



SPA 597 - 10222

Introduction to Hispanic Pragmatics

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Cristina M. González

Virtual class meetings: Weekly meetings via MyLeo-Zoom (TBA)

Office Location: Virtual Office

Office Hours: Tuesdays 10:30am-12:30pm, by appointment

Office Phone: 903 886-5271.

University Email Address: cristina.gonzalez@tamuc.edu

Communication Response Time: I will respond to emails within 24 hours during the work week and by the next business day on weekends and holidays.

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

1. Félix-Brasdefer, C. (2010). *Pragmática del Español*. New York & London: Routledge. ISBN 978-1-138-21580-1.
2. Compilation of articles, available in *MyLeoOnline*
3. To fully participate in the online meetings, a good headset with microphone and computer camera are required.

Course Description

Broadly defined, Pragmatics is the study of language *in action*, as it happens embedded in specific sociocultural contexts. Focusing on understanding the principles that shape verbal communication and

interaction, Pragmatics makes explicit the underlying and integrative processes in the production and interpretation of meaning. Cognitive perspectives in Pragmatics analyze how representations of knowledge, integration of information, and inferential processes influence and bound production and interpretation of meaning. Sociocultural perspectives focus on the construction of social meaning considering the dynamic interaction among language users, situated communication events, and cultural frameworks.

This intensive graduate course explores core issues on Spanish Pragmatics, providing a review of cognitive and sociocultural perspectives on speech acts, implicatures, politeness, and addressing systems. The seminar will integrate intercultural and variationist approaches to better understand the broad repertoire of options that the Spanish language offers their users.

The seminar will be conducted in Spanish and will consist mainly of guided readings, student presentations, and discussions. Readings will be in English and Spanish.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Explain main approaches to Pragmatics studies, integrating theoretical principles, analytical models, and specific cases in Spanish.
2. Describe and analyze the interaction of different levels of meaning when interpreting Spanish utterances in context.
3. Compare and contrast speech acts, deictic signaling, politeness, and forms of address considering Spanish varieties.
4. Integrate Pragmatics perspectives in curriculum design and instructional practices for teaching and learning Spanish.

Collection of Data for Measuring Institutional Effectiveness:

In order to measure the level of compliance with the university's Institutional Effectiveness guidelines, I will collect some of the ungraded materials you will produce for the class. These materials will be part of a portfolio created on your behalf and will be measured to ensure that our program "promotes practices that result in higher student academic achievement; an enhanced student experience; aligned and transparent decisions; and readily available information for improvement, accountability, and accreditation" (see "Department of Institutional Effectiveness," www.tamuc.edu/aboutus/institutionaleffectiveness/default.aspx). This is solely an assessment of program effectiveness and in no way affects students' course grades or GPAs.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course Presentation

This online course will be delivered through TAMUC's MyLeoOnline (D2L) platform. You will use your TAMUC MyLeo account to access the platform and navigate the course content, which includes short video presentations, readings, multimedia materials, discussion threads, and video conferencing tools (zoom).

The course is organized around five learning units which focus on relevant aspects of Spanish Pragmatics, as follow:

Unit 1: core concepts; pragmatics as interdisciplinary field; historical background.

Unit 2: Deixis, reference, and anaphora; deixis of person, time, and space; deixis processing in Spanish-speaking communities around the world.

Unit 3: Speech acts; speech acts compositionality; speech acts classifications. Speech acts in Spanish-speaking communities around the world.

Unit 4: Language politeness; politeness norms and linguistic variation in Spanish-speaking communities.

Unit 5: Pragmatics in teaching and learning Spanish.

Minimal Technical Skills

Students in this course are expected to be able to: a) manage TAMUC Library resources for advance academic research; b) competently use MSFT Office tools (Word, Excel, PPoint); c) access, navigate and use the diverse tools included in the course MyLeoOnline (D2L).

Student Responsibilities

Students' participation is essential and required to succeed in this course. Students are expected to: 1) read and prepare assigned materials by the due dates; 2) actively engage in all virtual meetings; 3) complete and submit assignments by the due date; and 4) interact with each other and the instructor on a regular basis.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

a. Course communication. Good communication in an online setting is a fundamental component of success. Please consider the different types of media available for communication with your instructor and classmates, in individual and group formats. Please follow [Netiquette rules](#) to keep our conversation professional, engaging and polite.

During the semester, we will use three main means of communication:

- *Announcements:* General tool for course communication; I will post short messages or reminders related to due dates or changes in the assignments.
- *Email:* Please only use the official TAMUC Leo Email to communicate with me and your classmates. I will send general emails with information related to the course, date changes, assignments modifications, etc. or with information that relate to our content. I will send individual emails as needed. I will respond to emails in 24 hs. during the work week and by the next business day on weekends and holidays.
To setup the TAMUC email contact **HelpDesk** helpdesk@tamuc.edu or call 903-468-6000; you may also access information at <https://leo.tamuc.edu>.
- *General Discussion Board:* Located in the "General Resources" folder, this board is open to all participants; anyone can post a comment, question or suggestion related or unrelated to the course. All students are encouraged to participate and post responses; I will visit this board regularly.

b. Feedback and assessment: You will receive detailed feedback on article presentations and participation 72 hours after the activity is completed (see the 'Tentative Course Schedule' for

details). Participation in the online meetings and discussion boards will be assessed through a comprehensive rubric (see the “Recursos” folder for details).

