UAB
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Spanish Semantics and Pragmatics

Code: 100585
ECTS Credits: 6

2025/2026

Degree	Type	Year
English and Spanish Studies	OT	3
English and Spanish Studies	OT	4
Catalan and Spanish Studies	OT	3
Catalan and Spanish Studies	OT	4

Contact

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Teaching groups languages

You can view this information at the end of this document.

Prerequisites

By obtaining the minimum of credits in basic training subjects, students have demonstrated to have acquired the basic competences and they will be able to express themselves orally and in writing. For this reason, any spelling and expression errors that may be committed by the student in the performance of the evaluation activities planned during the subject will lead to a score decrease in the final grade. 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).

Objectives and Contextualisation

Spanish Semantics and Pragmatics course is part of the 30 compulsory credits of the subject *Spanish language: synchrony.* This course has two primary goals. The first one is to introduce the main topics of the study of denotative meaning to the student. The second one is to make the student become familiar with those aspects of the meaning related to the usage of language. At the end of the course, the student must be able to:

- Know the basic reference works on Semantics and Pragmatics
- Identify which aspects of the study of meaning belong to Semantics and which ones to Pragmatics
- Know the existing links between Semantics, Pragmatics and other subjects, including linguistic ones (Syntax, Lexicology and Morphology), and non-linguistic (Philosophy, Logics, Psychology and Sociology).
- Master the basic concepts and tools that enable analysis and argumentationin Semantics and Pragmatics.

Competences

English and Spanish Studies
- Analyse the main phonetic, phonological, morphological, syntactic, lexical and semantic properties of the English and Spanish languages, their evolution throughout history and their current structure.
- Demonstrate skills for professional development in the fields of linguistic applications, teaching, and literary and cultural management in English and Spanish.
- Identify the foundations of human language and the principles, methods and results of structural analysis of languages.

Catalan and Spanish Studies
- Analyse the main phonetic, phonological, morphological, syntactic, lexical and semantic properties of the Catalan and Spanish languages, their historical evolution and their current structure.

Learning Outcomes

1. Analyse different types of linguistic data.
2. Analyse the principles of lexical semantics that affect the internal structure of words and their syntactic combination.
3. Correctly identify linguistic units.
4. Describe the process of creating combinatorial linguistic units.
5. Justify by means of appropriate terminology the analysis of data from a linguistic point of view.
6. Recognise the links between compositional semantics and other disciplines, both linguistic (syntax, lexicology, pragmatics) and non-linguistic (philosophy, logic, mathematics).

Content

1. Introduction to Semantics.

2. The semantic information of simple sentences.

3. The semantic structure of simple sentences.

4. Introduction to Pragmatics.

5. Meaning and communicative intention.

6. Meaning and interpretation.

Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Master classes	26.25	1.05	
To solve exercices	26.25	1.05	
Type: Supervised			

Review readings	6	0.24
Type: Autonomous		
Exercices preparation	42.75	1.71
Readings of references	18.5	0.74
Self-assessment exercices	18.5	0.74

The learning of this subject by the students is distributed as follows: Directed activities (35%). These activities are divided into master classes and classroom practices led by the teacher, in which theoretical explanation is combined with solution of exercises and discussion of all types of texts. Supervised activities (10%). These tutorials are programmed by the teacher, dedicated to correcting and commenting on problems related to different levels of linguistic analysis. Autonomous activities (50%). These activities include both time devoted to individual study and production of reviews, papers and analytical comments written, as well as oral presentations. Assessment activities (5%). The evaluation of the subject will be describe in Assessment section.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Assessment

Continous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Delivery of homework	10%	3.75	0.15	1, 2, 4, 3, 5, 6
Test about Pragmatics	45%	4	0.16	1, 2, 4, 3, 5, 6
Test about Semantics	45%	4	0.16	1, 2, 4, 3, 5, 6

1. Continuous assessment

1.1. Criteria for the grading the course

In order to pass the course, after completing the three evaluable activities mentioned above and after applying the percentages indicated above, the student must get a final grade equal or greater than 5. If the final grade is

- Less than 3.5, the student will get a failing grade.
- Between 3.5 and 4,8, the student will be able eligible for re-evaluation.
- Students will obtain a Not assessed course grade unless the have submitted more than 30% of the assessment items.

1.2 Re-evaluation criteria

Students who get a final grade between 3.5 and 4,8 and who have carried out 2/3 of the tassessable activities mentioned above will be eligible for re-evaluation of the course on the date set by the Faculty. The activity *Delivery of homework* is not re-evaluable. If the re-evaluation test is passed, the final grade for the subject will be 5, regardless of the grades obtained before. Students who have passed the course will not be allowed to re-evaluate to increase their grade.

1.3 Evaluation criteria

In order to pass the exam, mastery of the normative is considered essential; therefore, when evaluating the activities mentioned above, spelling errors, incorrect use of punctuation, lexical errors and morphosyntactic errors will be penalized.

1.4 Programming and review procedure for evaluable evidence

The programming of evaluable activities cannot be modified. Erasmus students requesting changes to the schedule of assessable activities must submit a document from their home university to the professor justifying the request for said change.

After the publication of the gradingof the evaluable activities mentioned above, the teacher will inform the students through Moodle of the day and time for the review of such activities.

1.5 Misconduct in assessment activities

In the event of a student committing any irregularity that may lead to a significant variation in the grade awarded to an assessment activity, the student will be given a zero for this activity, regardless of any disciplinary process that may take place. Evaluation activities in which there have been irregularities are not recoverable. In the event of several irregularities in assessment activities of the same subject, the student will be given a zero as the final grade for this subject.

This subject entirely prohibits the use of AI technologies in all of its activities. Any submitted work that contains content generated using AI will be considered academic dishonesty; the corresponding grade will be awarded a zero, without the possibility of reassessment. In cases of greater infringement, more serious action may be taken.

2. Single assessment

Assessment activities	Weight
Test about Semantics	45%
Test about Pragmatics	45%
Delivery of homework	10%

The date of the single assessment will be published on CAMPUS VIRTUAL on the first day of class.

2.1 Re-evaluation criteria

Students who get a final grade between 3.5 and 5 and who have carried out the three assessable activities mentioned above will be eligible for re-evaluation of the course on the date set by the Faculty. The activity *Delivery of homework* is not re-evaluable. If the re-evaluation test is passed, the final grade for the subject will be 5, regardless of the grades obtained before. Students who have passed the course will not be allowed to re-evaluate to increase their grade.

Everything established in points 1.1, 1.3, 1.4 and 1.5 of the previous section is also applicable to the single assessment. The date for the single evaluation will coincide with the date ofthe Test of Pragmatics of the continuous assessment. The teacher willcommunicate to the student the date for the single evaluation through Moodle at the beginning of the course.

Bibliography

Escandell, Mª. Victoria (1996): *Introducción a la pragmática*. Barcelona: Ariel.

Escandell, Mª. Victoria (2004): *Fundamentos de semántica composicional*. Barcelona: Ariel.

Portolés, José (2004): *Pragmática para hispanistas.* Madrid: Síntesis.

Software

There are no requirements.

Groups and Languages

Please note that this information is provisional until 30 November 2025. You can check it through this link. To consult the language you will need to enter the CODE of the subject.

Name	Group	Language	Semester	Turn
(PAUL) Classroom practices	1	Spanish	second semester	morning-mixed
(TE) Theory	1	Spanish	second semester	morning-mixed