Linguistics 810-4

Topics in Linguistics I: Winners & Losers in Phonology

Instructor: Dr. Ashley Farris-Trimble
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PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course will cover constraint-based approaches to phonology, including optimality theory and harmonic grammar. Readings from the current literature will focus on the structure and rationale of constraint-based theories, their advantages, and their problems. Along with a basic focus on theory, the course will also cover phonological typology, accounts of phonological variation, children’s acquisition of constraint-based grammars, and experimental approaches to constraint-based grammars. Students taking this course will read, present, and discuss primary literature, both from a theoretical and an empirical perspective, and will complete an in-depth constraint-based analysis of primary data. Students will be graded on their ability to synthesize across course materials.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Additional readings will be drawn from book chapters and journal articles which are either available on-line or will be made available through a reserve system.

GRADING:
Presentation of required readings: 20%
Homework: 30%
Analysis paper: 40%
Class participation: 10%

Students should familiarize themselves with the Department's Standards on Class Management and Student Responsibilities at http://www.sfu.ca/linguistics/undergraduate/student-resources/department-standards.html#main_content_text

Please note that a grade of “FD” may be assigned as a penalty for academic dishonesty.

All student requests for accommodations for their religious practices must be made in writing by the end of the first week of classes or no later than one week after a student adds a course.

Students requiring accommodations as a result of a disability must contact the Centre for Students with Disabilities (778-782-3112 or csdo@sfu.ca).