

Introduction to Linguistics: Sounds and Words

LING-50
Winter 2010

1. Basic Information

<u>instructor</u> :	Melissa Frazier	<u>email</u>	mefrazie@ucsc.edu	<u>office</u>	Stevenson 262	<u>office hours</u>	M 10-11; Th 3-4 <i>or by appointment</i>
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Class Time and Place:

lecture: MWF 8-9:10 in Humanities 206

Required Text:

Ladefoged, Peter. 2005. *A Course in Phonetics*, 5th ed. Boston: Thomson/Wadsworth Publishers.

This book is somewhat expensive, in part because a CD is included. The contents of the CD are available on the internet [<http://www.phonetics.ucla.edu/course/contents.html>], so if you can find a used copy without the CD, that's fine. There are a number of changes throughout the book in the 5th edition, so acquiring a used copy of an earlier edition will have some drawbacks. This is by far the best introduction to phonetics; no other textbook comes close.

All other readings for the course will be available on Web-CT.

2. Course Goals and Objectives

When we study linguistics, we study both individual languages and the phenomenon of human language as a whole. Linguists are aiming for a general theory that tells us how languages work. We will focus on such questions as: What must the native speaker know in order to have a functioning grammar? How can we, as linguists, *explicitly* talk about what the native speaker knows *implicitly*? and How and why do languages around the world differ from/resemble each other?

Instead of trying to cover all of linguistics in ten weeks (in a necessarily superficial way) we will instead pursue these questions by focusing in some depth on two central areas of the field: speech sounds (phonetics) and the structure of words (morphology). These are the fields that constitute the foundation for much else in linguistics, and they are the most important from many practical points of view (e.g., for work in the computer industry).

The goal of this course is to provide you with the necessary tools to analyze the sounds and words of English and other languages, and you should leave this course with the ability to discuss these topics using appropriate linguistic methods.

Linguistics is a science and a humanity. In fact, it has been called "the most scientific of the humanities, and the most humanistic of the sciences". As we work through the subject matter for this course, we will use the scientific method (creating and evaluating a hypothesis), we will employ tools of logic, and we will wax philosophical. Sometimes all in the same day.

3. Course Requirements

Attendance to all lectures and discussion sections is mandatory and necessary for success in this class.

The lectures will regularly contain material that is not covered in the reading; all material presented in the reading or in class is fair game for quizzes and assignments. Discussion sections are designed to emphasize and elucidate key points and to encourage your active participation in the development of our linguistic theories. Discussion sections will not address every topic covered in lecture, and new information may be presented as well.

Components of Final Grade:

participation	10%
in-class quizzes	55%
homework assignments 1 & 2	20% (10% each)
homework assignment 3	15%

Participation

Your participation grade is based primarily on attendance and participation in your discussion section. If you cannot attend section due to illness or unexpected emergency, you should email your section instructor at your earliest possible convenience to explain your absence. Points will be deducted from your participation grade for unexcused absences and/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 (both lecture and discussion section) and staying focused and engaged with the course material. Lack of such courtesy will hurt your participation grade.

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.

In-class Quizzes

Seven quizzes will be given during class time (see schedule on last page). You will be given 20 minutes *at the end of class* for each quiz. The material on the quiz will focus on the reading and lecture material that has been presented since the last quiz (up to and including the material presented the day of the quiz), but older material is also fair game for quiz material. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped when computing your quiz average, except for quiz 7, which cannot be the dropped quiz.

Quizzes can only be made-up due to unforeseeable emergencies, at the discretion of the instructor. You must email me as soon as possible to explain your absence and set up a time for a make-up.

Homework Assignments

Three homework assignments will be given during the quarter (see schedule on last page). These assignments will be available on Web-CT a week before they are due. The first two homework assignments will focus on the current subject matter and are each worth 10% of your final grade. The final homework assignment will be cumulative and is worth 15% of your grade.

Homeworks are due during class time. Any homework turned in after the end of class will be penalized as follows:

- turned in after class but on date due: two full letter grades
 - turned in the day after the due date: three full letter grades
 - homework that is two or more days late will not be accepted and will result in a 0
- note: a day refers to a 24 hr. period and not to a lecture day*

Homework may be hand-written (blue or black ink only) or typed. Either way, homework should be neat, legible, and well-organized. Multiple pages must be stapled together. IPA symbols must be written clearly; if the grader cannot tell which symbol you are using, you will not get credit for using the correct symbol. Emailed homework will not be accepted.

grading scale for quizzes and homework assignments:

A+	10	outstanding
A	9.5	excellent
A-/B+	9	very good
B	8.5	good
B-/C+	8	above average
C	7.5	average
C-/D+	7	below average
D	6.5	poor
F	5	failing
	1-4	failing and incomplete
not turned in:	0	

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.

