused absence, the participation portion of the grade will be lowered. Hence, it will be very difficult to receive a 100 in the class. Please keep this in mind.

If a student misses class once without a valid excuse (a note from a physician in the event of an illness), then the professor will automatically lower the final grade by 5 points (on a 100-point scale) for each class missed thereafter. Students with 6 or more absences will fail the course.

Students should arrive to class on-time. Arriving more than 15 minutes late for a class will count as an unexcused absence. Please note that an excused absence is one that is accompanied by a doctor’s note: signed stamped and dated. Travelling and/or travel delays are not considered valid reasons for missing class.

Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, and local holidays. Final schedules will be included in the final syllabus provided to students on site.
Weekly Schedule

Week 1
Class 1.1 Articles: Definite and Indefinite. Contrasts.

Class 1.2 The article as a nominalizer.

Reading pp 1-3 from Apuntes de Gramática Contrastiva Española - Inglés

Week 2
Class 2.1 Nouns. Problems of concordance.

Class 2.2 Verbs with indirect objects

Reading: pp 4-7 from Apuntes de Gramática Contrastiva Española - Inglés

Week 3
Class 3.1 Adjectives. Problems of position.

Class 3.2 Comparative Clauses

Reading: pp 10-14, 49-53 from Apuntes de Gramática Contrastiva Española - Inglés

To hand in the first composition

Week 4

Class 4.2 Verbs with double objects.

Reading: pp 14-18 from Apuntes de Gramática Contrastiva Española - Inglés
Week 5
Class 5.1 The neutral “lo”. Syntagmatic realizations.

Class 5.2 Uses

Reading: pp 19-22 from Apuntes de Gramática Contrastiva Española - Inglés

Week 6
Class 6.1 Miscellaneous verbal. Periphrastic constructions

To hand in the second composition

Reading: pp 23-24, Apuntes de Gramática Contrastiva Española - Inglés

Class 6.2 Mid-term Exam

Week 7
Class 7.1 Preterites. Uses

Class 7.2 Uses of the verb HABER.

Reading: pp 25-27, Apuntes de Gramática Contrastiva Española - Inglés

Week 8
Class 8.1 Modal verbs. Uses of se.

Class 8.2 Becoming Verbs

Reading: pp 28-32, Apuntes de Gramática Contrastiva Española - Inglés

To hand in the third composition
Week 9
Class 9.1 Miscellaneous subjunctive (I)

Class 9.2 Emotional reaction verbs, verbs related to suggestions (I)

Reading: pp 33-41, Apuntes de Gramática Contrastiva Española - Inglés

Week 10
Class 10.1 Miscellaneous subjunctive (II)

Class 10.2 Opinion verbs, value judgements, purpose clauses

Reading: pp 33-41, Apuntes de Gramática Contrastiva Española - Inglés

Week 11

Class 11.2 Relative clauses (pronouns and mood)

Reading: 42-48, Apuntes de Gramática Contrastiva Española – Inglés

To hand in the fourth composition

Week 12
Class 12.1 Final Review

Class 12.2 Final Exam

Course Materials
Readings
• Solé, Yolanda y Solé, Carlos. Modern Spanish Syntax. DC Heath and Company
• Prado, Marcial. Diccionario de Falsos Amigos Inglés-Español. Gredos, Madrid, 2001
• Rodríguez, Antonio. Apuntes de Gramática Contrastiva Inglés-Español. (this will be used as a textbook for class)
• Rodríguez García, Antonio. Ejercicios de Gramática Contrastiva Inglés-Español (this will be used as a textbook for class)