GRADING

Activities & assessments

Course Interaction (20 % of final grade). Participation in this course will be completed by engaging in online discussions where participants will present, revise and discuss specific content, provide examples, case-studies, or posit questions related to the readings and complementary materials. In addition, students are expected to participate in four virtual meetings (via MyLeo-Zoom) See details in the Course Schedule.

Tests (40% of final grade). Students will complete four (4) online tests based on the assigned readings and activities completed in each unit.

Article presentation: (20 % of the final grade). Working in pairs, participants will select an article or book chapter from the reading list to conduct a 15-minute academic presentation of the content; presentations will be held in the last virtual meetings of the course. See details in the “Recursos” folder in MyLeo.

Lesson plan: (20 % of the final grade). Students will prepare a full lesson plan focusing on any topic related to Hispanic Pragmatics. Each plan will clearly describe lesson content, sequence, activities, materials, references, and a short summary explaining the theoretical background that supports the lesson plan design. Possible topics for the lesson plan include but are not limited to: *speech acts and language learning; conversation strategies; politeness in formal/informal discourse; pragmatics and humor in language teaching; using corpus research to teach pragmatics; discourse markers, etc.* See details in the *Lesson Plan Instructions* in the “Recursos” folder for details.

Grade distribution

Course interaction	20%
Article presentation	20%
Test	40% (4 x 10%)
Lesson plan	20%
Total	100%

Grading Scale: A=100-90 B=89-80 C=79-70 D=69-60 F= 59>

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

Withdraws & Incomplete grade.

A student may drop a course by logging into his/her myLeo account and clicking on the hyperlink labeled "Drop a class" from among the choices found under the myLeo section of the web page.

I reserve the right to drop a student from the course administratively for excessive absences or violations of the Code of Student Conduct. Incomplete grades (grade of "X") are granted only under rare and extraordinary circumstances which are fully documented; students requesting an incomplete grade should contact the instructor as soon as possible, provide all pertinent documentation, and sign the 'X' grade contract which details the coursework they need to complete to pass the class.

Grievance procedures.

Students who have concerns regarding their courses should first address those concerns with the assigned instructor in order to reach a resolution. Students who are unsatisfied with the outcome of that conversation or have not been able to meet individually with their instructor, whether in-person, by email, by telephone, or by another communication medium, should then schedule an appointment with the Director of the Spanish Program, Dr. Flavia Belpoliti (flavia.belpoliti@tamuc.edu). If there are still unresolved issues, students need to schedule an appointment with the Department Head, Dr. Hunter Hayes, by completing a Student Grievance Form (available in the Department Main Office, HL 141). In the event that the instructor is the Department Head, the student should schedule a meeting with the Dean of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Humanities after following the steps outlined above. If the instructor is the Assistant Department Head, students should schedule a meeting with the Department Head. Where applicable, students should also consult University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.05 ("Student Appeal of Instructor Evaluation").

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquette](#)

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is borrowing the work of others and not giving credit where credit is due. It is unethical and reflects very poorly on a person's character. Copying someone else's work or asking a friend or tutor to write your work constitutes a violation of the TAMUC Academic Honesty Policy. Likewise, the use of digital tools to translate your work to Spanish is also unacceptable. Instructors in the Department of Literature and Languages do not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Instructors uphold and support the highest academic standards, and students are expected to do likewise.

Penalties for students guilty of academic dishonesty include disciplinary probation, suspension, and expulsion. Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

Students with Disabilities - ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so.

Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

TENTATIVE COURSE CALENDAR

Important notes:

This course schedule is subject to revisions and changes as the instructor deems necessary. Any changes to the course schedule will be announced in class and on the course website in advance.

Week	Topics	Activities and Readings
Aug 24-31 Aug 31- Sept 7	Foundational concepts. Theoretical models. Deixis & reference.	Virtual meeting 1 – Tuesday, Aug 26 @ 7pm CST <i>Félix-Brasdefer, Caps. 1, 2 & 8; Gómez-Rendón 1-28; Benveniste 82-91.</i>
Sept 7-14 Sept 14-21	Speech acts. Inferential meaning. Implicatures. Relevance theory.	Virtual meeting 2 <i>Félix-Brasdefer, Caps. 3, 4 & 7. Molina Vidal, 1-18.</i>
Sept 21-28 Sept 28- Oct 5	Politeness. Core concepts and models. Politeness in the Spanish-speaking world.	Virtual meeting 3 <i>Félix-Brasdefer, Caps. 5 & 6; Landone, 1-17.</i>
Oct 5-12 Oct 12-19	Pragmatics for teaching and learning Spanish	Virtual meeting 4 <i>Félix-Brasdefer, Cap 9; Pons Bordería, 41-58</i> Presentations during virtual meeting on Oct 14.
Oct 19-26 Oct 26- Nov 2	Speech acts. Inferential meaning. Implicatures. Relevance theory.	Virtual meeting 5 <i>Félix-Brasdefer, Caps. 3, 4 & 7. Molina Vidal, 1-18.</i>
Nov 2-9 Nov 9-16	Politeness. Core concepts and models. Politeness in the Spanish-speaking world.	Virtual meeting 6 <i>Félix-Brasdefer, Caps. 5 & 6; Landone, 1-17.</i>
Nov 16-23 Nov 23- Dec 5	Pragmatics for teaching and learning Spanish	Virtual meeting 7 <i>Félix-Brasdefer, Cap 9; Pons Bordería, 41-58</i> Presentations during virtual meeting. Lesson plan is due

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>