ENG 442.002 Topics in Linguistics  
Comparative Romance Linguistics  
TR 9:30-10:45 in F179  
Spring 2011  
Department of English  
Stephen F. Austin State University

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Office hours: MWF 8-9, TR 8-9:30, and by appointment (please try to give at least 48 hours advance notice to set up an appointment)

Required Texts

None. Lexical dictionaries, etymological dictionaries, and grammars will be put on reserve/available in the Steen Library.

Course description

Study of the transformation of Latin into the modern Romance languages from a historical, grammatical, and sociological perspective. Introduction to the various fields of linguistics necessary to perform a comparative synchronic and diachronic grammatical analysis of the modern Romance languages.

Prerequisite(s): Instructor Permission.

Department objectives

1. Develop students’ practical skills in reading, writing, and reasoning, and research skills in traditional print as well as electronic sources.

2. Enable students to think critically and analytically, and to communicate effectively in a variety of contexts.

3. Promote students’ understanding of literary and cultural history.

4. Empower students to understand and write about texts, as well as produce original texts.

5. Train students to apply the skills they have learned in the discipline to a variety of situations.
Course objectives

1. Encourage students to think about the nature of English studies as a discipline, leading to a variety of professional opportunities, and about the field’s various critical and pedagogical strategies.

2. Instill an awareness of English studies as a diverse and dynamic field which includes writing, linguistics, literature in translation, and culturally diverse texts in World, British, and American literature.

Program Learning Outcomes

1. The student will demonstrate the ability to think critically and perform close readings of linguistic-related texts.

2. The student will demonstrate the ability to comprehend and apply both traditional and contemporary methods in linguistics to language.

3. The student will demonstrate the ability to integrate theories and methodologies of the linguistics course with that of other disciplines taught at the university.

4. The student will demonstrate the ability to perform original research and/or data analysis relevant to linguistic study.

5. The student will demonstrate the ability to effectively communicate results of research and/or data analysis in a medium appropriate for the academic level.

Coursework Requirements and Grading Policy

The course will be graded based on 6 take-home assignments (each worth 100 points). All material that you are tested on comes from my lectures and handouts.

Grading Scale

A 100%-89.5%  B 89.4%-79.5%  C 79.4%-69.5%  D 69.4%-59.5%  F 59.4% and below
Excellent               Good                    Average                 Below Avg.

Course policies

- Adults make arrangements.
- Attendance, active participation, and preparation are expected.
- Graded assignments should be typed, have the pages numbered and stapled (if more than one page) and be organized, professional, and largely free of spelling and mechanical errors. Assignments which fail to meet the above criteria will have points deducted at my discretion.
• Absolutely no late assignments are accepted for full credit except due to extenuating circumstances by prior arrangement or an emergency (the instructor reserves the right to determine what qualifies as an extenuating circumstance or an emergency; work does not constitute either). If you turn in an assignment that is late, a grade penalty of 25% of the assignment value will be assessed for each class period past the due date. All assignments are due in hard copy within 10 minutes of the scheduled beginning of class. You may have someone else turn in your assignment at your own risk or you may hand it in early to me during my regularly-scheduled office hours. No e-mail submissions are accepted. Under no circumstances should anything be turned into the English Department Office or left under my office door.

• The official means of communication for the class are class meetings. If you miss class or come in late, it is your responsibility to find out from a classmate what material was covered or assigned; I will not discuss nor re-lecture what was covered in class with you in the office or via e-mail (unless you have read the material and have specific clarification questions). If I give a Power Point presentation or handout in class, I post it on Blackboard.

• Be sure to check your mySFA e-mail account daily as it is the secondary means of communication for this course. I will always respond if you e-mail me. If you don’t hear back from me within 24 hours, I probably didn’t get your e-mail; please resend it. Don’t wait until the night before an assignment is due to e-mail me a question; I may not see it in time to respond.

• You can view your grades on the myGrades feature of Blackboard. You should check it after each graded assignment to ensure your grade was accurately recorded and let me know immediately if there is a discrepancy. Please keep all graded assignments until your final course grade is posted. All Blackboard questions or issues can be directed to Andra Floyd, afloyd@sfasu.edu, 936.468.1919

**Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.
Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

**Acceptable Student Behavior**

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy**

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Students with Disabilities**

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

**Tentative Course Outline**

* Assignments are due on Thursday of the week indicated and will be posted on Blackboard about a week in advance.

Week 1: Syllabus and Course Introduction; *Survey of Linguistics and History of Romance Languages*

Week 2: *Romance Phonetics*

Week 3: *Romance Phonetics*  
**Assignment 1 Due (Phonetics)**

Week 4: *Romance Phonology*
Week 5: Romance Phonology  
Assignment 2 Due (Phonology)

Week 6: Romance Morphology

Week 7: Romance Morphology

Week 8: Romance Morphology/Syntax  
Assignment 3 Due (Morphology)

Week 9: Spring Break

Week 10: Romance Syntax

Week 11: Romance Semantics

Week 12: Romance Semantics  
Assignment 4 Due (Syntax and Semantics)

Week 13: Historical Romance Linguistics

Week 14: Historical Romance Linguistics

Week 15: Romance Typology & Second Language Acquisition  
Assignment 5 Due 4/26 (Historical Linguistics)

Assignment 6 Due (Minority Romance Languages)

Week 16: Contemporary Issues in Romance Linguistics

Note on end-of-semester procedures: There is no final exam for this course and thus no meeting finals week. If you haven’t turned in your final assignment by the last scheduled class, it is a 0. I will post your final grades as soon as I have them calculated. If you don’t make arrangements to pick up your final assignment by the beginning of the following semester (Summer included), they are shredded for your privacy.