

University of Kansas
Fall 2014 – Spanish 429 Spanish Phonetics and Phonology

Instructor: Antônio R.M. Simões, Ph.D., Associate Professor **Office:** WES 2638, 864-0285
Class Place: Wes 1001 **Off. hrs:** TBA
Class Time: MW 12:30PM - 1:45PM **Line number:** 19382
Bio with e-mail: <http://www2.ku.edu/~spanport/people/faculty/armsimoes.shtml>
Personal blog: <http://www.simoes.dept.ku.edu/>; e-books in Portuguese, for free: <https://languages.ku.edu/portuguese>

Textbook: None. All the information for this class will come from the instructor’s materials or from existing internet sites.

Materials that can help for additional consultation:

Sonidos en contexto, by Terrell A. Morgan. Yale University Press: 2010. ISBN 978-0-300-14959-3
Camino oral – fonética, fonología y práctica de los sonidos del español, by Teschner, R.V. 2002. McGraw Hill
Introducción a la lingüística española, by Milton M. Azevedo. Prentice Hall/Pearson Education: 2009 (3rd Edition).
 Videos on Phonetics: <http://www.uiowa.edu/%7Eacadtech/phonetics/>

Spanish 429 is an introductory course on analytical and practical study of contemporary Spanish pronunciation (phonetics and phonology). The overall objective of this course is to understand the **physical features** (Phonetics) of Spanish sounds in comparison to English, and the **phonological processes** (how these sounds operate, i.e. Phonology) when they form syllables, words, sentences and discourse. This course uses the abstract concept of “Spanish of the *altiplanos*” as the reference model for spoken Spanish.

Students in this class are encouraged to develop good auditory perception of the Spanish sounds. Good auditory comprehension of language sounds can be very helpful to improve pronunciation.

Students are expected to understand the basic notions of phonetics and phonology as discussed in class. Considering that many of the concepts discussed in class will be new to everyone, it will be expected that everyone asks questions about them. Phonetics and phonology are powerful tools to improve listening and speaking skills in Spanish or any other language.

Successful students in this course are expected to understand:

- (1) the major pronunciation features of English and Spanish vowels and consonants, particularly, (a) the instability of English vowels – reduced (schwas) and long vowels; (b) the stability of English consonants; (c) the instability of Spanish consonants; and (d) the stability of Spanish vowels;
- (2) basic prosodic patterns of Spanish: intonation, rhythm and stress patterns;
- (3) consonant contrasts between Spanish and English, especially the most problematic consonants in Spanish, such as the sounds for the graphemes ca, co, cu, h, ll, p, t, r, rr, v, y, z;
- (4) how consonants change in different contexts that is, phonological rules for weakening and strengthening of consonants, glottal stop (*golpe de glotis*) and sound assimilation;
- (5) to perceive all phonemes of Spanish and consequently how to pronounce them;
- (6) to distinguish among major linguistic varieties of Spanish;
- (7) the meaning of the terms *consonantismo fuerte (stability)*, *consonantismo débil (instability)*, *yeísmo*, *zheísmo*, *lleísmo*, *seseo*, *distinción*, *ceceo*, etc.;
- (8) geographical location of the major linguistic varieties of Spanish;
- (9) geographical location of Spanish speaking countries and the dialectal regions to which they belong;
- (10) syllable structure and syllable division;
- (11) orthography of Spanish in terms stress placement and use of diacritical marks in Spanish words;
- (12) how to make a self-assessment of pronunciation as well as pronunciation repairs (**meta-cognitive awareness**);
- (13) other pronunciation features of Spanish to be announced, depending on the pace of this class.

Understanding the points studied and discussed in this course does not ensure automatic improvement in pronunciation. It is necessary to **use** this understanding as well as to develop a **meta-cognitive awareness**.

Grading Scheme

Event	Weight	Grading Scale	
		%	%
Four examinations (the exam (last one) is comprehensive and it weighs 35/50%)	50%	100.00-93.50 A	76.49-73.50 C
Individual Poster Project, no research paper	10%	93.49-90.00 A ⁻	73.49-70.00 C ⁻
Individual Poster Project and Research Paper	20%	89.99-86.50 B ⁺	69.99-66.50 D ⁺
Instructor Grade (participation, 5 minute presentations , recordings*, presence, last examination)	20%	86.49-83.50 B	66.49-63.50 D
		83.49-80.00 B ⁻	63.49-60.00 D ⁻
Total	100%	79.99-76.50 C ⁺	59.99-0 F

Everyone is allowed three absences. There is no need to excuse absences, because three absences is a considerable number for a course that meets twice a week. Two points will be taken out of the instructor’s grade for each absence beyond the fourth one. If you miss a test, it does not count as absence.