LING 411: Topics in Applied Phonetics
Fall 2019 (SWH10061)

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Course web page: http://www.sfu.ca/~mjmunro/courses/l411.html
Office Hours: Tuesday 4:30-5:30 PM; Wednesday 5:00-6:00 PM; and by appointment

1. Overview

LING 411 explores the applications of phonetics principles and research to interesting practical problems. This term we will read and discuss a number of original research papers focusing on forensic speech science. Some of these are relatively new publications, while others are older studies with lasting impact. To help you understand the technical details, we will devote class time to discussing relevant concepts in acoustic phonetics, speech perception, data analysis, and research design. Although LING 411 does not assume a sophisticated mathematical background, all participants must be prepared for exposure to concepts in the speech sciences and statistics.

2. Required Materials

Readings: The required readings are available online (free of charge), either through the SFU library or through the LING 411 website. These vary in difficulty level, and are designed to challenge you and encourage you to develop analytical and critical thinking skills.

Hardware/Software: You will need access to a computer, as well as earbuds or headphones. Some in-class activities require computer use. These may be carried out with a partner.

As soon as possible you should install the latest versions of the following applications and check to ensure that they work on your computer.

1) Praat http://www.fon.hum.uva.nl/praat/
2) Audacity http://www.audacityteam.org/download/
3) MS Excel Freely available to SFU students as part of Office365.

iClicker: Please bring an iClicker to each class. Both older and newer models will be accommodated.

A Calculator or Calculator app is also recommended: You may find a calculator useful when working on group assignments in or out of class. Calculators are not needed for the midterm exam, for iClicker questions, or for mini-quizzes.

3. Course Activities

LING 411 is an advanced course with a demanding workload. You will be expected to engage fully in a variety of activities and take responsibility for your own learning. Course activities include lectures, readings, iClicker questions, hands-on group activities, and written assignments. Please pay particular attention to the following:

• Attendance at all classes is required, except in the case of illness. (Attendance will be recorded.)
• Class participation marks are based on your attendance, your scores on iClicker questions and mini-quizzes, and evidence of engagement with the material. Missing classes, surfing the net during class activities, leaving the room during lectures, and failing to pay attention when other students are speaking will all be penalized.
• Participation in group work is a course requirement.

Ling 411 Syllabus (Fall 2019, v1.0), p. 1 of 4
Lectures
Some lectures will cover concepts in forensic speech science per se, while others will focus primarily on experimental methodology and approaches to data analysis. I will post supplementary notes on the course website to assist you with the readings and lecture material.

I expect you to take your own notes during lectures. Note-taking is an important skill that will transfer to many situations that you will face after you have graduated from university. Taking notes does not mean copying everything down from the slides during class. It does mean identifying key points and capturing them in your own words and phrases. Students who take concise, brief notes while paying close attention to the lecture content do best in the class.

iClicker Questions
These will serve as an incentive to keep up with the course material and will help you evaluate your own understanding of concepts. Two to four iClicker questions will presented during most classes.

Group Analysis Assignments
You will participate in small-group analysis assignments which will be written up as brief reports and discussed in class. These will entail measurements and analyses of recorded speech or of other data.

Term Project
You will complete a project focusing on an (approved) issue in forensic speech science, for which you will consult original research studies. Your project must entail acoustic analysis of speech, and your working title must be communicated to me by October 31.

4. Marks

| Participation and engagement [iClicker questions and in-class work] | 10%  |
| Quizzes (x3, Dates TBA) | 30%  |
| Midterm Exam [Tentatively Wed., October 30] | 30%  |
| Term project [Due date TBA] | 30%  |

Note that dates are subject to change. Saying that you have made prior plans to be away is not an acceptable excuse for an absence.

Examination and Marking Policies

Final marks for all students will be computed according to the weightings above. Do not ask me to change the weightings for you personally or to allow you to submit extra assignments to raise your mark. If you make such requests, I will ignore them.

Errors in the marking of quizzes or examinations must be reported to me no later than 10 days after the work is returned in class. I will not make any changes to scores after 10 days have elapsed.

Except where specified otherwise in University policy, students may not write the midterm exam at a time other than the one scheduled.

