

Dear student,

Thank you for considering SPN 491 The Sounds of Spanish. I hope to give you a better sense of this course with this FAQ. But, if you have any additional questions and want to understand more how this course may fit it into your larger academic and professional goals, don't hesitate to contact me.

Warm regards,

Prof. Silvina

What is this course really about?

In a nutshell: this class is about pronunciation and how our brain organizes information regarding speech sounds. We will talk a lot about how the sounds of Spanish are pronounced, how they may differ across Hispanophone communities and why it is like that.

What kinds of activities will we do in class?

We will do activities to put the concepts we learn into practice. We will also use lots of audios to illustrate pronunciation differences. In some of our work we will use songs, and other times audios and videos. You will also be making recordings. Don't worry! We will not be playing them for the whole class ;)

What will the readings be like?

Primarily, we will be following a textbook, written in Spanish: *Sonidos y sentido*, by Jorge Guitart. This book is especially written for undergraduates in US universities. We will complement with a few other readings, some in Spanish and some in English.

How will we be assessed?

Some of the homework will be graded. There will also be perception trainings, transcriptions of audios of native speakers (mostly, using regular orthographic spelling, but a few smaller ones using phonetic symbols) we will work with, as well as a midterm exam.

What are some ways this course is relevant to my language studies?

This course will enhance your knowledge of Spanish pronunciation. There will be opportunities to practice your pronunciation. Also, the knowledge you gain in this course is transferable to listening comprehension, since it will give you additional language tools to parse oral speech.