

**Spanish: Variation and Oral Discourse**

Code: 103566  
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2502758 Humanities	OB	2	2

**Contact**

Name: Carme de la Mota Gorriz  
Email: Carme.DeLaMota@uab.cat

**Use of Languages**

Principal working language: spanish (spa)  
Some groups entirely in English: No  
Some groups entirely in Catalan: No  
Some groups entirely in Spanish: Yes

**Prerequisites**

In order to attend this subject, students must have a general linguistic knowledge and a command of oral and written expression comparable to those obtained after completing the baccalaureate.

A level of English that allows students to read bibliography in this language is recommended.

**Objectives and Contextualisation**

With the subject, issues related to the Spanish language are raised, which allow both to improve the communication capacity and to expand the linguistic knowledge of the student body. It is intended to ensure that students (a) have knowledge and tools that allow them to delve into the factors that condition variation in the Spanish language, (b) become familiar with the fundamental aspects of discourse analysis and (c) have the methodology necessary both to analyze oral discourses and to develop their own oratory capacities in formal situations.

At the end of the course each student will have learned to:

- (a) *have* a global view of the current situation of Spanish, taking into account its different varieties; (b) know the main available resources about Spanish;
- (c) *master* the most important aspects of prescriptive rules of Spanish;
- (d) *reason* about the concepts of variation, norm and standard;
- (e) *know* the basic mechanisms that govern the construction of oral and written texts in Spanish;
- (f) *express* themselves orally and in writing in the academic field in an appropriate and effective manner;
- (g) *analyze* the discourse with a linguistic and communicative approach;
- (h) *study* linguistic productions from the perspective of pragmatics;
- (i) *know* the theoretical bases of the current oratory;
- (j) *employ* various types of support material and

(k) *make* a formal oral presentation before an audience.

Students must become aware of the fundamental role that, in any discipline and workplace, the correct, adequate and reflective use of language plays. Oral productions will have to be well structured, they must be understandable, they must be linguistically correct and they must be realized with clear articulation, the appropriate pronunciation and the pertinent intonation, according to the needs of formal oral discourse.

## Competences

- Identifying the characteristics of a space and a territory in order to manage the resources for its local and territorial development.
- Interpreting social and cultural diversity.
- Properly using the resources and methodologies of the study of contemporary culture.
- Respecting the diversity and plurality of ideas, people and situations.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.

## Learning Outcomes

1. Analysing and interpreting oral texts of different nature.
2. Applying and adapting in a coherent way the characteristics of the standard dialect in various communicational situations.
3. Communicating in a properly, organised, and suitable manner in an oral conversation or presentation.
4. Detecting and correcting any type (grammatical, spelling, stylistic, pragmatic, argumentative...) of inadequacy in a text.
5. Expressing contents and arguments in a reasoned manner in (oral and written) formal discourses.
6. Knowing the main data about the current situation of language (legal status, territorial extension, number of speakers...).
7. Knowing the main institutions associated to language (academic, public administrations, foundations, consortium, etc.) and their functions and development.
8. Mastering the main linguistic variation parameters.
9. Mastering the varieties of oral discourse, and its level of adequacy and formality.
10. Understanding the concept of linguistic planning and applying it.

## Content

1. Introduction and initial thoughts. The faculty of language. Universal grammar and particular grammar. The use of language The linguistic variation. Language as an object of study: internal linguistics and external linguistics. Linguistic prejudices. Languages, dialects, variants. The linguistic evaluation criteria. Grammaticality, acceptability, adequacy and correction. Variation and oral discourse. The speakers skills. The formal situations and the academic field. The oratory: personal reflections.

2. Varieties of the language. The temporal, geographical, social and situational varieties. Hesitation and linguistic change. Language, identity, gender, sexism. Spontaneity, formality, planning. Oral language and written language. Oralization.

3. Sources of documentation on language. Description, explanation and prescription. Resources on Spanish: grammars, dictionaries and style books. Digital resources. Platforms, corpus, atlas. Practical application.

4. The normative correction. Norm and use. Critical review of the sources on rule. The standard of the language. The standardization process. The officiality. The polycentric norm. Frequent problems of normative correction. Orthology.

5. Discourse analysis and pragmatics. Textuality and discursivity. Competences and use of language. Objectives and methods of discourse analysis. The pragmatic analysis of the discourse. The communicative intention. The notion of context. The adequacy criterion. Multimodality. The enunciative depth. Subjectivity and

modalization. The speech acts. The analysis of the conversation. Cooperation and conversational maxims. Relevance and ostensive-inferential communication. Politeness. Intercultural pragmatics. The intentional nature of the discourse.

6. Current oratory. The skills and abilities of a good speaker. Objectives. Strategies.

7. Specific conditions of orality. The supports. The glossophobia. Non-verbal communication. The voice.

8. Phonic aspects of oral discourse. Qualities of sound and voice: the locution. Breathing, modulation and prosody, resonance, articulation, warm-up and vocal technique. Voice and intention. The expressive reading. Techniques to prepare reading aloud. The use of microphones. Voice and literature.

