



FACULTY-LED
STUDY ABROAD

KIIS SPAIN II Program, Summer 2025

SPAN 384 Spanish Phonetics and Phonology

Instructor: Prof. Chin-Sook Pak

Email: cpak@bsu.edu

Instructor's office hours: on site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description:

Do you want to sound more like a native speaker? Pronunciation is one of the first features noticed by native speakers in the speech of non-native speakers. In this class, you will study the sound patterns of Spanish and work on *improving* your own pronunciation. Through analysis, imitation, and practice, you will be able to identify major differences and similarities between the sound systems of North American English and Spanish. An important component of the course is speech analysis exercises in which you will transcribe and analyze short speech recordings of your host family and local community members. You will also make and analyze pre- and post-term recordings of your own speech. In addition, we will explore: What is accent bias? What kind of factors can affect the acquisition of second language speech? What are some strategies for learning and teaching pronunciation? Finally, as you interact with the local community, you will learn salient pronunciation features characteristic of the Peninsular Spanish as compared to other varieties of Spanish in Latin America. The course is taught entirely in Spanish.

2. Overall KIIS Program Student Learning Outcomes:

KIIS Study Abroad Mission Statement:

KIIS provides high-quality education abroad programs for students from all diverse backgrounds that promote deep international learning, are integrated into the curriculum, and encourage critical and creative thinking. Our goal is to help students understand the wider world and develop personal and professional skills for lifelong enrichment. We strive to go beyond generalizations and cultural stereotypes to help foster a nuanced appreciation of the world in which we live.

Students participating on KIIS study abroad programs aim to:

- 1) Understand contemporary issues of their host country/countries (i.e. KIIS program location).
- 2) Develop skills to interact comfortably in a global setting.
- 3) Understand other cultures.

Prior to your KIIS study abroad program, and again at the conclusion of your program, KIIS will ask each student to a) answer a few multiple-choice questions, and b) write a short reflective essay (two paragraphs in length) related to the elements detailed above. There is no right or wrong answer, and your responses will not affect your grade in any way. The

purpose of the exercise is to help KISS measure the effectiveness of its study abroad programs.

3. Course Objectives and Specific Learning Outcomes:

After completing this course, students should be able to:

- identify major differences between the sound systems of North American English and Spanish.
- identify problematic areas of pronunciation of Spanish for English-speaking students.
- identify major dialectal differences in sound patterns across the Spanish-speaking world.
- discuss factors that can affect the acquisition of second language speech.
- read and produce phonetic transcription using the International Phonetic Alphabet.
- understand the negative effects of accent bias and discuss how we can address them.
- handle a wider range of vocabulary in listening, speaking, reading, and writing activities.

4. Required Readings and Materials:

- Course materials to be posted.
- Notebook for writing.

5. Graded Assignments:

Students will demonstrate the learning outcomes through pre- and post-recording analysis of students' speech (the focus is on improvement and not perfection), quizzes, community speech recordings, a number of reading and writing assignments, class discussions, and other speech analysis activities. Grades will be based on the quality of oral and written production and on improvement over the term. The final grade will be based on the following:

Speech analysis exercises	20%	90-100	A
Quizzes	20%	80-89	B
Short speech presentations & recordings	20%	70-79	C
Class participation and preparation	20%	60-69	D
Final exam	20%	≤ 59	F

Note: Please complete the below pre-analysis and recording assignment **BEFORE you leave for Spain** (it should not take you more than 30 minutes). There is no right or wrong way to do this – you will need the pre-analysis and the initial recording to monitor your progress as you learn the tools of phonetics and do practice activities in Spain. You will compare the initial recording with the final recording at the end of the program.

Para completar ANTES de llegar a España:

1. Ver en Youtube: “**One semester of Spanish Love Song**” (2 minutos)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ngRq82c8Baw>
Escucha a Mike. ¿Qué piensas de su acento? En tu opinión, ¿cuáles son algunas características de su pronunciación de “extranjero”? Escribe 1-2 párrafo(s); siempre da ejemplos concretos para apoyar tu opinión.
2. Grabar tu pronunciación – incluir Parte I y II en la misma grabación (2 minutos)

Parte I: Practica dos o tres veces y graba tu lectura en voz alta del siguiente texto:

Las plazas mayores de España

La Plaza Mayor es el "salón" de las ciudades y poblaciones de España. Son espacios majestuosos, acogedores y llenos de vida. Cuando las conozcas te darás cuenta de que su particular arquitectura las hace diferentes al resto de las grandes plazas de Europa. Punto de encuentro social, también son un animado centro de actividad cultural y comercial. Ya te avisamos: no querrás salir de ellas... Está presente en casi todas las localidades y es uno de los elementos urbanos más singulares de España. La Plaza Mayor de cada destino es, sin duda, una visita obligada por muchos motivos... la sorpresa siempre es inevitable ante sus detalles ornamentales, su colorido, la belleza de sus fachadas... y sobre todo, por el agradable ambiente que se respira en ellas.

