



DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

SP2205 Spanish, Sociolinguistics and societal challenges, 7.5 credits

Spanska, Sociolingvistik och samhällsutmaningar, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Languages and Literatures on 2021-06-21 and was last revised on 2022-11-11 to be valid from 2023-01-16, spring semester of 2023.

Field of education: Arts 100%

Department: Department of Languages and Literatures

Position in the educational system

The course SP2205, Spanish, Sociolinguistics and societal challenges, 7.5 credits, is given as a freestanding course at second cycle level and may be included in a Master's degree (60 or 120 credits) with Spanish as the main field of study.

Main field of studies

Spanish

Specialization

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Entry requirements

For admission to the course, a Bachelor's degree is required, and 60 credits in Spanish including at least 30 completed credits from the intermediate course in Spanish or the equivalent qualifications.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of the course the student will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- give an account of sociolinguistic change by showing how language and society

interact;

- explain how sociolinguistics can examine some societal challenges in the Spanish-speaking world;

Competence and skills

- account and formulate himself/herself critically using advanced scholarly and academic Spanish in both written and spoken form (C1/C2-level in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages);

- plan, carry out and present a sociolinguistic study according to specified requirements and in accordance with scholarly norms;

- analyse empirical material critically and be able to draw scholarly plausible conclusions on the basis of his/her study;

Judgement and approach

- reflect critically on sociolinguistic change, societal challenges and social sustainability in the Spanish-speaking world;

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments considering relevant scholarly, social and ethical aspects as well as demonstrate an awareness of the possibilities and limitations of the field where this is relevant;

- demonstrate an ability to identify their need for further knowledge and take responsibility for their knowledge development.

The course is sustainability-related, which means that at least one of the learning outcomes clearly shows that the course content meets at least one of the University of Gothenburg's confirmed sustainability criteria.

Course content

The primary aim of sociolinguistics is to describe and explain sociolinguistic change, i.e. how language and society influence one another and contribute to maintaining and changing both linguistic and social structures and practices. This course takes as its starting point current societal challenges in the Spanish-speaking world (e.g. inequality, climate change, racism, sexism, nationalism, commercialism), and shows how these can be studied from a sociolinguistic perspective.

The course is designed in such a way that each student can choose to specialise in a specific space/context (e.g. the classroom, public spaces, social media or cultural spaces such as music and film), which forms the basis for linguistic analysis material and an interpretive framework. The student then carries out his/her examined assignments in one of the spaces/context.

Form of teaching

The teaching takes different forms: reading of texts, seminars, discussions, group assignments. The course is offered either as campus course or as a web-based course.

Language of instruction: Spanish

Assessment

The course is assessed through written and oral presentations (in the classroom or through a digital tool) and a limited sociolinguistic study.

A student who has failed a course item is eligible for a retake exam/assignment. In connection with written assignments, supplementary assignments may be offered in order for the student to achieve a Pass grade. Such a supplementary assignment should be done within the stipulated time (normally five working days after the result has been posted). Otherwise a Fail grade will be reported.

A student who has completed an exam/assignment with a passing grade is not eligible for a retake for the purpose of receiving a higher grade. Nor may a student withdraw a test/assignment once it has been submitted for the purpose of avoiding receiving a grade for the work.

A student who has taken two examinations in a course or a part of a course without obtaining a passing grade is entitled to the nomination of another examiner unless there are special reasons to the contrary (HF 6 chap. 22§). Such a request should be made in writing to the department responsible for the course.

If the University of Gothenburg has decided that a student is eligible for special study support, the examiner may, provided it is compatible with the aim of the course and it can be done within the scope of available resources, decide to offer the student an adjusted examination or a different examination format.

If the course has been discontinued or substantially revised, a student should be guaranteed to sit the examination on at least three occasions (including the ordinary examination occasion) during a period of at least one year, but not later than two years after the course was discontinued or revised. As regards internships/placement the same as above applies, with the exception that examination is offered on only one occasion.

Grades

The grading scale comprises: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U). For the final grade of Pass with distinction, this grade is required on at least half of the total number of course credits.

Course evaluation

The students are given the opportunity to make a written evaluation of the course. The results of the evaluation are published digitally

Additional information

For web-based specialisation, access to a computer, a web camera and stable broadband connection are required.

Equality aspects should be taken in consideration in content, literature, teaching and evaluation.