9. The organization of discourse: from theory to practice. The planning. The construction of the text: content, structure and linguistic forms. Coherence and cohesion. Starting and endings. The discourse in the academic and professional field. The clear, pertinent and fluid explanation. The presentation of a poster. The conference. The brief explanation. Case study.

10. Recapitulation and final reflections. Synthesis on current oratory and preparation for the final presentation. The analysis of oral language: approaches, theories, methods, applications. Reflections on own learning.

## Methodology

An active methodology, based on the flipped classroom, will be used, and critical thinking will be promoted, both when facing problems, data or situations of a linguistic nature, and when reflecting on one's own learning. The theoretical explanations, the realization of exercises, the commentary of texts and discussions and practical activities will be combined.

It is necessary to regularly use the Virtual Campus, because students will be informed of any question related to the subject through this tool. It is advisable to carry out a continuous monitoring. The material proposed for each session should be studied before the class and will serve as a starting point for the activities developed. Active participation during the sessions will be taken into account.

Throughout the course several individual oral practices will be carried out. The oral presentations of each student will be recorded and analyzed in class and, given the nature of the subject, results of the oral tests will be public for the whole group. Likewise, a questionnaire must be prepared working cooperatively with other students, in which they will solve, in a practical and sufficiently documented manner, linguistic problems related to the syllabus and not directly addressed in the classroom.

## Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Directed activities	30	1.2	1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 5, 3, 4
Type: Supervised			
Supervised activities	30	1.2	1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 5, 3, 4
Type: Autonomous			
Autonomous activities	90	3.6	1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 5, 3, 4

## Assessment

## Requirements to pass the subject

- Both class attendance and active participation are essential (according to the methodology of the flipped classroom). Attendance checks are conducted and, if more than two unexcused absences are recorded, the student loses the right to be evaluated.
- The grade of the subject depends on the evaluations of the exercises carried out during the course, which are organized in two blocks: a written questionnaire realized in a group (representing 50% of the grade) and three individual oral tests (which assume the other 50% of the grade).
- In order to pass the subject it is necessary to obtain a final grade equal to or greater than 5 and a grade greater than 3.5 in both the questionnaire and the third presentation (considering both content and expression).
- The re-evaluation will be eligible provided that: (a) the tests failed (either because of the suspension or because the ordinary evaluation has been rejected) do not, together, represent more than 60% of the overall grade and (b) a grade higher than 3.5 both in the questionnaire and in the third presentation (considering both the content and the form) is obtained. If these two criteria are not satisfied, the course is suspended without any option for re-evaluation.
- Given the nature of the oral tests (aimed at confirming a progression in the skills), if the oral block is to be recovered, a single test will be carried out, the grade of which will be 50% of the overall grade of the subject (regardless of the scores of the three oral tests made throughout the course). There will be no distinct re-evaluations for each of the three oral presentations.
- A "not evaluable" will be assigned if a maximum of two tests have been carried out. If three or more tests are submitted, in case of leaving any pending, the grade of that test will be 0 and will be included in the calculation of the overall score.

## Evaluation activities

In the evaluation of the course the following activities will be taken into account:

1. Written questionnaire prepared in group: 50%
2. Initial individual presentation: 10%
3. Second individual presentation: 15%
4. Final individual presentation: 25%

## Evaluable elements

- Knowledge and practical application of the syllabus contents
- Knowledge and mastery of the oral use of formal oral language
- Proper, effective and linguistically correct expression
- Evaluation of the analysis of the grammatical aspects (phonetics, phonology, morphology, lexicon, syntax and semantics) and pragmatics of the oral language
- Evaluation of the analysis of phonic aspects of oral language
- Practice of expository and argumentative procedures
- Ability to create original oral texts
- Use of the critical method
- Ability to apply knowledge to practice
- Disposition and ability to work in a group
- Development of self-criticism and personal initiative
- Ability to adapt to new situations
- Mastery of the tools that support oral presentations
- Mastery of the usual procedures for recording and analyzing oral samples

## Observations

In regards to writing, it's understood that the student will write paragraphs with full content. Obviously, spelling errors, punctuation and speech structure will be taken into account.

Activities, practical sessions and papers submitted in the course must be original and under no circumstances will the total or partial plagiarism of third-party materials published on any medium be admitted. Any submission of non-original material without properly indicating its origin will automatically result in a failure rating (0).

It is also expected that students know the general rules of submission of an academic work.

At the beginning of the course both the methodology of the subject and the evaluable tests will be explained. Specific guidance will be later provided for each test. The guidelines with the detailed description of the evaluable activities content and the dates of submission can be consulted in the virtual teaching space of the subject. The procedure of revision can change depending on the type of test.

## Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
1 Written questionnaire prepared in group	50%	0	0	1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 5, 4
2 Initial individual presentation	10%	0	0	1, 7, 8, 10, 3
3 Second individual presentation	15%	0	0	1, 8, 9, 10, 5, 3
4 Final individual presentation	25%	0	0	1, 8, 9, 10, 5, 3

## Bibliography

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