

Introduction to Phonetics and Phonology (Ling 301)

Spring 2019

MW 2:00–3:20 p.m.

VKC 260

Instructor	Brian Smith Postdoctoral teaching fellow
Office hours	Wednesdays and Thursdays 3:30–4:30 (and by appointment) in GFS 301C
Contact info	E-mail: bsmith88@usc.edu Replies take up to 24 hours.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, students examine the nature and role of sound in language. We will consider the physical properties of speech sounds in *phonetics*: what are the sounds used in human languages? How are speech sounds made? What are their physical properties? And we will consider how sounds pattern together to make up human language in *phonology*: how are sounds organized to make up a language? What happens when you put individual sounds together in speech? In the phonology sections of the course, we'll develop a computational model of phonology to account for the sound patterns we find. As we progress through the course, we'll practice *iterated model development*, in which we build, evaluate, and revise this model on the basis of new data.

Prerequisites: Ling 210

LEARNING GOALS

In this course, you will learn:

- How to characterize human speech sounds, both in terms of their articulation and acoustic properties.
- How to transcribe speech in the International Phonetic Alphabet.
- How to identify linguistic generalizations in a set of data.
- How to account for the generalizations by building a phonological model, which includes underlying forms, features, phonological rules, rule interaction, and syllables.
- How to engineer, explain, and argue for a computational model of phonology.
- How to test the predictions of a phonological model, and compare competing analyses of the same set of data.

TEXTBOOK AND HANDOUTS

There are two required textbooks.

- *Vowels and Consonants, 3rd Edition* (Ladefoged and Disner 2012)
(ISBN 978-1405184120)
- *Introductory Phonology* (Hayes 2008)
(ISBN 978-1405184120)

There is a course site on Blackboard where you can find class handouts and supplemental readings.

Since someone always asks: most class materials are typeset in Noto Serif, which is an open-source font with complete IPA support.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Participation — which is absolutely required for success.
 - There's no attendance grade, per se, but:
 - You're accountable for everything discussed in class.
 - Important announcements may be made at the beginning of class.
 - There is a lot of in class problem solving.
 - Every class begins with a quiz.
 - If you miss class, make sure you talk to someone who was there.
2. Daily quizzes — which provide feedback to guide your studies and help you transition into phonologist mode.
 - Quizzes make up the first 5–10 minutes of class, are very short, and are graded on a scale of 1–3.
 - Not every quiz will be collected.
 - The topic is always announced at the end of the preceding class, and is usually a short problem or question about the assigned reading.
 - You may bring one 9x11" page of handwritten notes to use during the quiz.
 - The lowest four quiz grades are dropped. If you miss class due to illness or an emergency, you can additionally drop the grade for the missed quiz, but only if you provide documentation.
3. Readings — which provide background knowledge for class.
 - Not every part of the readings is discussed in class, but you should take notes on the readings and bring questions to class or office hours.
 - Budget at least six hours per week for readings and homework.

4. Six homework assignments — which provide hands-on practice and go *beyond* classroom material, requiring an understanding of both how to approach a phonology problem and how to apply core concepts to new situations.
 - Assignments reflect the research process of phonologists. You'll be provided data and asked to present and support a phonological analysis. The data will be related to — but distinct from — the material discussed in class.
 - There are two assignments per unit.
 - You may collaborate with others, but you must write up and submit your own solution, and indicate who you collaborated with on the submitted document.
 - Submit hard copies at the beginning of class on the assigned due date.
 - Assignments are returned in class within seven days of submission.
5. A take-home midterm exam — which assesses your understanding in a non-collaborate environment.
 - The midterm covers the first half of the course (through phonological features).
 - Collaboration (both online and offline) is not permitted, but you may use your notes and textbooks.
6. A final exam during finals week — which covers material for the entire course.
 - The final exam consists mostly of short phonology problems and questions about phonetics.
 - The final exam will be shorter than the midterm, since you will have less time to complete it.
 - You may bring one 9x11" page of handwritten notes to use during the exam.

