

**SPNS305: SPANISH PHONETICS (AND PHONOLOGY)  
(Fall 2017)**

T 2:00-3:20 p.m., R 3:30-4:50pm, Room LA103A  
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Office hours: by appointment  
(Please e-mail me to schedule appointment)

/fə'netiks/

### Course Description<sup>1</sup>

In this course we will study the linguistic sound system of Spanish, contrasting parts of this system with the sounds of English. So, in this class you will be challenged to improve your Spanish pronunciation and to learn the technical terminology and symbols that we use to describe the sounds of a language.

### Course Objectives

By the end of this course you will be able to:

1. Describe the Spanish sound system (e.g. vowels, consonants, stress patterns).
2. Transcribe isolated words and phrases using the symbols of the International Phonetic Alphabet.
3. Identify which parts of the sound system of Spanish are the most difficult for speakers of English and explain why.
4. Define basic theoretical concepts of the sound system of any language (front vowel, fricative, etc.)
5. Identify and explain in your own words topics of Spanish dialectology and sociolinguistics.

### Materials

1. Schwegler, Kempff & Ameal-Guerra (2010). *Fonética y Fonología Españolas 4th Edition*. Wiley & Sons. Used copies available at bookstore.
2. Materials on website that accompanies book (free):  
<http://bcs.wiley.com/hebcs/Books?action=index&itemId=0470421924&bcsId=5270>
3. Moodle website for class will include PowerPoint lectures, announcements and updates in course schedule (if necessary), gradebook, and digital dropbox for depositing audio files.
4. Digital recordings. You must have a way of recording your voice and creating sound files that you will deposit in the digital dropbox on Moodle for our recording project. This can be done with a computer or a digital voice recorder.

<sup>1</sup> Image credit: [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/a/a8/Tipa\\_phonetics.svg/2000px-Tipa\\_phonetics.svg.png](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/a/a8/Tipa_phonetics.svg/2000px-Tipa_phonetics.svg.png)  
<http://res.freestockphotos.biz/pictures/15/15679-illustration-of-a-cartoon-speech-bubble-pv.png>

## Course Requirements and Grading

In this class we will be using a point system. This means that for each assignment you will receive points. You can easily predict the performance on the course as the semester unfolds by adding up the points you have so far and compare that to the table below:

### Grading scale

Letter grade	Points	Letter grade	Points
A	93-100	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	0-59

Now, let's see which are the graded assignments and requirements:

- **Recording Project (25 points of final grade):** Students will complete a recording project to track their progress. In addition to voice recordings, the project includes two written analyses, which must demonstrate the ability to apply technical knowledge covered in class to analyses of speech. See document 'Recording Project' for further details.
  - a) STEP 1: Grabación (**5 points** of final grade): September 7<sup>th</sup>
  - b) STEP 2: Grabación + Ensayo\_Las vocales (**10 points** of final grade): September 28<sup>th</sup>
  - c) STEP 3: Grabación + Ensayo\_Las consonantes (**10 points** of final grade): November 21<sup>st</sup>
- **Exams (40 points of final grade):** If you have to miss an exam (only in case of serious emergencies, for which you must provide documentation), you must call/email in advance so as to reschedule the exam. Make-up exams will be essay-based, whereas in-class exams will include various types of questions (multiple choice, fill-ins, etc.).
  - a) *Midterm* (**20 points** of final grade): October 10<sup>th</sup>
  - b) *Final exam* (**20 points** of final grade): Date/ Time TBD
- **Quizzes (20 points of final grade):** There will be 4 quizzes (5pts. each). If you need to miss one due to a valid reason, make sure to let me know via email or in person in advance. If you miss one due to an emergency, contact me as soon as possible.
  - a) Quiz 1 (**5 points** of final grade): September 21<sup>st</sup>
  - b) Quiz 2 (**5 points** of final grade): October 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - c) Quiz 3 (**5 points** of final grade): November 7<sup>nd</sup>
  - d) Quiz 4 (**5 points** of final grade): November 21<sup>st</sup>
- **Active class participation and preparation (15 points of final grade):** Your participation is key to the success of this course. Your grade will be calculated as follows:

a) Spot Quizzes (**10 points**)

This part of your grade is based on your faithfulness to the reading assignments, your preparation for class and the attention you pay in class. At the beginning or end of many classes, you will be asked to answer brief questions or complete a short activity related to the reading or the topic we have been discussing in class. If you have carefully read the assignment and prepared for class by reviewing relevant class notes, it will not be difficult to receive good grades on these quizzes. These assignments are meant to help both you and me know how well you are grasping the material. **You cannot makeup these assignments or take them later in a class period if you leave class early or arrive late.** Spot quizzes will be graded as Pass/Fail.

b) Quality of in-class participation (**5 points**)

This part of your participation grade is based on the quality of daily in-class participation, an important component of this course. In order to receive full credit in this area, students must *regularly* demonstrate knowledge of the readings by answering questions in class, consistently participate in in-class activities and discussions in a way that shows unwavering focus and dedication, and refrain from distracting, disrespectful, or otherwise objectionable behaviors (like using a cell phone).

