

Introduction to Phonetics and Phonology

(ling 301)

Spring 2011

Instructor: Melissa Frazier
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office: GFS 332
office hours: Tues. 1-3 *and by appointment*

Class time and place:
MW 10 – 11: 20, GFS 218

Required text:

Hayes, Bruce. 2009. *Introductory Phonology*. Wiley-Blackwell

I. Course Description and Objectives

Have you ever noticed that the word 'a' is sometimes pronounced to rhyme with 'hey' and other times it sounds like the last sound in 'sofa'? Do the words 'think' and 'them' begin with the same sound? Why do you have an accent when you learn a new language? Why do some children have trouble learning to produce the 'r' sound?

Phonetics and Phonology are the branches of Linguistics that are concerned with the speech sounds in the world's languages. Phoneticians study how speech sounds are made, their acoustic properties, and how they are perceived. Phonologists study sound patterns and develop theories about what a native speaker must know in order to correctly produce these patterns.

Each native speaker of a language implicitly knows the rules that are used to organize and manipulate the sounds of that language. Our goal is make that implicit knowledge explicit. In order to do this, we will first develop a thorough understanding of the articulators and how they are used to produce speech. We will then look at phonological patterns in languages around the world and develop the necessary tools to make appropriate generalizations about these patterns.

Some of the topics to be covered over the semester include

- *articulatory phonetics* (how language sounds are produced by the human vocal tract)
- *acoustic phonetics* (the acoustic properties of speech sounds)
- *phonemic contrast* (how speech sounds distinguish words in a language)
- *allophonic variation* (patterns in the production of one speech sound)
- common types of *phonological processes*
 - *assimilation*, where sounds become more like other sounds near them
 - *neutralization*, where contrast is lost
- *morphology* (how words are formed) and the interaction of morphology and phonology

2. Course Requirements

homework	50%
quizzes	25%
participation/attendance	10%
final exam (cumulative)	15%
	=100% of final grade

Participation and Attendance

Attendance to all lectures is mandatory and necessary for success in this class. The structure and content of all graded assignments will closely follow the material presented in class. Attendance may be taken at the start of any lecture. If you cannot attend class because of illness or other unexpected emergency, please email me at your earliest possible convenience. Points will be deducted from your participation grade for multiple unexplained absences, for excessive tardiness, or for being merely physically present in class without actively participating.

Please honor and respect the educational experience of your classmates. This includes arriving on time for class and staying focused and engaged with the course material.

laptop policy: Use of a laptop while in class for anything other than note-taking is strictly forbidden, and such use will count against your participation grade. Because of the IPA symbols and other graphic notations used in this class, laptops will not even be very useful for note-taking.

Homework

Homework is due at the *beginning* of class (see schedule below) and will be made available on blackboard about a week before it is due. Homework may be hand-written or typed; it must be neat, legible, and well-organized. Homework may not be emailed unless you get advance permission from me. There will be a total of 7 homework assignments during the course of the semester; the lowest homework grade will be dropped and will not count toward your final grade.

lateness policy: Late homework will not be accepted and will result in a 0 for that assignment unless lateness is due to an unexpected emergency (at the discretion of the instructor). If you know you will be absent on the day a written assignment is due, you can get full credit for the assignment by turning it in *early*.

collaboration policy: For written homework assignments, you are encouraged to discuss them with your classmates, but you must *write up your homework alone* and write the names of your collaborators on your assignment. Please note that identical or near-identical homework write-ups constitute plagiarism.

Quizzes

Four quizzes will be given in class (see schedule below). Each quiz will focus on the current material. Each quiz will start at the beginning of class. You will have 20-30 minutes to complete the quiz, and we will then continue class after the quiz. If you are late, you will not receive extra time for the quiz. Quizzes can only be made up due to unexpected

emergencies; please email me as soon as possible to explain the situation if such an emergency arises.

Cumulative Final Exam

There is a cumulative final exam for this course on Monday, May 9 at 8 am. Anything covered in class or in the reading is fair game for this exam. You will receive a study guide that indicates those topics that are most likely to be included on the exam at least one week before exam time.

3. Additional Information

grading scale for homeworks and quizzes

10	A+	outstanding
9.5	A	excellent
9	A-/B+	very good
8.5	B	good
8	B-/C+	above average
7.5	C	average
7	C-/D+	below average
6.5	D	poor
6	D-	extremely poor
1-5	F	failing and incomplete

For both homeworks and quizzes, if you turn in a complete assignment, the lowest grade you can get is a 6.

blackboard and email

Blackboard (<http://blackboard.usc.edu>) will be used for a variety of things in this course, including the posting of some reading assignments, all homework assignments, links to informative websites, and class announcements. From time to time, I may need to send class emails with important information. Class emails will be sent to your usc.edu email address; you are required to check this email address daily (or forward your mail to an email address that you do check daily).

students with disabilities

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP when adequate documentation is filed. Please be sure the letter is delivered to the instructor as early in the semester as possible. DSP is open Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. The office is in Student Union 301 and their phone number is (213) 740-0776.

academic integrity

Academic dishonesty is not tolerated at USC. Any violations of the school's academic integrity policy (see <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/forms/tio.pdf>) will be treated seriously. Violators can face a variety of sanctions, ranging from zero credit for the

work in question to expulsion from the university. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism or cheating, you should see me.

Any sources (besides class notes and assigned reading) that are consulted during the completion of homework assignments must be cited. Outside sources include published articles/books, online articles, and people (classmates or otherwise). Failure to cite such sources is a violation of academic integrity and will be treated as such. If you got information from any source other than your own mind, you owe credit to that source!!

4. Course Schedule

section	wk.	date			topic	assignment	reading
phonetics	1	M	Jan	10	introduction		
		W	Jan	12	articulators and IPA		H 1, L 1
	2	M	Jan	17	<i>no class</i>		
		W	Jan	19	consonants of English		L 11
	3	M	Jan	24	vowels of English	HW1	L 3 & 12
W		Jan	26	the larynx; airstream mechanisms		L13	
4	M	Jan	31	narrow transcription	HW2		
	W	Feb	2	sounds of the world's languages	Q1	L 14-15	
5	M	Feb	7	sounds of the world's languages			
	W	Feb	9	acoustic phonetics	HW3	L 4	
phonology I: basic phonological analysis	6	M	Feb	14	phonemes		H 2
		W	Feb	16	phonological rules	Q2	
	7	M	Feb	21	<i>no class</i>		
		W	Feb	23	syllable structure; features		H 4
	8	M	Feb	28	features		
W		Mar	2	acquisition of phonology	HW4	H 3	
9	M	Mar	7	phonological rules II			
	W	Mar	9	accents; L2 acquisition	Q3		
10	M	Mar	14	<i>spring break</i>			
	W	Mar	16				
phonology II: advanced phonological analysis	10	M	Mar	21	morphology		H 5
		W	Mar	23	morphological alternation		H 6
	11	M	Mar	28	neutralization		
		W	Mar	30	assimilation	HW5	H 7
	12	M	Apr	4	rule ordering		H 8
		W	Apr	6	morphophonemics	Q4	
13	M	Apr	11	morphophonemics			
	W	Apr	13	productivity	HW6	H 9	
14	M	Apr	18	morphology and syntax		H 10	
	W	Apr	20	abstractness	HW7	H 12	
15	M	Apr	25	sound change		H 11	
	W	Apr	27	review			

final exam: Monday, May 9 at 8 am

All reading should be completed before class on date listed. H = Hayes; L = Ladefoged. Homework is due at the beginning of class on date listed; quizzes take place on date listed.