4. Additional Information

Web-CT: log in at <http://ic.ucsc.edu/webct>

A variety of documents and links will be posted on Web-CT throughout this course.

- The syllabus and any other handouts will be posted here; if you lose the copy you are given in class, you can print out a new copy.
- All readings (not in Ladefoged) and homework assignments will be made available here.
- The links section includes links to fonts, interactive websites, help with phonetics/phonology, and other topics. You are encouraged to check the links section regularly and make use of what's available there. If you come across a neat linguistics website that you want to share, let me know!

Email

From time to time I may need to send out class emails to alert students to changes in scheduling/homework, to answer questions, or for other reasons. You should check your ucsc email daily (or make sure that your ucsc email is forwarded to another email account that you do check daily).

Extra Credit Option: Participate in a Linguistics Experiment

Some of the research done in the Linguistics Department is experimental. One goal of the Linguistics and Language Studies majors is to expose students to how this kind of research is done. We also need your help creating experimental data!

All of our experiments are approved by the University: they are safe and can be quite fun and interesting. If you participate in an approved experiment, you will receive a full letter grade increase (the equivalent of one point using the ten point scale outlined above) on homework assignment 1 or 2. (Note: this is the **only** extra credit option that I will offer for this class.)

You can sign up for an experiment at <http://people.ucsc.edu/~gmcguir1/experiments.html>. You should be able to schedule a time that works for you during this quarter. After you fulfill your obligation with an

experiment, you should ask for a written confirmation of participation, which you bring back to me for recording.

Students with Disabilities

If you qualify for classroom accommodations because of a disability, please get an Accommodation Authorization from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) and submit it to me in person outside of class (e.g., office hours) within the first two weeks of the quarter. Contact DRC at 459-2089 (voice), 459-4806 (TTY), or <http://drc.ucsc.edu> for more information on the requirements and/or process.

UCSC does not tolerate plagiarism!

Students found to have plagiarized will be reported to their college, with dismissal from the university a possible consequence. It can lead to failure of the class. If you're unclear about what constitutes plagiarism, or what the consequences are, check out http://www.ucsc.edu/academics/academic_integrity/.

5. Course Schedule

day	topic	reading	HW/quiz
Intro: What is Language? What is Descriptive Linguistics?			
W Jan 6	intro		
F Jan 8	dialect variation		
M Jan 11	descriptive linguistics; language acquisition	N 1	
W Jan 13	human language; animal communication	N 5; Wynne 2007	
Part I: The Sounds of Language			
F Jan 15	vocal tract; basic acoustics	L ch 1	
M Jan 18	<i>no class: Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i>		
W Jan 20	transcription	L ch 2	Q1
F Jan 22	English consonants	L ch 3	
M Jan 25	English vowels	L ch 4	
W Jan 27	English words and sentences	L ch 5	Q2
F Jan 29	airstream mechanisms; non-pulmonic sounds	L ch 6	
M Feb 1	non-English speech sounds	L ch 7&9	HW1
W Feb 3	more advanced acoustics	L ch 8	Q3
F Feb 5	TBA		
M Feb 8	phonemes and allophones	LF 3	
W Feb 10	phonological rules and analysis		
F Feb 12	phonological rules and analysis		Q4
M Feb 15	<i>no class: President's Day</i>		
Part II: The Structure and Meaning of Words			
W Feb 17	types of morphemes	CL 4	
F Feb 19	morphological segmentation		
M Feb 22	morphological rules; hierarchical structure		HW2
W Feb 24	neologisms; grammatical categories		Q5
F Feb 26	morphophonemics		
M Mar 1	morphological types of languages	LF 4.3	
W Mar 3	TBA		Q6
F Mar 5	sign lg	N 4	
M Mar 8	writing systems		HW3
W Mar 10	lexical semantics	CL 6	
F Mar 12	lexical semantics		
M Mar 15	formal semantics		Q7

For the reading, L refers to Ladefoged; all other readings are available on Web-CT.

Reading is due on date listed. Homework is due on date listed. Quizzes take place on date listed.

Holiday weeks:

Martin Luther King Jr. Day:

All lectures, sections, and office hours are cancelled on Mon. Jan. 18. Sections are cancelled on Tues. Jan 19 (but any regularly scheduled office hours will be held on this day). If you would like further help with the material during this week, you should attend someone's office hours or make an appointment with me.

President's Day:

All lectures, sections, and office hours are cancelled on Mon. Feb. 15. *Optional* discussion sections will be held Tues. Feb. 16. Details TBA.