

**Department of Language and Linguistic Science
2022/23 Module Evaluation**

Summary of open comments with tutor response

Module Code and Name: LAN00008C

Module Convenor: Carmen Álvarez-Mayo

10 out of 21 students completed the online module evaluation.

5 students left comments.

Overall satisfaction score for the module was: 4.2

Summary of comments:

Positive comments	Number
Carmen is a wonderful person, (continued in the next section)	1
The module was good and teaching largely clear.	2
My professor is very passionate about their subject and their classes are always engaging.	3
Carmen is a lovely teacher who is incredibly friendly and approachable and makes the seminars enjoyable. (...) Carmen herself is such a kind person and I'm very glad that I was able to be taught by her.	4
	5

Constructive criticisms	Number
(...) however, and I hope the department can adopt a few adaptations based on French Grammar's module structure which would enable it to be a fantastic module. I don't feel my level of Spanish grammar or understanding has improved over the course of this module. It is essentially linguistic theory that native Spanish speakers would be studying if they chose to study linguistics, which I did not. The grammar module for French was spot-on in providing life long critical knowledge and practice on written and oral language skills. This module had poor classroom engagement and often consisted of talking through powerpoint presentations which was very unsatisfactory in terms of stimulation.	1
However, there was a lot of content and we still learned new concepts right up until the exam, leaving little time for revision.	2
	3
I would say there is a slight lack of organisation as she often arrives late to class (I believe due to timetabling issues and having to travel far in between classes) and this means that we have to wait a further 5 minutes for her to set up. (...) I would like to reiterate that Carmen herself is such a kind person and I'm very glad that I was able to be taught by her. The content itself is quite challenging to memorise as the seminars typically	4

<p>consist of going through presentation slides that are already available to us instead of applying the knowledge through questions. I would suggest making the presentation slides as a preliminary activity to read through and then focus on applying said knowledge to practical questions within the seminar. We also had to complete many gapfills of Spanish songs which I'm not sure actually helped us all too much as it was more of a listening exercise than a grammatical one. It's clear to see that the content is quite difficult to take in and remember as when doing revision exercises towards the end of the year, hardly anybody could answer the questions without looking at notes or getting the answer told to us.</p>	
<p>Although grammar is useful and some interdisciplinary aspects are useful to know such as syntax analysis, this module is packed with overwhelming terminology. I personally think that the content of this module does not necessarily deserve a separate module and could be incorporated in other modules such as general Spanish culture & syntax.</p>	5

Tutor response:

I have taken onboard the constructive criticism shared by the students and applied it when designing the new semesterised module, which combines cultural, geographical, and historical knowledge of Spain and Spanish speaking countries, with applied grammar. Therefore, the new module will be more interdisciplinary, with much less linguistic terminology and theory. This will allow me to ensure that any more challenging/ linguistic content would be covered timely, leaving 2 to 3 weeks towards the end of the module for further practice and revision.

As noted in the feedback, the reason that I arrived sometimes late to class was due to the distance between the teaching rooms. I often arrived at 5 minutes past the hour, which is the seminar start time. And, when I arrive a few minutes before the start of the session, I do not start before the scheduled time, unless everyone has already arrived -- which does not happen often.

Although I reminded and encouraged all students to read the class notes and complete the homework timely, quite a few/ many did not do it. As a consequence, this hindered the amount of small group work (in pairs or groups of three or four students) and activities that could be done during the seminars, as I had to ensure that everyone was able to keep up with the module contents and able to engage and participate. However, we did a lot of class (all group) discussion and reflection together.

I use songs to learn and practise vocabulary and look and reflect on the use of grammar and syntactic structures in context. Also, to discuss cultural and historical aspects of Spanish culture.

Thank you for your feedback.