## Other Policies and Information

**E-mail/Companion site/Moodle:** All students must frequently access their email, the student companion site to the textbook, & our Moodle site.

**Extra credit:** There will be no extra credit assignments in this class.

**Academic Honesty and Plagiarism:** All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. See: [http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student\\_conduct.php](http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php)

**Special Considerations and/or Disabilities:** The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students. If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

**Office hours:** One of the best ways to take full advantage of learning in this course is by coming to my office hours. I am anxious to guide you in your academic pursuits. Take advantage of the hours listed above or email me for an appointment if those times do not work for you. If you come for help with the course materials, please bring your notes and prepare your questions in advance.

**Cell-phone, Tablet, and Laptop Use:** You may not use cell phones in class, and I would prefer that you do not use laptops or iPads either. Checking email, texting, Facebook, etc. is distracting for you and for me. Besides, note taking on the computer would be very difficult in this class since you will

be a lot of special symbols not readily available in computer keyboards (i.e. it's much faster by hand).

## Course Schedule<sup>2</sup>

Fechas	Temas	Lecturas / Grabaciones y ensayos
8/31	Introducción: (programa de clase, Requisitos, la página de web, etc.). ¿Qué es la fonética?	Ch. 1: pp 1-13 y 16-21
9/5	El acento prosódico (fonético), El acento ortográfico	<b>Traer impresos los ejercicios sobre la tilde para trabajar en clase</b>
9/7	Fonética articulatoria: (Las vocales)	Ch. 2 <b>Entregar STEP 1: Grabación</b>
9/12	División silábica Diptongos, triptongos, el hiato	Ch. 3: pp 39-54 Ch. 3: pp 55-68
9/14	Las consonantes [j], [w], Diptongos crecientes/decrecientes, semivocales	Ch. 4: 69-95
9/19	<b>Revision for Quiz 1</b> Práctica oral, Taller de ensayos	
9/21	<b>Quiz 1</b> Práctica oral, Taller de ensayos	
9/26	Consonantes: Punto y modo de articulación	Ch. 7: pp. 145-166
9/28	Consonantes: Sonoridad Encadenamiento	Ch. 7: pp. 166-183 Ch. 5 <b>Entregar STEP 2: Grabación + ensayo (Análisis de vocales)</b>
10/3	<b>Quiz 2</b> Repaso para el examen parcial	
10/5	Repaso para el examen parcial	
10/10	<b>EXAMEN PARCIAL (midterm)</b>	
10/12	Introducción a la fonología: fonemas & alófonos	Ch. 9
10/17	/p, t, k/, /tʃ/ & Práctica oral	Ch. 10
10/19	/b,d,g/ y repaso de la letra 'g'	Ch. 12: pp. 253-270, 275-276 MEA Conference
10/24	Las vibrantes: /r/ simple & /r/ múltiple	Ch. 13
10/26	/l/	Ch. 14

<sup>2</sup> This schedule may change. Changes will be announced in class.

	/s/, /x/	Ch. 15: pp. 304-316
10/31	Revision for Quiz 3 Transcripción + Taller de ensayo	
11/2	NO CLASS - Prof. Requena presents “Impermeability of L1 syntax: Spanish variable clitic placement in bilingual children” at the <i>Boston University Conference on language Development</i>	
11/7	<b>Quiz 3</b> El español Peninsular	Ch. 19
11/9	El español Americano	Ch. 20
11/14	El Sistema vocálico del inglés	Ch. 17
11/16	El español en EE.UU. (cont’d)	Ch. 21
11/21	<b>Quiz 4</b>	<i>Entregar STEP 3: Grabación + ensayo (Análisis de consonantes)</i>
11/23	Nov. 22-24 Thanksgiving Break	
11/28	TBA	
11/30	TBA	
12/5	Review for Final Exam	
12/7	Review for Final Exam	
12/12	Meeting for people who have questions	
	<b>EXAMEN FINAL: Dec. 14-20, exact date and time TBD</b>	