



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

DEPARTMENT OF HISPANIC STUDIES

GUIDE TO LEVEL 1A
COURSES

2009 - 2010

INTRODUCTION

This booklet serves as a guide to Level 1A study in the Department of Hispanic Studies. The complete Level 1A course comprises TWO Modules of 20 credits each.

Module taught in the Autumn Semester: HSS 130

Module taught in the Spring Semester: HSS 131

The Level 1A course is intended to be an introduction to the range of studies subsequently available as Optional Modules at Levels 2 and 3. Although the nature of Modules HSS 130 and HSS 131 allows students to exercise a measure of choice, students are expected to attend all classes in accordance with the University's Students' Charter.

MODULE HSS 130 (AUTUMN SEMESTER)

HSS130 has three components:

Spanish Language (spoken and written)

Contexts: An Introduction to Contemporary Spanish Society

A Text from Spain

SPANISH LANGUAGE

SPOKEN LANGUAGE

One session per week is devoted to oral practice with a native *lector* in order to achieve communicative fluency in Spanish on general topics and aspects of contemporary Spain and Latin America at the level of an educated Spanish speaker.

Spoken Language Coordinator: María José Puig Pardos

WRITTEN LANGUAGE

One session per week is devoted to a range of language exercises which aim to equip students with a high degree of proficiency in written Spanish including:

- a) Competence in written communication: the presentation and flexible handling of ideas and arguments; the summarising of written materials.
- b) Ability to comprehend accurately and in context a range of writing in contemporary Spanish, from advertisements to articles on political, economic and social topics in newspapers, magazines and books.
- c) Ability to translate from and into Spanish in a variety of registers.

Written Language Course Coordinator: Dr Louise Johnson

CONTEXTS: AN INTRODUCTION TO CONTEMPORARY SPANISH SOCIETY

One session per week (usually at 10.00 a.m. on Wednesdays) will be devoted to Spanish society, providing an outline of political and social structures. The course will analyse aspects of social, political, economic and cultural developments in Spain, with an emphasis on the present-day, but setting the examination of institutions and attitudes in a historical context.

Course Text: Christopher J. Ross *et al*, *Contemporary Spain*

Course Tutor: Professor Philip Deacon

A TEXT FROM SPAIN

Five sessions per semester (usually at 9.00 a.m. on Mondays) will be devoted to a Spanish text as follows:

Study of a tragic drama written by one of Spain's major twentieth-century authors highlighting issues of sexuality and repression in a rural setting, reflecting conflicts within Spanish society during the 1930s. Detailed analysis of the play will pay particular attention to the way dialogue is geared to its dramatic context.

Course Text: Federico García Lorca, *Yerma*.

Course Tutor: Dr Anja Louis

The remaining Monday morning sessions will be devoted to work on aspects of the Contexts and Texts courses and on more generic issues such as essay writing and other skills. You may also wish to discuss such matters with your personal tutor, but should be aware that some Personal Tutors are not available in the Monday 9.00 a.m. slot and will arrange an alternative time slot with their tutees.

<h2>MODULE HSS 131 (SPRING SEMESTER)</h2>

HSS131 has the following components:

Spanish Language

Contexts: An Introduction to Latin America

A Text from Latin America

SPANISH LANGUAGE

Module HSS131 continues the course in spoken and written Spanish as outlined above for Module HSS130, advancing the learning process in the areas specified.

CONTEXTS: INTRODUCTION TO LATIN AMERICA

One session per week is devoted to a general introduction to Latin America, its peoples and its nations.

Course Text: Materials on Latin America will be made available at the start of Semester 2

Course Tutor: Dr Peter Watt

A TEXT FROM LATIN AMERICA

Five sessions per semester (usually at 9.00 a.m. on Mondays) will be devoted to a Latin American text as follows:

A collection of short stories by the Peruvian writer Alfredo Bryce Echenique to introduce you to contemporary Latin-American narrative

Course Text: Alfredo Bryce Echenique, *Huerto Cerrado*

Course Tutor: Dr David Wood

The remaining Monday morning sessions will be devoted to aspects of the Contexts and Texts courses and on more generic issues such as essay writing and other skills. You should bear in mind that some Personal Tutors are not available in the Monday 9.00 a.m. slot and will arrange an alternative time slot with their tutees.

