

# LINGUISTICS 221

## *Introduction to Phonology*

FALL SEMESTER, 2006

### *Syllabus*

**Instructor:** Dr. Zita McRobbie  
**Office:** RCB (old CC) 9101  
**Telephone:** 291-5782 (office); 291-4585 (messages)  
**Office Hours:** Tu 10:30-11:20, We 3:30-4:20, or by appointment  
**Prerequisite:** LING 130, LING 220  
**Description:**

This course is an introduction to the study of the sound systems of languages and to the principles of phonological analysis. Topics to be covered include: distinctive features, phonological processes, phonological rules and constraints, rule ordering, and syllable structure. Emphasis will be on practical work: phonological problems based on data from a variety of languages to be interpreted by employing techniques introduced in class

**Required Text:** Gussenhoven, Carlos and Jacobs, Haike. 2005. *Understanding Phonology*. London: Arnold Publishing Ltd. (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.)

### **Course Structuring:**

Each class will consist of lecture/discussion periods in which the new material will be introduced. Phonological problems will be given by way of (i) practice exercises in class, (ii) home assignments, and (iii) exams.

### **Grading:**

Attendance/participation:	5%
Home work Assignments (5):	20%
Mid-Term Exam (October 18 <sup>th</sup> )	35%
Final Exam (December 14 <sup>th</sup> ):	40%

**Final letter grades will be calculated from total percentage scores on assignments and exams as follows:**

100-96	A+	85-81	B+	70-66	C+	55-50	D
95-91	A	80-76	B	65-61	C	49-0	F
90-86	A-	75-71	B-	60-56	C-		

## *Course Schedule*

Please be advised that the schedule may change if we need to spend more or less time on certain topics.

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	READINGS	WORK
Week 1	5-Sept 6-Sept	Introduction: a. Phonetics and Phonology b. Basic phonological concepts b. Phonological typology	Chapters 1 & 2	
Week 2	12-Sept 13-Sept	<i>cont.</i>		
Week 3	19-Sept <b>20-Sept</b>	<i>cont.</i>		<b>Assignment #1 is due</b>
Week 4	26-Sept 27-Sept	Distinctive features	Chapter 4	
Week 5	3-Oct <b>4-Oct</b>	<i>cont.</i>		<b>Assignment #2 is due</b>
Week 6	10-Oct 11-Oct	Phonological processes	Chapter 3 (3.1-3.3) and <i>Handouts</i>	
<b>Week 7</b>	17-Oct 18-Oct	<i>cont.</i>		
Week 8	<b>24-Oct</b> 25-Oct	Phonological rules, rule ordering	Chapters 6 & 7	<b><i>Mid-Term Exam</i></b>
Week 9	31-Oct <b>1-Nov</b>	<i>cont.</i>		<b>Assignment #3 is due</b>
Week 10	7-Nov 8-Nov	<i>cont.</i>		
Week 11	14-Nov <b>15-Nov</b>	Rules and constraints	Chapter 3 (3.4-3.6)	<b>Assignment #4 is due</b>
Week 12	21-Nov <b>22-Nov</b>	Phonological typology	Chapter 2	
Week 13	28-Nov <b>29-Nov</b>	Review		<b>Assignment #5 is due</b>

## COURSE EXPECTATIONS:

- ◆ Students are expected to attend all classes. Attendance and participation will count 5% to the total of the grade scores. In addition, attendance and participation will be taken into account when final grades are computed (particularly in borderline cases).
- ◆ Students are expected to arrive on time so that classes may begin promptly and that they will not disrupt the class.
- ◆ Students are responsible for the all materials covered in class. Most lectures will contain material which is not covered in the text book and may not appear on the transparencies. Lecture notes will provide only a skeletal treatment of the topics to be discussed. Students are expected to take notes.
- ◆ There will be five home problem-solving home assignments.  
Late assignment policy:
  - There will be a ten percent deduction for each late assignment submitted 10 minutes after the beginning of class;
  - 25% will be deducted for assignment not submitted on the day when they are due;
  - Assignments will not be accepted after they have been discussed in class;
  - *Group work.* Students are encouraged to work on home assignments in groups up to five persons. If you work in a group, you can turn in just one copy of the assignment, with everybody's name on it. Such group work is allowed provided the following are adhered to: (i) the members of the group must register with the instructor before the due date of each assignment; this must be done in writing, informing the instructor of the group members. Each group member is responsible for the entire content of the written assignment, and therefore the grade given to the group will be recorded for each member.
- ◆ There will be two exams.  
Exam policy:
  - c. Following departmental policy, missed exams will *not* be made up: make-up exams will not be given under any circumstances;
  - d. If you have to miss an exam because of illness, you are expected to contact me prior to the exam. When you return to class, I will need a note from your doctor specifying the date of your absence and the reason. Note: I may call the doctor to confirm the note. If you have a doctor's note for the mid-term exam, the weight of that exam will be added to the final exam.
  - e. Under no circumstances will students be allowed to write exams on dates other than the scheduled exam date. If you have travel or career plans during the semester, you are responsible for ensuring that they do not conflict with the examination schedule.
  - f. Both exams will be closed-book, with a variety of questions: definitions of concepts, phonological problems, short essays.
  - g. Prior to each exam, formats will be explained and a review sheet will be provided.
- ◆ Limit your e-mail messages to simple inquiries requiring *no more* than a one-sentence reply ([mcrobbie@sfu.ca](mailto:mcrobbie@sfu.ca)). Questions requiring longer replies should be asked in class or during office hours. Please always sign your name: anonymous messages will not be answered. In the Subject line indicate the course number.

Further, I would appreciate questions that are expressed in an appropriately polite manner.

- ◆ Announcements will be regularly posted during the semester on the instructor's web site (<http://www.sfu.ca/~mcrobbie>).

- ◆ Lecture notes will be available on the above web site.

Note: For pedagogical reasons some lecture notes will be posted *after* discussion in class.

- ◆ Do not bring food to class.

- ◆ 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 web sites:

[http://www.reg.sfu.ca/calendar/General\\_Regs.html#897900](http://www.reg.sfu.ca/calendar/General_Regs.html#897900)

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