Instructor: Dr. Alicia Pousada

Course Title: Grammatical structures of English and Spanish

Course Number: INGL 6435

Number of Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: INGL 4205 or 4206 or their equivalent.

Course Description: A study of similarities and differences between the principal syntactic and morphological structures of the two languages

Course Objectives: Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:
- explain core concepts in morphology and syntax
- identify major lexical classes and use grammatical criteria to classify words in both English and Spanish
- analyze sentences into their constituent structures
- identify the principal areas in which the grammars of Spanish and English diverge
- identify potential areas of difficulty for learners of either language
- carry out basic contrastive analysis and error analysis
- explain bilingual learner errors in either language
- understand the implications of grammatical contrasts for translation and for pedagogy

In addition, the student will be able to:
- contribute in an effective form to the inclusion of fellow students with special needs in the classroom
- make the necessary accommodations to include fellow students with special needs

Course Outline:

Week 1. General introduction to course and to contrastive analysis. Review of basic grammatical terms. Lesson 1--Word Order; Lesson 34--Verbal expressions with dar, hacer, tener; Lesson 36--Miscellaneous contrasts

Week 2. Lesson 2--English verb forms; Lesson 7--English phrasal verbs
Week 3. Lesson 3--Regular verbs in Spanish; Lesson 4--Irregular verbs in Spanish

Week 4. Lesson 6--Basic sentence structure in English and Spanish; Lesson 8--Modal auxiliaries

Week 5. Lesson 9--Nouns and articles; Lesson 10--Descriptive and limiting adjectives

Week 6. Lesson 11--Possessive and demonstrative adjectives and pronouns; Lesson 12--Expressions of possession

Week 7. Lesson 14--English and Spanish personal pronouns; Lesson 15--Indefinite subjects; Lesson 16--Reflexive and reciprocal actions

Week 8. MIDTERM EXAM

Week 9. Lesson 18--Adverbs and prepositions; Lesson 21--Spanish and English verbs and relator constructions

Week 10. Lesson 23--Expressions of comparison; Lesson 25--Relative words used between clauses

Week 11. Lesson 22--Spanish and English conditional sentences; Lesson 27--Present participle and infinitive

Week 12. Lesson 29--Passive constructions; Lesson 30--Por vs. Para; SPECIAL PROJECT DUE

Week 13. Lesson 28--Verb contrasts; Lesson 35--Spanish constructions with gustar, faltar, etc.

Week 14. Lesson 30--Affirmative words and negative counterparts; Lesson 32--Elliptical verbal usage and verification tags

Week 15. FINAL EXAM

Teaching Strategies: Lecture, discussion, workshop.

Note: Those students who receive services from Vocational Rehabilitation should communicate with the professor at the beginning of the semester to plan the reasonable accommodation and the necessary equipment according to the recommendations of the Oficina de Asuntos para las Personas con Impedimento (OAPI) of the office of the Dean of Students. In addition, those students with special needs that require some type of assistance or accommodation should communicate with the professor.
Resources and Equipment Required:


Bilingual English/Spanish dictionary

Methods of Evaluation:
- Consistent attendance and participation in class (20%)
- Completion of weekly assignments in manual (20%)
- Completion of special project applying skills learned in class (20%)
- Midterm exam (20%)
- Final exam (20%)
- Differentiated evaluation of students with special needs

Grading System: A, B, C, D, F.

Bibliography: (students receive much more complete list)