ASSESSMENT AND EXAMINATIONS

The course structure is reflected in the arrangements for assessment, which combine end-of-semester examinations and marks for course work, according to the following scheme:

LANGUAGE (50% of total grade)

ORAL SKILLS

The assessment of spoken Spanish for modules HSS 130 and HSS 131 will normally be based on a presentation to the class (50%) and on performance in the weekly classes (50%). The following criteria will apply:

1. Attendance at a minimum of **eight classes** in each semester is a pre-requisite.
2. Active participation in class will be taken into account.
3. The evaluation will be based on the following linguistic factors.
 - comprehension
 - authenticity of pronunciation and intonation
 - grammatical accuracy
 - range of vocabulary
 - communicative effectiveness

In week 11 of each semester, students will be notified of the course-mark awarded; students who do not reach a satisfactory level in the continuous assessment will be required to attend a formal oral examination.

Element weighting (Semester 1): 20%

Element weighting (Semester 2): 20%

WRITTEN LANGUAGE SKILLS

Written language skills will be assessed on the basis of weekly coursework and a global assessment test in each semester. The mark for each semester will be based on the average of 4 pieces of tutor-marked coursework in addition to the global assessment exercise. A mark of 60% must be reached in the global test in order to be deemed to have satisfactorily completed the course. Coursework must be submitted at (or before) the class that follows the one in which it is set. Work submitted after the specified time will not be permitted to count as part of the course assessment scheme. Anyone failing to complete the minimum number of pieces of work in time will be additionally required to sit and reach a satisfactory level in a formal written examination set at the end of the semester in order to satisfy the requirements of the module. The only permitted exemption from this requirement is when students are unable to submit work because of illness or other exceptional circumstances, for which justification in writing must be submitted at the time to the appropriate language tutor. Anyone failing to secure a satisfactory mark according to the assessment scheme must take an end-of-semester formal examination. However, this does not exempt students from the requirement to complete the programme of coursework laid down by the course tutor or of sitting the global assessment tests (one per semester).

Element weighting (Semester 1) : 30%

Element weighting (Semester 2) : 30%

SPAIN AND LATIN AMERICA: CONTEXTS AND TEXTS (50% of total grade)

HSS130

Contexts: Spain	Semester 1 examination Element weighting: 30%
Text from Spain	Course essay Element weighting: 20%

HSS131

Contexts: Latin America	Semester 2 examination Element weighting: 30%
Text from Latin America	Course essay Element weighting: 20%

Failure to submit the course work at the time specified will automatically incur a fail mark for the module as a whole.

A pass level must be obtained in each aspect assessed.

GUIDANCE ON THE ASSESSED ESSAY

Details of essay titles will be issued by Course Tutors (Dr Louis and Dr Wood). Students are required to follow departmental procedures on format and presentation. The departmental *Essay Guide* provides guidance and instructions on how to write and present essays. Copies are available from MOLE, the Departmental online resources site.

THE SUBMISSION OF ASSESSED WORK

Assessed course essays must be submitted by the date specified to the School office on floor 1 of the Jessop West building.

In accordance with university norms on anonymous assessment, course essays should be submitted using the departmental cover sheet which enables a student's name to be concealed until after the essay has been marked.

Essay cover sheets are available from the Departmental website.

PLAGIARISM

The attention of students is drawn to the Faculty of Arts regulations on plagiarism.

- Candidates are required to submit their own original work. Where other material is used, they must state the sources from which the information is derived and the extent to which they have availed themselves of the work of others.
- Any candidate who appears to be using or to have used unfair means may be reported to the Registrar and Secretary and disciplinary action may ensue.

Work submitted must include a signed statement declaring that 'all works consulted have been duly acknowledged'. A declaration to this effect is incorporated into the departmental cover sheet. Copying or lightly paraphrasing someone else's work without use of inverted commas or proper acknowledgement is taken very seriously, and has recently resulted in students being excluded from their courses.

PENALTIES FOR LATE SUBMISSION

A deduction of 5% per working day is made for work submitted after the deadline, up to a maximum of 5 days, after which a mark of zero is awarded.

For fuller details of Faculty policy see <http://www.shef.ac.uk/tlsu/handbook/penalties.pdf>
In certain exceptional circumstances the deadline may be extended. For this to apply the student concerned must request an extension, and receive the agreement of the Level 1 Course Coordinator, before the submission date. The reasons for an extension of the deadline must be genuinely exceptional (e.g. medical problems, personal or family problems, force majeure). Inability to plan ahead or a clash with other assessment obligations is not an acceptable reason. The circumstances should be set out on the form available from the Departmental online resources site.