GRADE BREAKDOWN

Quizzes/attendance (lowest four dropped)	25%
Six assignments	30%
Midterm exam	20%
Final exam	25%

GRADING SCALE

A–	90–92	A	93–100		
B–	80–82	B	83–86	B+	87–89
C–	70–72	C	73–76	C+	77–79
D–	60–62	D	63–66	D+	67–69
F	0–59				

IMPORTANT DATES

1/21	No classes (Martin Luther King's birthday)
2/18	No classes (President's Day)
3/4	Midterm due
3/10–3/17	Spring Recess
4/26	Last day of classes
5/6, 2:00–4:00 p.m.	Final exam

SCHEDULE

The schedule will probably be revised at some point, depending on the pace of class. If we're ahead of schedule, we'll cover linguistic tone in the last week. Changes will be announced in class.

V&C = Vowels and Consonants IP = Introductory Phonology			
	Read before class	Topic	Deadlines
UNIT 1: PHONETICS			
Mon 1/7	V & C Ch. 1	The IPA and vocal tract	
Wed 1/9	V & C Ch. 2.3, Ch. 11		
Mon 1/14	V & C Ch 13	Actions of the larynx	
Wed 1/16			HW #1 due
Mon 1/21	No Class — Martin Luther King's Birthday		
Wed 1/23	V & C Ch 14	Consonants	
Mon 1/28	V & C Ch. 15	Vowels	
Wed 1/30			
UNIT 2: PHONEMIC ANALYSIS AND A SINGLE-RULE MODEL			
Mon 2/3	IP Ch. 2	Contrast vs. predictability	HW #2 due
Wed 9/19			
Mon 2/11	IP Ch. 3	Contrast vs. predictability	
Wed 2/13			
Mon 2/18	No Class — President's Day		
Wed 2/20	IP Ch. 4	Features	HW #3 due

V&C = Vowels and Consonants IP = Introductory Phonology			
	Read before class	Topic	Deadlines
Mon 2/25	IP Ch. 5	Alternations	
Wed 2/27			Midterm out
Mon 3/4	IP Ch. 6	Alternations	Midterm due
Wed 3/6			
Mon 3/11	No Class — Spring Recess		
Wed 3/18			
PART 3: ELABORATING OUR SINGLE-RULE MODEL: RULE INTERACTION, EXCEPTIONALITY, AND REPRESENTATIONS ABOVE THE SEGMENT			
Mon 3/18	IP Ch. 7	Rule ordering I	HW #4 due
Wed 3/20			
Mon 3/25	IP Ch. 8	Rule ordering II	
Wed 3/27			
Mon 4/1	IP Ch. 9	Productivity	
Wed 4/3			
Mon 4/8	IP Ch. 11	Abstractness	HW #5 due
Wed 4/10			
Mon 4/15	IP Ch. 13	Syllables	
Wed 4/17			
Mon 4/21	IP Ch. 14	Stress	HW #6 due
Wed 4/23			
Mon 5/6	Final Exam 2:00–4:00 p.m.		

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC CONDUCT AND SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct>.

Support Systems:

Student Counseling Services (SCS) – (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention. engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – 1 (800) 273-8255

Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) – (213) 740-4900 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp

Sexual Assault Resource Center

For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: sarc.usc.edu

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX Compliance – (213) 740-5086

Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class. equity.usc.edu

Bias Assessment Response and Support

Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support

The Office of Disability Services and Programs

Provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange relevant accommodations. dsp.usc.edu

Student Support and Advocacy – (213) 821-4710

Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic. studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa

Diversity at USC

Information on events, programs and training, the Diversity Task Force (including representatives for each school), chronology, participation, and various resources for students. diversity.usc.edu

USC Emergency Information

Provides safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible. emergency.usc.edu

USC Department of Public Safety – UPC: (213) 740-4321 – HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24-hour emergency or to report a crime.

Provides overall safety to USC community. dps.usc.edu