

## Spanish Historical Grammar

Code: 100597  
ECTS Credits: 6

**2025/2026**

Degree	Type	Year
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

This subject requires a command of oral and written expression in Spanish equivalent to that obtained at the end of bachelor studies. Therefore the ability to express correctly verbally and in writing is essential.

It is not essential, but it is recommended, the possession of some basic knowledge of the Latin language.

### Objectives and Contextualisation

"Historical Grammar of Spanish" is an introductory course to the historical study of the language, both in general (linguistic change) and particular (the concrete evolution of Spanish).

The aim of the subject is for the student to acquire a general vision of the different stages of evolution of Spanish, with special emphasis on the graphematic and phonic changes of the Spanish linguistic system, as well as an initial mastery of the tools of diachronic study of a language.

At the end of the course students must be able to:

- Apply different methodologies in the study of the historical grammar of Spanish.
- Handle the tools of historical linguistics.
- Identify the different types of linguistic changes that may occur in a language.
- Describe the most relevant aspects of the history of the Spanish language from the external point of view.
- Establish the different historical stages of the Spanish language and the phonic and graphematic changes corresponding to each period.
- Produce phonic evolution of Latin words to modern Spanish.

### Competences

Catalan and Spanish Studies

- Act with ethical responsibility and respect for fundamental rights and duties, diversity and democratic values.
- Analyse the main factors of linguistic variation in the Catalan and Spanish languages, whether historical-political, diatopical, semantic or pragmatic and their historical evolution and current state.
- Analyse the main phonetic, phonological, morphological, syntactic, lexical and semantic properties of the Catalan and Spanish languages, their historical evolution and their current structure.
- Carry out effective written work or oral presentations adapted to the appropriate register in different languages.
- Carry out historical-type studies on tendencies, genres and authors of the Catalan and Spanish literary tradition.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the rules of Catalan and Spanish and mastery of their applications in the academic and professional fields.
- Demonstrate the ability to work autonomously and in teams with the aim of attaining the planned objectives in multicultural and interdisciplinary contexts.
- Innovate in the methods and processes of this area of knowledge in response to the needs and wishes of society.
- Produce arguments applicable to the areas of Catalan and Spanish philology, literary theory and linguistics and evaluate their academic relevance.
- Students can apply the knowledge to their own work or vocation in a professional manner and have the powers generally demonstrated by preparing and defending arguments and solving problems within their area of study.
- Students have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (normally within their study area) to issue judgments that include reflection on important issues of social, scientific or ethical.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills in order to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
- Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.
- Take sex- or gender-based inequalities into consideration when operating within one's own area of knowledge.
- Use digital tools and specific documentary sources to gather and organise information.

## Learning Outcomes

1. Adapt the knowledge of the internal and external of the tongue to the different conditions of use properties.
2. Apply the principles of correctness required in the standard language and the different registers and variants.
3. Apply the principles of historical linguistics to describe the evolution of Spanish.
4. Assess linguistic diversity from a diachronic point of view.
5. Be able to situate the Catalan oral and written texts in time and space.
6. Describe and interpret the historical evolution of the linguistic elements of the Catalan language.
7. Describe the historical evolution of the use of the Catalan language.
8. Describe the main stages in the history of the Spanish language (Medieval Romance, Classical Spanish, Modern Spanish) on the basis of its linguistic characteristics and its external conditioning factors.
9. Develop effective written work and oral presentations and adapted to the appropriate register.
10. Distinguish between grammatical gender and natural gender.
11. Identify the causes of variation derived from the register.
12. Identify the context in which the historical processes enroll.
13. Identify the main and secondary ideas and express them with linguistic correctness.
14. Interpret texts in depth and provide arguments for critical analysis.
15. Interpret the problem areas and factors that have conditioned the use of the Catalan language throughout history in a multicultural society.
16. Justify by means of appropriate terminology the analysis of data from a linguistic point of view.
17. Maintain an attitude of respect for the opinions, values, behaviors and practices of others.

18. Make linguistic predictions and inferences about the content of a text.
19. Make linguistic-philological comments on ancient texts and situate them in their corresponding period.
20. Plan, organise and carry out work in a team.
21. Produce written and oral texts with correction rules.
22. Properly apply the knowledge gained to data collection and management of documentary sources application to the study of Catalan language and literature.
23. Recognise and describe the evolution of the morphological and syntactic system of Spanish from Latin to the present day.
24. Recognise and describe the evolution of the Spanish lexicon from Latin to the present day.
25. Recognise and describe the evolution of the Spanish phonic system and its associated graphemic features from Latin to the present day.
26. Strengthen the capacity of reading, interpretation and critical analysis of literary texts and language.
27. Use digital tools to obtain, classify, interpret and analyse relevant data related to the study of Spanish language and literature.
28. Use technological resources (digital and audiovisual) to acquire knowledge and apply it in language and literature.
29. Use the appropriate terminology in the construction of an academic text and in the transmission of their knowledge.
30. Use traditional sources to obtain, classify, interpret and analyse relevant data related to the study of Spanish language and literature.
31. Work independently in the synchronic and diachronic study of Catalan language and literature.
32. Write text commentaries from a critical standpoint.

