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| **GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**  **SCHOOL OF MODERN LANGUAGES**  **SPAN 4270/6270**  **SPANISH SOCIOLINGUISTICS** |  |

## SYLLABUS AND COURSE INFORMATION

### Required Material

Manuel Díaz-Campos, 2014. *Introducción a la sociolingüística hispánica*. Wiley & Sons. Available at the bookstore.

**Course Description**

This course provides an introduction to the basic concepts in sociolinguistics. Sociolinguistics focuses on the symbolic value of language as an expression of group identity based on region, gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic class, age, or other ways of defining group affiliation. Topics include speech communities, sociolinguistic variables, phonological and syntactic variation, and field methods across and within varieties of Spanish in Spain, Latin America and in the US. The course also covers topics such as language in contact, bilingualism and Spanish in the US, Spanish as heritage language, language attitudes and language identity, language and the law, language and age, and language and gender.

**Learning Objectives**

After successful completion of this course, the students will:

• understand the basic concepts of sociolinguistics studies,

• be able to recognize linguistic variation at different levels (individual, societal, regional, and national, as well as across time),

* develop critical abilities in order to read sociolinguistics articles,

• apply the basic concepts of sociolinguistic in order to resolve original sociolinguistic problems in a research project,

• recognize linguistic diversity in the United States and in bilingual/multilingual communities,

* work in a global context grounded upon a theoretically informed and comparative understanding of languages, media, cultures, and technologies, and

• identify some political and social issues related to language.

**Evaluation**

Research project 30%

Written assignments (10) 20%

Exams (3) 30%

Participation (10%) & Attendance (10%) 20%

**Grading Scale**

A: 90+ B: 80-89.9 C: 70-79.9 D: 60-69.9 F: 0-59.9

**Note**: if you are taking this class Pass/ Fail, you must earn a grade of 60 or above (D) in order to get a Pass grade.

**Course Requirements**

* All assigned work must be completed on time. **No late work will be accepted**. No assigned work should be submitted via e-mail unless your instructor indicates so. If you will not make it to class on the day an assignment is due, **it is your responsibility to make sure your instructor receives it.**
* **NO MAKE-UP** exams are allowed. Please note the dates of the exams in the syllabus and put then on your calendar right away.
* **NO electronic devices are allowed** in class. This includes laptops, cell phones, tablets, and anything with an on/off switch. If you have one, please turn it **off**. Failing to comply with this requirement will automatically drop your participation grade.

**Participation and Attendance Policy**

Students are required to attend **all** classes. You will receive attendance and participation points for every day you are in class and lose those points if you are absent. Therefore, **perfect attendance (10%) will only be granted to students who attend all classes;** non-excused absences will drop the attendance grade on a pro-rata basis.. This grade will be updated weekly on T-Square. According to GT policy, students who are absent because of participation in approved Institute activities (such as field trips, professional conferences, and athletic events) will be permitted to make up the work missed during their absences. Approval of such activities will be granted by the Student Academic and Financial Affairs Committee of the Academic Senate, and statements of the approved absence may be obtained from the Office of the Registrar. <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu.edu/rules/4/>. Any planned absence on a test/special project day should be discussed with your instructor in advance, and you should report an emergency absence as soon possible afterwards. You are responsible for all material covered on days that you are absent. Arriving more than 15 minutes late to class counts as a full absence.

Students must **participate actively** in class. Participation is not the same as attendance. Arriving late, failing to do the readings and/or homework, acting passively, attending to your cell phone, and/or speaking English may cause your participation grade to drop to an F. You will receive participation points on a daily basis and can check your participation grade with the instructor at any time during the semester. Participation will be graded on a 10-point scale weekly, with 10 being the highest; all participation grades will be averaged for the final course grade.

**Written Assignments**

For each class there will be assigned readings from the textbook. Students are responsible for reading them in advance in order to follow the lecture and be prepared to participate in the discussions. Students enrolled in the graduate section of the course will be expected to complete at least one additional reading (TBA) per chapter as a complement to the textbook. Class notes will be posted on T-Square and should be printed out before class. In addition, there will be 10 written assignments that must be prepared with the readings, type-written in Spanish, double-spaced, spellchecked and turned in on time. These assignments will be graded as A if they fulfill these requirements or as F otherwise (i.e., if late, handwritten, in English, not addressing the issues requested, etc.)

**Research Project**

Students will work in pairs to carry out a research project in which they will analyze original sociolinguistic data. Students enrolled in the graduate section of the course will be expected to work on individual and more extensive research projects. The focus of the project must be on studies about Spanish sociolinguistics and the topic may be based on the students’ interests and the course readings. Projects must show integration of the key concepts of the course. Students will present their work in class the last week of the semester. The presentation is a requirement and counts as part of the project grade. Any written homework, paper or project must be free of spelling and grammatical errors. Points will be taken off for grammar. Please use a spellchecker every time you write any class assignment.

**Rubric** (100 points; 30% of final grade):

20% Turning in the different components of the project

50% Final Version (grammar 50%, content 50%) (60% for graduate students)

20% Oral Presentation

10% Peer evaluation (only for undergraduates)

**Academic Integrity**

In some of the classroom activities in this course, you will be asked to work with other classmates; in addition, you are encouraged to study with others in order to help yourself and others in the class understand the information presented by the professor. However, **any written/oral work that forms the basis of your final grade MUST be your (or your group’s) own original work.** This includes all exams and assignments. Any and all indications of academic dishonesty will be reported to Dean of Students office. Should you have questions regarding what constitutes "academic dishonesty", please see clear examples and definitions at <http://www.princeton.edu/pr/pub/integrity/pages/intro/index.htm>. See also: <http://www.honor.gatech.edu/>

**Special Needs**

The Office of Disability Services offers self-identified students with permanent or temporary disabilities assistance with registration, accessibility, transportation, parking, housing, counseling, note taking, recorded textbooks, advocacy, test proctoring, referral services, and other needs. Disability Services promotes disability awareness programs for departmental faculty and staff, as well as the Georgia Tech community. Students and prospective students who wish to learn more about accommodations for students with disabilities should contact: Office of Disability Services Suite 221 Smithgall Student Services Building Georgia Institute of Technology Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0285 call 404.894.2563 (voice) or 404.894.1664 (TTY) visit <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu> email [dsinfo@gatech.edu](mailto:dsinfo@gatech.edu)

###### CALENDAR

Week 1: Introduction to the field of sociolinguistics.

Week 2: Fundamental aspects of sociolinguistics in the Spanish-speaking world. Homework 1 due.

Week 3: Language, age, gender, and socioeconomic level. Homework 2 due.

Week 4: Socio-phonetic variation. Homework 3 due.

Week 5: Exam I. Seminar on final research projects.

Week 6: Socio-phonetic variation in the Spanish-speaking world. Homework 4 due.

Week 7: Morpho-syntactic variation. Homework 5 due.

Week 8: Morpho-syntactic variation and social meaning in the Spanish-speaking world.

Week 9: Languages in contact. Homework 6 due.

Week 10: Languages in contact (II). Exam II.

Week 11: Bilingualism and Spanish in the United States. Homework 7 due.

Week 12: Spanish as a heritage language. Homework 8 due.

Week 13: Spanish pragmatics. Homework 9 due.

Week 14: Linguistic attitudes and social identity. Homework 10 due.

Week 15: Language and the law. Exam III.

###### Week 16: Final project presentations.