(De http://www.spain.info/es/reportajes/las_plazas_mayores_de_espana.html)

Parte II: Graba una breve presentación de ti mismo/a (30 segundos): "Hola, me llamo... Soy de... Mi especialidad es... Cuando tengo tiempo libre, me gusta... Quiero ir a España porque..."

6. Attendance Policy:

KIIS program participants are expected to be punctual to and in attendance at all classes, presentations, meetings and required excursions, and to remain with the program for the full academic period. Unexcused absences from classes and/or mandatory meetings will result in a lowering of the student's final grade, as will excessive tardiness. Multiple unexcused absences could result in expulsion from the program. Any absence from an academic class session must be excused for medical reasons.

7. Disability Accommodation:

KIIS will make every reasonable effort to provide accommodations for program participants with special needs or disabilities, but we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Be aware that many foreign countries do not have comprehensive legislation comparable to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). As a result, businesses and other establishments operating in foreign countries may not be able to provide accommodations.

If you have a disability accommodation need, we recommend you contact your KIIS Campus Representative, <https://www.kiis.org/about-kiis/contact-us/campus-representatives/> early in your program selection process so that s/he has time to discuss any specific needs, including which KIIS programs may be best suited. You also are welcome to contact KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning, maria.canning@wku.edu, to discuss your disability accommodation needs (e.g. housing, transportation, excursions, class schedule, etc.).

Immediately after acceptance, notify KIIS Admissions and Enrollment Specialist, Haley McTaggart, haley.mctaggart@wku.edu, if you have a special need or disability that might require any form of accommodation abroad. Failure to notify KIIS may prevent you from participating on your KIIS program.

If you require any accommodations abroad, you must provide KIIS Admissions and Enrollment Specialist, Haley McTaggart, an accommodation letter from your home campus' disability accommodation office that lists the accommodations you are eligible to receive. Please do not request accommodations directly from your KIIS Program Director or other KIIS Faculty;

the KIIS Office will notify your KIIS Program Director and/or Faculty after we have received your above accommodation letter.

In some cases, you may need to make arrangements for a caregiver to join you on your KIIS program, should your physician, campus disability accommodation office, or KIIS make such a recommendation or require it.

8. Title IX / Discrimination & Harassment:

Recent attention to gender discrimination and sexual harassment at colleges and universities reminds us of the importance of adhering to standards of ethical and professional behavior. KIIS Study Abroad is committed to supporting and encouraging safe and equitable educational environments for our students, faculty, and program directors. Students, faculty, and program directors are required to be civil and treat each other with dignity and respect. As such, harassment and/or discrimination of any kind will not be permitted or tolerated.

Sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, sexual assault, and sexual/dating/domestic violence) and sex discrimination are violations of KIIS policies. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to a) KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning (+1-859-200-1000) or KIIS Executive Director, John Dizgun (+1-270-227-2288), b) WKU's Title IX Coordinator, Ena Demir (270-745-6867 / ena.demir@wku.edu) or WKU's Title IX Investigator, Michael Crowe (270-745-5429 / michael.crowe@wku.edu). Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a KIIS program director and/or faculty member, KIIS program directors and faculty are considered "Responsible Employees" of Western Kentucky University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator.

If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center, <https://www.wku.edu/heretohelp/> at 270-745-3159.

For more information on KIIS Title IX, see <https://www.kiis.org/students/health-safety/title-ix-clery/>; additional Title IX resources can be found here <https://www.wku.edu/titleix/titleixbrochure2020.pdf>.

Everyone should be able to participate on a KIIS program, attend a KIIS event, or work in a KIIS environment (e.g. KIIS office) without fear of sexual harassment or discrimination of any kind. Be respectful of each other.