## Content

Topic 1. Historical linguistics and language change.

Topic 2. Types of language change.

Topic 3. History of the Spanish language. Linguistic evolution from an external perspective: from pre-Roman languages to modern Spanish.

Topic 4. Historical grammar. Linguistic evolution from the internal perspective: graphology, phonetics and phonology from Latin to Spanish.

LANGUAGES: Theory and Classroom practices in Spanish.

## Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
<hr/>			
Type: Directed			
Classroom practices	24.5	0.98	3
Theoretical classes	30	1.2	3
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Type: Supervised			
Activities	7.5	0.3	19, 27, 16, 23, 4
Mandatory readings	7.5	0.3	27
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Type: Autonomous			

Elaboration of the activities	20	0.8	19, 27, 24
Preparation of partial tests and final test	56	2.24	3, 23

The student must carry up a continuous follow-up of the subject.

In order to achieve the aforementioned objectives, theoretical explanations will be combined by the teacher (where the methodology and the basic tools of the historical study of the language will be shown) with the practical realization of exercises in the classroom (mainly focused on the identification of the graphic and phonic changes experienced by Spanish from Latin to the present).

The realization of one theoretical-practical test, one theoretical test and a practical evaluative activity will be required.

The learning of this subject by the student is distributed as follows:

- 37,5% of directed activities (54,5 hours)

- These activities are distributed in theoretical classes (55%) and classroom practices (45%)

- 10% of supervised activities (15 hours)
- 52% of autonomous activities (76 hours)

Note: 15 minutes of a class will be reserved, within the timetable established by the centre/title, for the complementation by the students of the assessment surveys of the teaching staff's performance and the assessment of the subject.

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
Practical evaluation activity	50%	1.5	0.06	1, 22, 3, 6, 8, 7, 10, 19, 18, 27, 30, 12, 16, 17, 20, 9, 25, 28, 4
Theoretical and practical test	20%	1.5	0.06	1, 22, 2, 3, 8, 10, 19, 12, 17, 21, 9, 24, 25, 23, 28, 4
Theoretical classes	30%	1.5	0.06	2, 8, 19, 18, 29, 27, 30, 11, 13, 15, 14, 16, 26, 21, 32, 5, 31, 4

The professor will evaluate this subject on an ongoing basis through the realization of one theoretical-practical test, one theoretical test and a practical evaluative activity.

The evaluation will be distributed as follows:

- Theoretical and practical test: 20%
- Theoretical test: 30%
- Practical evaluation activity: 50%

The evaluation of the subject will be carried out, therefore, starting from the realization of three activities / tests in which the following aspects will be evaluated:

- The assimilation of theoretical contents;
- The practical application of the contents;
- The adaptation to the requirements of the activity in question;

The three activities / tests to be carried out are the following:

- A theoretical-practical exam about the required readings and the theoretical concepts and their application in the resolution of exercises. This test constitutes 20% of the final grade of the subject.
- A theoretical exam based on the contents of the required readings. This test constitutes 30% of the final grade of the subject.
- A practical evaluative activity that will consist of the evolution of a certain number of words from Latin to Spanish, through the identification of the different evolutionary stages and the phonic changes corresponding to each period. This exam constitutes 50% of the final grade of the subject.

0.25 points of penalty will be given, without limits, for each error of spelling, expression, lexicon and syntax committed on the final grade of the different tests.

To pass the subject, the final grade, once all the notes have been added and the percentages indicated above applied, must be equal to or greater than 5.

While it is the responsibility of the students to bring the subject up to date, the faculty will indicate with sufficient notice the date of each test.

Students will obtain a Not assessed/Not submitted course grade unless they have submitted more than 30% of the assessment items.

All evaluation activities are recoverable. However, the student will lose the right to reassess if the average of the tests performed with the corresponding percentage is less than 3.5 points. If the student has the right to reassessment, he can only reassess at most two tests. Moreover, it should be taken into account that in order to be eligible for re-evaluation, students are obliged to attend 2/3 of the evaluable tests.

In case of requesting answers for exams or presentations of activities, papers, etc., everything must be original and the total or partial copy of materials already published in any medium is not allowed. 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. 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.

Students who take part in the single assessment following the procedure established by the Dean's Office of the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts must complete the following activities/tests on the scheduled date:

- Theoretical and practical test: 20%
- Theoretical test: 30%
- Practical evaluation activity: 50%

The same assessment method as continuous assessment will be used.

On carrying out each evaluation activity, lecturers will inform students (on Moodle) of the procedures to be followed for reviewing all grades awarded, and the date on which such a review will take place.

Erasmus students requesting to advance an exam must present to the professor a written document from their home university justifying their request.

## Bibliography

The students will have to acquire the following book:

- CLAVERIA, Gloria; Marta PRAT and Carlos SÁNCHEZ (1999), *Curso de lengua española: diacronía*. Bellaterra: UAB (Materials, 76). 2nd edition 2017. Available in e-book.

