

Linguistics 221, Introduction to Phonology
Monday 2:30-3:20 AQ 3003, Thursday 2:30-4:20 AQ 3005

Contact information

Instructor: Dr. John D. Alderete
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Office hours: Monday 1-2, Wednesday 11-12
Prerequisite: Ling 220

Course description

This course is an introduction to the sound structures of human language and the principles of phonetic and phonological analysis. Topics include: articulatory phonetics, phonetic transcription, English consonants and vowels, cross-linguistic phonetics, suprasegmentals; phonemic analysis, phonological processes, alternations, phonological rules, rule ordering, and syllable structure. Emphasis will be on practical and analytical work with data from a wide range of languages. Careful analysis and clear written expression are important to success in the class.

Textbooks (both textbooks are required texts, available at bookstore)

- Reetz, Henning and Allard Johnman. 2009. *Phonetics, Transcription, Production, Acoustics, and Perception*. Wiley-Blackwell.
- Hayes, Bruce. 2009. *Introductory Phonology*. Wiley-Blackwell.

Weighting of course assignments

The course grade will be determined based on the following weighting system (detailed explanations are given below of each assignment type):

- Attendance/participation 10%
- Homework assignments: 30%
- Quiz 1 (**June 10**): 15%
- Quiz 2 (**July 8**): 20%
- In-class exam (**August 5**): 25%

Course policies and expectations

1. *Attendance*: students are expected to attend all classes. Students are expected to arrive on time so that classes may begin promptly and so that they will not disrupt the class. Attendance will be taken and announcements will be made at the beginning of each class. Attendance is a factor in your grade (see course weightings above).

2. *Readings and lecture notes*: Students are expected to have read all assigned readings before class. Lecture notes based on the reading and the class lecture will also be provided as an aid to understanding the course material. The lecture notes are just a skeletal treatment of the lecture, however, and are not a substitute for the class lecture. In this class, many students will be learning about a new field of study, and some of the materials and concepts may seem fairly complex. Because of this, many students will benefit from going over the assigned readings and the lecture notes multiple times. Students are expected to bring the assigned textbooks to all class sessions and assigned readings on the days that they are discussed.

4. *Exams and quizzes:* If you have to miss an exam or quiz because of illness, you are required to contact me prior to the exam. You may notify me by e-mail or leave a message in my office. When you return to class, I require a note from your medical doctor specifying the date of your absence and the reason. There is a good chance that I will call the doctor to confirm the note. Following departmental policy, make-ups for exams will not be given. If you have a doctor's note for the date of the midterm, the weight of that midterm will be added to the other exam and the homework grade. Unexcused absence from an exam will result in a grade of 0 for it. Further, under no circumstances will students be allowed to write exams early. If you have travel plans or career plans during the semester, you are responsible for ensuring that they do not conflict with the examination schedule.

5. *Academic dishonesty:* Academic dishonesty in all forms violates the basic principles of integrity and thus impedes learning. More specifically, academic dishonesty is a form of misconduct that is subject to disciplinary action and includes the following: cheating, fabrication, fraud, facilitating academic dishonesty, and plagiarism. For more information on academic honesty and student conduct, please visit the following websites:

http://www.reg.sfu.ca/calendar/General_Regs.html#897900

<http://www.sfu.ca/policies/teaching/index.htm>

If a student is found guilty of plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty on a class paper, an assignment, or an exam, an academic dishonesty report will be written for that student. This report is filed in the department. The student receives a grade of zero for the paper, assignment, or exam. If more than one academic dishonesty report has been filed for a student, the case can be presented to the University Board on Student Discipline.

6. *Work in groups:* Students are allowed to work in groups of up to four persons for completing the homework assignments, provided the following rules are adhered to. The members of a group must register with the instructor before the assignment to be turned in as a group; this must be done in writing, either by email or by giving the instructor a written statement of the group members. If a member of a group wishes to change from one group to another, or a student wants to join a group, this action must also be documented in writing prior to submission of a new homework. The members of any given group cannot communicate with students outside of their group on any assignment. Each group member is responsible for the entire content of the written assignment, and therefore the grade given to a group will be recorded for each member. Note: many of the initial homework assignments are best done individually.

7. *Email:* You are welcome to submit questions and comments via e-mail. Please keep the following in mind when sending your message. I cannot always respond to messages late in the evening or on weekends. I can only respond to questions that can be answered in a sentence or two. Questions requiring longer replies should be asked in class or during office hours. Please proof-read your e-mail message to make sure that your question is clear. In addition, I would appreciate questions that are expressed in an appropriately polite manner. Please always sign your name and the course number. Make sure the Subject line contains the name of the course ("Ling 221"). Because of the large number of e-mail messages that I receive, it may be several days before I am able to reply to your message.