NB: Requests for accommodation for religious holidays must be presented to me in writing (email is OK) by the end of the first week of classes, or no later than one week after you register in this class.

If you miss a quiz or an exam because of illness, you are required to contact me prior to your absence. You may notify me by e-mail or leave a voicemail message at my office.

NB: Saying that you have to attend a wedding, go away on a trip to visit relatives, or attend a cultural or sports event is not an acceptable excuse for missing a quiz or exam.

In case of bad weather, decisions to cancel classes and examinations are made by the SFU administration, not by me. Please check the relevant SFU web page: www.sfu.ca/security/sfuroadconditions/.

Marking Schedule
There is no university-wide standard marking scale. Each instructor adopts a scale appropriate to the level and the content of the course. The table below gives translations from %-scores to letter marks for LING 411. In some rare cases, this schedule may be adjusted. However, the final marking scheme will be no more stringent than the following:
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NB: Taking photos or videos during class with phones or other devices is prohibited.

Classroom conduct. For the benefit of the majority of the students in the class I do not tolerate the following:

i) Academic dishonesty of any sort, including plagiarism, looking at other students’ papers during an examination, bringing in unauthorized materials during exams, or modifying answers on marked exams. Academic dishonesty is a form of misconduct that is subject to disciplinary action and includes cheating, forgery, impersonation, and plagiarism. The university has clear policies on these matters. Information is available in the SFU Calendar: [https://www.sfu.ca/policies/gazette/student.html](https://www.sfu.ca/policies/gazette/student.html)

ii) Disruptive or “high maintenance” behaviour, including talking to other students while I am lecturing, allowing cell phones or other electronic devices to make noise during class.

I sincerely hope that these offences do not occur, but in the event that they do, I will impose the appropriate penalties, including assigning a mark of SD, asking you to leave the classroom, and placing a letter of reprimand in your student record. You should familiarize yourself with the Linguistics Department’s Standards on Class Management and Student Responsibilities.

5. E-mail

On some occasions I may need to contact class members by e-mail. Messages will be sent through the SFU e-mail system to your address in the SFU records. If you do not normally use your SFU e-mail account, be sure to have your SFU mail forwarded to the account that you do use.

If you need to contact me by email for administrative reasons, be sure to include LING 411 in the subject line and to sign your message with your full name (given + family name). Because of the very time-consuming nature of electronic communications, I do not “teach by e-mail.” Rather, I will allocate plenty of time for in-class questions. My office hours are also listed on this syllabus. Please ask questions in class!

6. Studying the course material

You are likely to get the most out of this course if you do the following:

• attend all classes and take succinct notes.
• complete the readings and assignments on time and use them to make your own study notes.
• ask questions in class when you have difficulties with concepts.
• adopt a positive attitude, and take responsibility for your own learning.

7. Miscellaneous

Computers, phones and other devices. You are welcome to bring a laptop computer or tablet to class, provided that the volume is turned completely off and you use the computer for note-taking or other class-related purposes. Phones must be put away with the volume turned off. Walking out of the room to talk on the phone will result in a deduction to your participation mark. Students who send text messages or allow phones to make noise will be asked to leave.

Ling 411 Syllabus (Fall 2019, v1.0), p. 3 of 4
**LING 411 Topic Outline 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Core Readings</th>
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| 1. Foundational concepts  
  - review of voice and articulation basics  
  - digital recording | Handouts |
| 2. Voice analysis and description  
  - impressionistic analysis  
  - instrumental measurement | Goy et al. (2013) |
| 3. The scope of forensic phonetics | Jessen (2008) |
| 5. Expert approaches to speaker identification | Nolan & Grigoras (2005); Künzel (2017) |
| 6. Speaker profiling | Köster et al. (2012) |
| 8. Vocal disguise | Moosmüller (2001); Neuhauser (2009) |
| 9. Disputed utterances | Fraser, Stevenson & Marks (2011) |
| 10. Ethical issues | Damphousse et al. (2007)** |

**Core Readings:** These articles are available free of charge through the SFU library website (except for ***, which can be downloaded from the course website).

**NB:** If you use a search engine but have not logged in to the library, you will probably hit a pay wall.


