

Report
On Findings of the 2019-2020 Spanish Course Evaluation

Prepared and Approved by the Spanish Society, A.A.H.K.U.S.U.
June 1, 2020

The 2019-2020 Spanish Course Evaluation conducted by the Spanish Society, A.A.H.K.U.S.U., was closed on May 31, 2020. Students taking courses offered by the Spanish Section are invited to fill in the evaluation form on Google Forms in aid of the bulk email service provided by the H.K.U.S.U.

In two weeks' time, nineteen entries were received, about 80% of which were made by students taking Spanish foundation courses (SPAN1001 and SPAN1002). 84% of the entries were made in regard to their experience with Spanish courses in the spring semester. While more data could have been entered, it is noteworthy that there are more students taking the foundation courses than the core courses given that only those who pass the former are qualified to proceed to the latter. The result of the study, therefore, is still valid and to some extent reliable. In this summary, the average scores of all entries for each aspect would be included after the corresponding statement in parentheses.

Concerning the evaluation of the lectures, students' feedbacks are mostly positive. Although students do not find the contents of the course in particular easy to handle (3.9/5), under the effective teachings (4.7/5) and good organization of materials (4.7/5) by the lecturers, students believe that they can understand the lessons (4.4/5). On the other hand, more than 95% of students feel that the pace of the course is satisfactory. It is noteworthy that one student expresses that they do not understand the course, find the contents of the course difficult to handle, and feel uncomfortable to ask the lecturer questions; however, they state that they enjoy having Spanish class. Their unpleasant experience might not be attributed to the course nor the lecturers yet directed more to the online teaching method.

Feedbacks on the LAB class is not positive. While more than half of the students find the duration of the LAB class satisfactory, there are diverse subjective views about it either being too long or too short. On the one hand, students think the instructor could effectively deliver the contents of the courses in the LAB class (4.3/5) and the LAB class is effective itself on improving their listening skills (3.9/5); On the other hand, 42% of students find the teaching materials in LAB class easy to handle (3.3/5) and 37% can catch the answers from the audio easily (3.2/5). The materials could be too hard for students, and audios might suffer a loss in the quality when played on ZOOM, which makes it hard for students to comprehend.

Evaluation of the speaking session sees positive feedbacks. While more than half of the students find the duration of the speaking session satisfactory, there are diverse subjective views about it either being too long or too short. Students feel the instructor could effectively deliver the contents (4.4/5) and their teaching is effective (4.3/5). On the effectiveness of the speaking class itself, students feel that their verbal skills were improved (4.4/5). They find the teaching materials easy to handle (4.3/5) and are confident that they could effectively accomplish the required tasks in class (4/5). Again, certain students' unpleasant experiences might be ascribed to the means of teachings on ZOOM.

Nearly 65% of students state that they will take courses offered by the Spanish Section in the future while about a quarter are uncertain about their answer. When asked to leave comments, students state that their experience was undermined by the mode of online teaching and the difficulty of the tests. They wish that they could be taught more exam skills and hope that instructors could understand the troubles online teachings brought them when conducting the class. Lastly, some

students wish they could be given more chances to talk and play interactive games in class. They feel grateful for all the Spanish teachers for their helpfulness and enthusiasm. One of the students is deeply touched making an implication that they were crying.

In conclusion, the quality of the Spanish courses offered this academic year is above par. Despite the fact that online teachings dragged students and instructors down a lot, they were still able to accomplish their task fair and square. It is noted this study is conducted by the Spanish Society, A.A.H.K.U.S.U., and is not represented by the Spanish Section in what regards; Instead, we represent students taking the Spanish courses. It is strongly believed that the study could take better care of students' opinions if collaborated by the Section and the Society.

Students' feedbacks were delivered to the Spanish Section on the date of publication.