Coursework

Homework assignments

-There will be approximately 3 homework assignments. They will include problems that require you to account for various phonetic and phonological phenomena from different languages. They may have a writing component, often asking for answers in the form of short paragraphs. The evaluation of this work will be based on the correctness and coherence of your analysis in proper English.

-Homeworks must be submitted on the days that they are due. No late homeworks will be accepted. If you cannot submit a homework due to illness, the weight of the grade will fall on

the remaining homeworks, provided advanced notice and proper documentation of illness is given (exactly as with the exam policy).

- Because this is a three-hour course, and the homeworks feed into lectures, all of the homeworks will be due on Wednesday afternoons by 5pm, a day and a half before the class. This enables me to read them prior to the class and give immediate feedback. Homeworks can be submitted either to my mailbox in Linguistics, or under my office door (RCB 9202).
- See above policy on working in groups.

Quizzes and the in-class exam

- There are three in-class tests, two one-hour quizzes that cover the first two sections, and in-class exam that is ‘naturally cumulative’, in the sense that it makes use of all the content area discussed at that point, but has a natural focus on phonology.
- The exams will be evaluated based on the correctness of your answers/analysis and coherence of your argumentation in proper English. Prior to each exam, formats will be explained and a review provided.
- See course expectations above on the departmental policy on missing exams.

Grades

The following table provides a rough estimate of grade breakdowns for the final grade. Due attention will be given to the verbal descriptions listed below. Note that there is no university-wide standard scale; instructors adopt grade scales appropriate to the level and content of the course.

97-100%	A+	85-88%	B+	73-76%	C+	57-64%	D
93-96%	A	81-84%	B	69-72%	C	< 56%	F
89-92%	A-	77-80%	B-	65-68%	C-		

A – extraordinary (A+) or excellent performance (A, A-): a thorough, critical, insightful understanding and application of concepts.

B – good performance: a thorough understanding and application of concepts.

C – satisfactory performance: some understanding and application of concepts, but also some inaccurate recall, recognition, or application of concepts.

D – minimally satisfactory performance: a very limited understanding and application of concepts; considerable inaccuracies in the recall, recognition, or application of concepts.

F – unsatisfactory performance (fail): insufficient understanding of concepts, incomplete assignments, and/or academic dishonesty.

Grade appeals. If a student wishes to contest the marking of an exam or assignment, the instructor can agree to remark his/her entire exam at the instructor’s convenience and not in front of the student. A grade reconsideration may raise the grade, lower the grade, or leave the grade unchanged, as stated in Policy T20.01, clause IV.2. The only reason a grade change will be made is if there is an arithmetic error or if it has been determined that the exam deserves a lower grade or a higher grade after it has been remarked.

Tips for success

In general, students who do well in this course follow these principles:

- Attend all classes.
- Review class notes regularly (i.e., before and after each class).
- Do all assignments and exercises on time.
- Ask questions in class or during office hours.
- Keep up with new material.
- Maintain a positive attitude.

Course schedule

Please be advised that the schedule may change if more or less time is need for certain topics. RJ = Retz and Jongman 2009, H = Hayes 2009.

Date	Lecture / Assignment	Reading
May 13	Articulatory phonetics refresher	RJ 2, 3.1-3
May 17, 20	cont'd., Physiology and physics of the vocal apparatus	RJ 5
May x, 27	<i>Note: May 24 is a holiday, cont'd</i>	
May 31, June 3	Airstream mechanisms and phonation type, Assignment 1 due (1/3)	RJ 6
June 7, 10	Review for quiz, JUNE 10 Quiz 1	
June 14, 17	Phoneme theory	H 2-3
June 21, 24	cont'd, Cross-linguistic phonetic contrasts	RJ 4
June 28, x	Extended case study (June 1 is a holiday), Assignment 2 due (6/28)	
July 5, 8	Review, JULY 8 Quiz 2	
July 12, 15	Phonological features	H 4
July 19, 22	Phonological alternations I: allomorphy and neutralization	H 6
July 26, 29	Phonological alternations II: rule ordering, Assignment 3 due (7/26)	H 7
Aug. x, 5	<i>Aug. 2 is a holiday, AUG 5 In-Class Exam</i>	
Aug. 9	Introduction to advanced phonology	