The teacher will indicate recommended and mandatory readings for each content.

Reference works and manuals:

ARIZA, Manuel (1989), *Manual de fonología histórica del español*. Madrid: Síntesis.

ARIZA, Manuel (2012), *Fonología y fonética histórica del español*. Madrid: Arco/Libros. Disponible en e-book.

AZOFRA SIERRA, Mª Elena (2022), *El español en su historia. Textos y contextos*. Madrid: UNED.

CANO AGUILAR, Rafael (1988), *El español a través de los tiempos*. Madrid: Arco/Libros. 8ª edición de 2015. Disponible en e-book.

CANO AGUILAR, Rafael (coord.) (2004), *Historia de la lengua española*. Barcelona: Ariel.

DWORKIN, Steven N.; Gloria CLAVERÍA NADAL y Álvaro S. OCTAVIO de TOLEDO y HUERTA (eds.) (2024), *Lingüística histórica del español / The Routledge Handbook of Spanish Historical Linguistics*. London and New York: Routledge. Disponible en e-book.

ECHENIQUE, Mª Teresa y Mª José MARTÍNEZ (2011), *Diacronía y gramática histórica de la lengua española*. Valencia: Tirant Humanidades. Disponible en e-book.

ECHENIQUE, Mª Teresa y Juan SÁNCHEZ (2005), *Las lenguas de un reino. Historia lingüística hispánica*. Madrid: Gredos.

FERNÁNDEZ ALCAIDE, Marta (2023), *Historia de la lengua española II. Español clásico*. Madrid: Arco/Libros.

FRADEJAS RUEDA, José Manuel (1997), *Fonología histórica del español*. Madrid: Visor Libros.

LAPESA, Rafael (1981), *Historia de la lengua española*. Madrid: Gredos.

LLEAL, Coloma (1990), *La formación de las lenguas romances peninsulares*. Barcelona: Barcanova.

LLOYD, Paul M. (1987/1993), *Del latín al español: I. Fonología y morfología históricas de la lengua española*. Madrid: Gredos.

MEDINA LÓPEZ, Javier (1999), *Historia de la lengua española I. Español medieval*. Madrid: Arco/Libros.

MENÉNDEZ PIDAL, Ramón (1940), *Manual de gramática histórica española*. Madrid: Espasa-Calpe.

PENNY, Ralph (1991), *Gramática histórica del español*. Barcelona: Ariel. 2ª edición de 2006.

PENNY, Ralph (2015), "Historia del español: los sonidos", en Gutiérrez Rexach, J. (ed.): *Enciclopedia de Lingüística Hispánica*. New York: Routledge, vol. II, pp. 547-563. Disponible en e-book en el catálogo de la UAB.

ROJO, Guillermo (2021), *Introducción a la lingüística de corpus en español*. New York: Routledge. Disponible en e-book en el catálogo de la UAB.

TORRENS ÁLVAREZ, M.ª Jesús (2018), "Evolución diacrónica de los sonidos del español", en Ridruejo, E. (ed.): *Manual de Lingüística Española*. Berlin-Boston: De Gruyter, pp. 67-95. Disponible en e-book.

TORRENS ÁLVAREZ, M.ª Jesús (2018), *Evolución e historia de la lengua española*. 2ª ed. actualizada. Madrid: Arco/Libros.

TORRUELLA, Joan (2017), *Lingüística de corpus. Génesis y bases metodológicas de los corpus (históricos) para la investigación científica*. Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang. Disponible en e-book.

YLLERA, Alicia (1983), "Lingüística histórica", a ABAD, Francisco y Antonio GARCÍA BERRIO (coord.), *Introducción a la lingüística*. Madrid: Alhambra, pp. 345-388.

#### **Links:**

DAVIES, Mark: Banco de datos [on line]. *Corpus del español*. <<http://www.corpusdelespanol.org>>.

GAGO JOVER, Francisco y F. Javier PUEYO MENA (2020): *Old Spanish Textual Archive* (OSTA). <<http://osta.oldspanishtextualarchive.org>>.

REAL ACADEMIA ESPAÑOLA: Banco de datos (CORDE) [on line]. *Corpus diacrónico del español*. <<http://corpus.rae.es/cordenet.html>>.

REAL ACADEMIA ESPAÑOLA: Banco de datos (CREA) [on line]. *Corpus de referencia del español actual*. <<http://corpus.rae.es/creanet.html>>.

REAL ACADEMIA ESPAÑOLA: Banco de datos (CNDH) [on line]. *Corpus del Nuevo Diccionario Histórico del Español*. <<http://web.frl.es/CNDHE>>.

REAL ACADEMIA ESPAÑOLA: Banco de datos (CORPES XXI) [on line]. *Corpus del Español del Siglo XXI*. <<http://web.frl.es/CORPES>>.

TORRUELLA, Joan i KABATEK, Johannes (dirs.). *Portal de Corpus Históricos Iberorrománicos* (CORHIBER). <<http://www.corhiber.org>>.

## **Software**

In this course it is not necessary to use specific computer programs.

## **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