

Spring 2017

**Linguistics 800, Phonology (Graduate Level)**  
**Tues 2:30-3:20 in WMC 2530, Thurs 2:30-4:20 in BLU 10901**

**Contact information**

Instructor: Dr. John D. Alderete  
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**Course goals**

- Common ground: to provide the graduate student cohort with a common set of tools (descriptive and theoretical) to facilitate research collaboration and understanding
- Introduction in the contemporary phonology: this course is designed to get you ‘up to speed’ with modern phonology; successful students should be able to present original research papers and ask intelligent questions at student conferences
- Critical assessment of literature and creative analysis: to develop critical analysis skills so that you can read current literature and build upon it; you will learn how to read a paper and find problems with it, and then search for solutions

**Course themes**

- Autosegmental phonology: understand the feature trees used in feature geometry and how they are used in explaining phonological processes and inventories
- Prosodic phonology: understand how CV structure, moras, syllables and prosodic feet are employed in contemporary phonological analysis
- Optimality Theory: a crash course in OT, demonstrating how to create new analyses and outlining some of the basic results that distinguish it from other theories
- Phonology in psycholinguistics: get an introduction to how phonological theory and phonological structures are involved in theories of sound production and comprehension

**Required reading**

Most readings will be journal articles or book chapters made available on Canvas.

**Useful textbooks and handbooks**

Kenstowicz (1994): excellent graduate textbook that covers many of the core issues in autosegmental and prosodic phonology; chapter on features is excellent; great problems.

Goldsmith (1995) and Goldsmith et al. (2011): excellent core handbooks for phonological theory, with the 2011 second edition updating the earlier version with new chapters on corpora and learnability (online access for 2011 edition)

Kager (1999): best textbook for learning Optimality Theory and also good for specific domains in OT, like reduplication and stress

McCarthy (2002): cogent distillation of the mechanics and results of Optimality Theory

de Lacy (2007): a recent phonology handbook, updated for Optimality Theory

Oostendorp et al. (2011): probably the ultimate reference for phonology at this time; up-to-date, and covers both specific problem areas and theoretical issues (library has, no online access though)

## **Assignments**

Homeworks 20%: scattered throughout the class, used to illustrate and exercise course concepts.

Reviews 30%: you will write three reviews, typically related to a research theme of your squib; each review should have a one page summary, and then approximately two pages of critical analysis and exploration of the predictions of the article; evaluated chiefly on the quality of the critical analysis; see website for models and 'how to' guides

Squib 40%: a short work proposing a new solution to a known problem (hopefully data collection is not needed); two parts: statement of intent, and then final draft; should be tied in with reviews; many course readings are model squibs

Presentation 10%: final presentation based on squib

## **Schedule**

Jan. 5, 10: First Phonology Toolbox

Reading: chapter 2 of Kenstowicz (1994)

Assignment: homework TBA due on Jan. 10

Jan. 12, 17: Autosegmental phonology

Reading: McCarthy (1988), Lombardi (1995)

Assignment: homework TBA due on Jan. 17

Jan. 19, 24: Syllable Theory

Reading: Blevins (1995), Wilkinson (1988)

Assignment: review 1 due on Jan. 24

Jan. 26, 31: The prosodic foot

Reading: chapter 4 of Hayes (1995), Al-Mozainy et al. (1985)

Assignment: homework due Jan. 31

Feb. 2, 7, 9, 21: Introduction to Optimality Theory

Reading: chapter 2 of Kager (1999), Pater (2001)

Assignment: one page squib statement of intent due on Feb. 7

Feb. 23, 28: Syllables in Optimality Theory

Reading: Zec (2007), Levelt et al. (2000)

Assignment: homework TBA due Feb. 28

Mar. 2, 7: Stress in Optimality Theory

Reading: Alber (2005), Rosenthal (1997)

Assignment: review 2 due Mar. 7

Mar. 9, 14: transition, domains of psycholinguistics

Reading: Alderete and Tupper (2016/to appear)

Mar. 16, 21: Phonological encoding in language production

Reading: Dell (1986), Goldrick (2011)  
Assignment: review 3 due Mar. 21

Mar. 23, 28: Phonological analysis in language comprehension  
Reading: Gaskell et al. (1995), Lahiri and Marslen-Wilson (1991)

Mar. 30, Apr. 4: Perception in second language acquisition  
Reading: Best and Tyler (2007)

Apr. 6: presentations  
Assignment: final squib due Apr. 7

## References

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