

Linguistics 5301 Graduate Phonology

TR 3:55-5:15 Campbell 209

Instructor: Dr. Becca Morley
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110B
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Office Hours:

By appointment

(I am always happy to make time to meet with you – just give me a couple days notice)

For those of you who don't already know the Linguistics Department is being temporarily housed in the offices beneath the stadium bleachers. To reach it you must enter the stadium at the glass doors between Gates 22 and 24. Go up of the first flight of stairs, through the double doors and take a left. My office is half way down on the left.

Course Description:

This course is a graduate level introduction to phonology: the study of the abstract sound systems of language. You will be introduced to a range of theories regarding the representational structure of sound units and the grammatical functions operating over those representations. In order to assess the relative strengths and weaknesses of these theories you will apply them to linguistic data, comparing their performance on a wide range of phonological phenomena: stress assignment, place and manner assimilation, epenthesis, long-distance harmony, etc. The format of the class will alternate between hands-on data analysis, the discussion of specific theories, and the discussion of theory in linguistics generally. For this approach to be effective it is crucial that students both attend class, as well as contribute to class discussion (i.e., don't expect me to stand up here and lecture at you for 80 minutes).

Texts:

The main textbook for the course is *McCarthy, John J. Doing optimality theory: Applying theory to data. John Wiley & Sons, 2008* which is an excellent guide for working through an analysis in OT. To supplement the theoretical background there will be additional readings from other sources. These will be made available to you on Carmen. Note: we won't actually start reading the textbook until midway through the semester. I do not recommend that you read ahead, as the course is designed to gradually build up to Optimality Theory.

Responsibilities/Grading (percentages subjects to adjustment)

- 30%: reading questions (+ class participation): ≥ 2 questions for every reading; due the day the reading is assigned. I will expect you to share your questions with the class. I also expect you to do some work in coming up with these questions¹; I will read them, and they will be assessed. Because my time is finite, I will not provide written feedback, but assign either a **Satisfactory** or **Unsatisfactory**. **Unsatisfactory** means your questions are too superficial, incomprehensible, or poorly formulated. It also means I expect you to fix the problems going forward. **If you do not understand why you received an Unsatisfactory grade then it is your responsibility to find out.** I am always happy to meet with you, or exchange emails, in order to help with any difficulties you may be having.
- 50%: Homework assignments (6): Homework will generally be due 2 weeks from the date it was assigned. You are encouraged to discuss homework assignments with your classmates, and may work in groups. However, each individual is required to turn in their own copy of the work. I will also create a discussion forum on Carmen for each homework assignment where you can post general questions that I (or perhaps your classmates) will answer.
- 20%: Final Project (TBD): to be turned in during finals week

To save trees and make life easier (hopefully) for all of us, I ask that you turn in your homework and reading questions exclusively on Carmen². You should also make sure you have copies for yourself (either digital or material) with you in class the day assignments are due. It will probably be easiest for you to download the fonts for word-processing with IPA characters on your personal computer (see Technical Details below); however, if you really want to you may handwrite your homework and then turn in a scanned copy. All assignments should be in pdf format. I will grade your assignments online and return the annotated versions to you via Carmen as well. You will need Adobe Reader in order to view the comments.

Grading: Homework and the Final Project will be graded on a letter grade scale, using the OSU Standard Scheme for conversion with A corresponding to 93%, A- to 90%, B+ to 87%, B to 83%, B- to 80%, C+ to 77%, C to 73%, C- to 70%, D+ to 67%, and D to 60%. Final grades will be computed with the corresponding ranges, e.g., A: 93%-100%.

Expectations

- Missed classes:
If you miss class it is your responsibility to track down the material you missed. I recommend contacting a fellow classmate. All handouts will be available online on the Carmen site for this class.

¹ This is not busy work. The readings are difficult and you should have questions. You may ask questions about technical details in the readings, about a particular passage that is particularly abstruse, about the implications of a particular theoretical assumption, etc. If you really think you understood everything perfectly then (you're probably wrong) you can expostulate on how two theories compare to one another, or speculate on how a given theory might apply to data you're particularly interested in.

² This may have to be modified depending on how horrendous Carmen Canvas turns out to be.

Late work is not accepted except in rare instances. If a health or family related situation arises, let me know and arrangements can be made. Otherwise, if you know you will need to miss class for any reason then you may turn in homework early, and schedule an appointment to go over the missed class material. This is only an option for unavoidable absences that YOU LET ME KNOW ABOUT AHEAD OF TIME. You should know that I will not be sympathetic to appointments that you suddenly remember the day of class.

Academic Misconduct

“It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct <http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>.”

Students with Disabilities

“Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.”

