

**COURSE DATA****DATA SUBJECT****Code:** 35509**Name:** Spanish phonetics and phonology**Cycle:** Undergraduate Studies**ECTS Credits:** 6**Academic year:** 2025-26**STUDY (S)**

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1003 - Degree in Hispanic Studies, Spanish Language and Literature	Facultat de Filologia, Traducció i Comunicació	1	First quarter

SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1003 - Degree in Hispanic Studies, Spanish Language and Literature	Descriptive grammar of Spanish	COMPULSORY

COORDINATION

QUILIS MERIN MERCEDES

SUMMARY

Spanish Phonetics and Phonology is a course within the Spanish Language module and the subject area of *Descriptive Spanish Grammar*. It is designed as a general training course within the Degree in Hispanic Studies, and it is also part of the Minor in Hispanic Studies for students enrolled in the degrees in English Studies, Catalan Philology, Classical Philology, and Modern Languages and Literatures.

The main objective of this course is to provide essential and foundational knowledge in the disciplines of general phonetics and phonology from a synchronic and multilingual perspective, in order to address both the theoretical description and practical applications of the phonetic and phonological levels of the Spanish language, which constitute the core content of the course.

The course will cover key concepts in general phonetics and phonology, with particular focus on the functioning of the standard Spanish phonetic and phonological systems, both vocalic and consonantal. It will also address notions related to stress and intonation in Spanish. In addition, the course will examine problematic issues at these levels of linguistic description and explore their relationship with the morphological and syntactic levels of Spanish components of the *Descriptive Spanish Grammar* subject area thus enabling a comprehensive description of the Spanish grammatical system, from the smallest distinctive units to the most complex



combinatory units, such as sentences and texts.

In this subject the following SDGs are especially addressed: SDG4.

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

There are no other requirements.

COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

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Know and apply the currents and methodologies of linguistics.

Knowledge of the internal and external history of the Spanish language.

Know the grammar and develop communicative competences in Spanish.

Students must be able to communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both expert and lay audiences.

Students must have acquired knowledge and understanding in a specific field of study, on the basis of general secondary education and at a level that includes mainly knowledge drawn from advanced textbooks, but also some cutting-edge knowledge in their field of study.

Students must have developed the learning skills needed to undertake further study with a high degree of autonomy.

Students must have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (usually in their field of study) to make judgements that take relevant social, scientific or ethical issues into consideration.

The ability to identify problems and subjects for research and assess their importance in the field of Spanish language, literature and theatre.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS



1. PHONETICS AND PHONOLOGY

- 1.1. Communication and the phonic aspect of language: substance and form
- 1.2. Distinguishing between phonetics and phonology: fundamental concepts and units
- 1.3. Phonetic description and phonological description

2. ARTICULATORY PHONETICS

- 2.1. Description of the phonatory apparatus
- 2.2. Phonation and articulation
- 2.3. Articulatory criteria for sound classification
- 2.4. Classification of speech sounds
- 2.5. Phonetic alphabets AFI and RFE

3. ACOUSTIC PHONETICS

- 3.1. Sound, its components and its physical-acoustic fundamentals
- 3.2. Spectrographic samples and their acoustical interpretation

4. PERCEPTUAL PHONETICS

- 4.1. Physiology of the auditory organ. General aspects
- 4.2. Perception

5. PHONOLOGY

- 5.1. Phonological units: phoneme and distinguishing feature
- 5.2. Descriptive Procedures in Phonology
- 5.3. Phonological oppositions. Binarism
- 5.4. Structural classification of phonological oppositions
- 5.5. Neutralisation and Archiphoneme. Defective distribution and Hypophoneme
- 5.6. Correlations and bundles of correlations. Correlation pairs. Correlation marking
- 5.7. Elements of Morpho(fo)nology and Phonosyntax.

6. THE SPANISH VOWEL SUBSYSTEM

- 6.1. Description of vowel sounds: articulatory and acoustic criteria
- 6.2. Vowel groupings. Diphthongs and triphthongs. Hiatus and syneresis. Sinalefa
- 6.3. Vowel subsystem: Spanish vowel phonemes. Relevant features. Vowel oppositions. Glydes.



7. THE SPANISH CONSONANT SUBSYSTEM

- 7.1. Description of the consonant sounds: articulatory and acoustic criteria. Consonant allophones.
- 7.2. Consonant clusters.
- 7.3. Consonant subsystem. Consonantal phonemes in Spanish. Relevant features. Consonantal oppositions. Neutralisations, archiphonemes. Defective distributions, hypophonemes. Correlation facts.