THE TUTORIAL SYSTEM

At the beginning of the year students are assigned to a Personal Tutor with whom they meet periodically for informal discussion and back-up work related to selected aspects of their course. Students should normally consult the Personal Tutor if they require clarification concerning aspects of the course.

Personal Tutors are also there to offer help and advice on personal matters, if students wish to consult them. There exists more specialist advice elsewhere on the campus but you may find it helpful to consult your Personal Tutor in the first instance.

LEARNING RESOURCES

COMPUTERS

There are a large number of PCs available for student use throughout the campus, including the Information Commons, Jessop West, and the Western Bank Library. When you register as a user you are given your own number which enables you to access the library catalogue as well as a host of other services available via the University network such as e-mail and the Internet. Corporate Information and Computing Services (CiCS) provides comprehensive backup for all your needs. It is a simple matter to write essays and other course assignments in a form which makes them easy to read as well as keep safe.

AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS

The Department sometimes arranges showings of films from Spain, Portugal and Latin America. Watch out for notices.

Sheffield's excellent *Showroom* cinema also has regular showings of the latest films from Spain, Portugal and Latin America; Mondays and Tuesdays are student nights with special concessionary prices. Watch out for copies of the monthly programme or put yourself on their free email list (info@showroom.org.uk).

VIDEOS AND DVDS

The University Library (Information Commons and Western Bank) holds videos and DVDs in Spanish (mainly of cinema films), which can be borrowed like any book. If there are other materials in Spanish which you think should be added to the holdings, please drop an email to Philip Deacon with your recommendation.

PERIODICALS

The Western Bank Library subscribes to, and keeps back issues (for a month) of the Madrid-based daily newspaper *El País*. Spanish daily newspapers (*El País*, *ABC*, *El Mundo*) can also be bought (for the previous day) in the Union shop. Most newspapers can, however, be easily accessed on the Internet. Make a bookmark for your favourite

Spanish, Latin-American, Portuguese or Catalan newspapers so that they are readily available when you log on.

PRIVATE LANGUAGE STUDY

The Modern Languages Teaching Centre (Portobello Building off Mappin Street) has language laboratory facilities for private study, as well as satellite TV, computer-based language learning programmes, and substantial holdings of audio and video language materials for individual student use.

MEMBERS OF STAFF

Members of staff with particular responsibilities for Level 1 students are:

Head of Department:	Dr David Wood
Year Tutor:	Dr Louise Johnson
Senior Lectora:	María José Puig Pardos

SET BOOKS

ESSENTIAL PRELIMINARY READING

Christopher ROSS, Bill RICHARDSON and Begoña SANGRADOR-VEGAS
Contemporary Spain, London, Hodder Arnold, 2008 (Semester 1)

Materials on Latin America will be made available at the start of Semester 2

PRESCRIBED COURSE MATERIALS

John BUTT and Carmen BENJAMIN, *A New Reference Grammar of Modern Spanish*, London, Arnold

Christopher J. POUNTAIN and Teresa de CARLOS, *Practising Spanish Grammar. A Workbook*, London, Arnold

Federico GARCÍA LORCA, *Yerma*, ed. Robin Warner, Manchester, Manchester University Press, (Semester 1).

Alfredo BRYCE ECHENIQUE, *Huerto cerrado*, ed. David Wood, Manchester, Manchester University Press, 2007. (Semester 2)

Students intending to pursue an Honours course in Spanish beyond Level 1 are strongly encouraged to obtain a large bilingual dictionary. Either of the following is recommended:

The Oxford Spanish Dictionary, Oxford, Oxford University Press

or

Collins Spanish Dictionary, Glasgow, HarperCollins

RECOMMENDED BOOKSELLERS

Blackwell's University Bookshop

St. Georges Library

Mappin Street

SHEFFIELD S1 4DT

Tel: 0114-2787211

E-mail: blackwells@sheffield.ac.uk

(Blackwell's aims to have all the course books in stock at the Sheffield branch)

The Dolphin Book Co. (Tredwr) Ltd.

LLANDYSUL

Ceredigion SA44 6BA

Tel: 01239 654404

E-mail: martin@dolphinbookco.freeserve.co.uk

Grant and Cutler Ltd

55-57 Great Marlborough Street

LONDON W1V 2AY

Tel: 0171-7342012

E-mail: postmaster@grant-c.demon.co.uk

WWW: <http://www.grant-c.demon.co.uk>

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NOTE

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this booklet, but the University can accept no responsibility for any errors or omissions.