Technical Details:

You can search around online for whatever works best for you, but here are a couple of sites that describe how to download and use different types of ipa fonts:

http://scripts.sil.org/cms/scripts/page.php?site_id=nrsi&item_id=encore-ipa-download

Particularly for mac users:

<http://linguisticmystic.com/2007/03/08/using-ipa-fonts-with-mac-os-x-the-comprehensive-guide/>

More laborious in the long term, but less up-front effort:

<http://people.w3.org/rishida/scripts/pickers/ipa/>

Adobe Reader is available for free here:

<http://get.adobe.com/reader/>

Week	Date	Topics	Readings	Assigns.
Week 1	8/23 (T)	What is Phonology?		
	8/25 (Th)	Phonological Theory Descriptive Adequacy Explanatory Adequacy	Chomsky (1965) <i>Aspects of the Theory of Syntax</i> Sections 1, 4 & 5	Reading Questions
Week 2	8/30 (T)	Analysis I: Underlying Representations <i>Exercises:</i> <i>Epena Pedee</i> <i>Sundanese</i>	Chomsky (1965) <i>Aspects of the Theory of Syntax</i> Sections 6 & 7	
	9/1 (Th)		Chomsky and Halle (1968) <i>Sound Patterns of English</i> . Ch 7	Reading Questions
Week 3	9/6 (T)	Theory I: Underlying Representations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparency/Opacity • Feature Geometry • Prosodic Hierarchy <i>Exercises:</i> <i>Nawuri; Yawelmani; Yidin</i>		
	9/8 (Th)		Clements & Keyser (1983) <i>CV Phonology</i> . Ch 1 & 2 Hayes (1981) Inalterability in CV Phonology. <i>Language</i> 62 (2). pp. 321-326–end of Section 1.1 only	Reading Questions
Week 4	9/13 (T)	Theory II: Rules <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strict Ordering • Rule Compression • Hypothesis Evaluation • Morpheme Structure Constraints <i>Exercises: Yidin; Yawelmani</i>		HW 1
	9/15 (Th)		Chomsky and Halle (1968) <i>Sound Patterns of English</i> . Ch 8 – p.380	Reading Questions
Week 5	9/20 (T)			
	9/22 (Th)		Kenstowicz and Kisseberth (1977) <i>Topics in Phonological Theory</i> . Ch 3: Constraints on Phonological Representations	Reading Questions
Week 6	9/27 (T)			HW 2
	9/29 (Th)			
Week	10/4 (T)			Chomsky and Halle (1968) <i>Sound Patterns of English</i> . Ch 9

7			- p.408 end of Section 2.1 only	Questions
	10/6 (Th)	Theory II: Constraints <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strict Dominance • Violability • Harmonic Bounding 	Prince and Smolensky (1993/2004) <i>Optimality Theory</i> ch 1 Kager (1999) <i>Optimality Theory</i> ch 1	Reading Questions
Week 8	10/11 (T)		McCarthy (2004) <i>Doing Optimality Theory</i> . ch 1	
	10/13 (Th)	NO CLASS – FALL BREAK DAY		
Week 9	10/18 (T)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richness of the Base • Unrankability 		HW 3
	10/20 (Th)		McCarthy (2004) <i>Doing Optimality Theory</i> . ch2 – p.64: How to Construct an Analysis	Reading Questions
Week 10	10/25 (T)	<i>Exercises: Yawelmani; Mixtec</i>	McCarthy (2004) <i>Doing Optimality Theory</i> . ch2 – p.94: How to Construct an Analysis	Reading Questions
	10/27 (Th)	<u>Markedness Constraints</u>		
Week 11	11/1 (T)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Context-Free • Alignment • Harmonic Alignment • Exhaustivity 		HW 4
	11/3 (Th)		Kager (1999) <i>Optimality Theory</i> . Ch.4	Reading Questions
Week 12	11/8 (T)		<u>Faithfulness Constraints</u>	McCarthy (2004) <i>Doing Optimality Theory</i> . Ch 4 – p.192: Developing New Constraints
	11/10 (Th)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correspondence • Positional Faith • Featural Faith (Ident) 		
Week 13	11/15 (T)			HW 5
	11/17 (Th)	<i>Exercises: Yidin</i>	McCarthy (2004) <i>Doing Optimality Theory</i> . Rest of ch 4: Developing New Constraints	Reading Questions
Week 14	11/22 (T)	NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING		
	11/24 (Th)			
Week 15	11/29 (T)	Explanatory Adequacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universals 	McCarthy (2004) <i>Doing Optimality Theory</i> . Ch.5: Language Typology & Universals	Reading Questions
	12/1 (Th)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychological Reality • Diachrony • Phonetics 		
Week 16	12/6 (T)			
Final Project due during Finals Week				