8. THE SYLLABE AND SUPRASEGMENTALS

- 8.1. The phonetic syllable. The phonological syllable. Syllabic structures in Spanish.
- 8.2. The accent. Nature, degrees and functions.
- 8.3. Intonation. Constituent elements of the intonational curve. Intonational units. Phonic group and intonation group. The Functions of Intonation. Levels of analysis

These contents are reflected in the following learning outcomes:

- Be able to handle relevant, specialised and up-to-date bibliographical information.
- Be able to produce oral and written texts of different types in Spanish correctly and appropriately.
- Be able to autonomously organise one's own reflection or research project within the area.
- Be able to draw on the philological and critical linguistic tradition to understand texts of linguistic reflection and research.
- Be able to apply knowledge of the grammatical system of Spanish in specialised and academic contexts to identify research topics.
- Be able to reflect on the doubts and difficulties that arise in the current use of the language.
- Be able to identify the characteristics of the phonological system of Spanish, as well as the main problems of phonological description.

WORKLOAD

PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Theoretical and practical classes	60,00
Total hours	60,00

NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
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Attendance at other activities	0,00
Individual or group project	0,00
Independent study and work	60,00
Preparation of lessons	20,00
Preparation for assessment activities	0,00
Resolution of case studies	10,00
Total hours	90,00

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The teaching and learning methodology is structured around two types of activities (face-to-face and non-face-to-face):

a) FACE-TO-FACE TRAINING ACTIVITIES (representing 30% of the ECTS credits; 1.8 credits, 45 class hours).

In these training activities, the instructor will primarily focus on the study of the phonetic domain of the Spanish language, and they will form the basis for the design of exercises and practical activities.

These practices require a reduced number of students, as they involve more individualized interaction. These activities will promote the competencies outlined in this course guide:

1. Theoretical content for each topic in the syllabus, supported by student reading either prior to or concurrent with class explanations of the recommended works or various supplied texts.
2. Practical content, including discussion of the core bibliography, presentation, and analysis of texts from a phonetic perspective. Key topics will be addressed under the supervision of the teaching staff.

b) NON-FACE-TO-FACE ACTIVITIES AND TUTORIALS (representing 70% of the total workload; 4.2 credits, 105 hours).

This individual work may include the preparation of assignments (individual or group-based) on phonetic issues, the completion of activities, and preparation for the final exam.

This work involves bibliographic research and critical reading of texts relevant to these issues, encourages a reflective mindset, and fosters active student involvement in the process of building knowledge of the phonetic level of the Spanish language. These activities will foster the competencies outlined in this course guide.

The Virtual Classroom will be used to provide supporting materials for classes and presentations, as well as to keep students informed about announcements, instructions, and relevant published notices.

EVALUATION

Learning assessment consists of two main components: a written exam and practical activities.

The assessment criteria for both components are specified below for the first and second exam sessions.



1ST SITTING

70% Exam (up to 7 points of the final grade).

The type and structure of the final exam will consist of short-answer and/or multiple-choice questions (5/7), and a practical task involving phonetic and phonological transcription (2/7).

1. A minimum score is required in both parts of the exam: in the theoretical part, a minimum of 2 out of 5 points. In the practical transcription part, both the phonetic and phonological transcriptions must be completed, and a minimum of 0.7 points must be obtained between the two in order to average with the theoretical grade.
2. This is a compulsory exam. The grade obtained is only valid for the exam sitting.

30% Practical work (up to 3 points of the final grade).

The type and number of practical activities will consist of exercises related to the course topics and phonetic/phonological transcriptions.

OPTION A. With regular attendance: The scheduled practical activities for each course and group will be assessed and must be completed during the teaching period of the subject (first semester). Regular and active class attendance will also be taken into account, along with the completion of the recommended readings, exercises, and practical activities. The grade obtained will be valid for both the first and second sessions.

OPTION B. Without regular attendance: Specific activities will be assigned to be submitted on the date of the exam.

2ND SITTING

70% Exam. The structure and type of the final exam will be the same as in the first session: short-answer and/or multiple-choice questions (5/7) and a phonetic and phonological transcription (2/7), under the same conditions.

30% Practical work. Two situations may arise:

OPTION A. With previously passed practicals: The practical grade from the first session will be retained.

OPTION B. Without previously passed practicals: Specific activities must be completed and submitted on the date of the exam.

The evaluation system also considers the competencies students must acquire, including writing and correction skills in Spanish. Therefore, spelling, orthotypography, or expression errors will each result in a grade reduction. A total of five errors will result in a zero score on the exam. Likewise, the exam may be failed even with fewer than five errors if, in the judgment of the teaching staff, their severity justifies it.

The general grading system will follow the regulations of the *Universitat de València*, approved by the Governing Council on May 30, 2017. ACGUV 108/2017.

Intellectual honesty is vital in academic communities and for fair assessment of student work. All assignments submitted in this course must be original. Any work involving fraudulent collaboration or the use of artificial intelligence (such as ChatGPT or others) will not be accepted, except when such use is part of the course content and has been authorized by the teaching staff.



REFERENCES

Basic reference

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Complementary references

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