

Ling 211
Jaye Padgett

Phonology A
Fall 2014

Time: Wed/Fri 9:30 – 11:15
Place: Ling Cave
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Office Hours: Wed 1-2 or by arrangement

This course is an advanced introduction to current phonological theory. This includes an advanced introduction to Optimality Theory, still the prevailing formal framework for phonology in the US and much of the world. We will cover the fundamentals of OT as well as more recent extensions of or departures from that theory. However, there will be a continual emphasis on empirical grounding too: What do languages do with their sounds? For this quarter our empirical focus will be mostly in the area of segmental phonology (assimilations, neutralizations, etc.). You will venture into things like stress theory and prosodic phonology in Phonology B.

Students' backgrounds are unavoidably diverse, but we expect some familiarity with phonetics and phonology as a prerequisite to this course. This might mean, for example, what you would get by reading much of Ladefoged's *Course in phonetics* and Haye's *Introductory Phonology*. If you are worried you do not have this background, talk to me. More specifically, I will mostly presuppose concepts like these:

Basic phonetic competency

Transcription using the IPA alphabet; Phonetic articulatory terminology; Phonetic descriptions of segments.

Basic concepts of phonology

Phoneme, allophone, complementary/contrastive distribution; Distinctive features; Natural classes; Assimilation, dissimilation, reduction; Neutralization; Syllables, sonority sequencing; Phonological rules; Rule ordering.

A useful introduction to Optimality Theory is *Optimality Theory* by René Kager.

Course Requirements

- ☆ Regular homework assignments.
- ☆ Regular readings.
- ☆ A final paper of 5-10 pages; work in progress presented in last week.

Please buy a copy of *Doing Optimality Theory* by John McCarthy, available in the Bay Tree bookstore. As an experiment, we're going to try reading this book and discussing it over the course of the quarter. Apart from this book, most readings will be from published articles. All of these, as well as course handouts, assignments, and readings will be made available through the course eCommons web site.

Course schedule

Readings and homeworks due on the date they are associated with below.

→ Note changes in normal schedule! (Shaded = no class, ** = make-up)

→ Will be continually updated. But current and following week will be true.

Day	Topics and Readings
1 10/3	About the course; some fundamentals; Indonesian.
2 10/8	OT Intro: constraint ranking and violability; conspiracies; parallelism. Reading: Kager, René (1999). <i>Optimality Theory</i> . Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (chapter 1, sections 1-4).
3 10/10	OT Intro: factorial typology, richness of the base, constraint subhierarchies. Reading: Kager (cont., sections 5-9). HW: Kager problems 1-2 in that chapter. For (2), do only (2i), and consider also <i>peace</i> vs. <i>peas</i> (latter has [z]), <i>hence</i> vs. <i>hens</i> , <i>false</i> vs. <i>falls</i> , etc.
4 10/15	Faithfulness and correspondence theory. Positional faithfulness. Reading: Beckman, Jill (1998). <i>Positional Faithfulness</i> , UMass Ph.D. thesis. (Excerpts from John McCarthy's <i>Optimality Theory in Phonology: a Reader</i> , Blackwell, 2004.)
5 10/17	Faithfulness and correspondence theory (cont). Reading: Pater, Joe (1999). Austronesian nasal substitution and other NC effects. (Excerpts from McCarthy 2004). HW: Russian voicing assimilation and final devoicing.
6 10/20**	(Make up) Positional markedness. Reading: Zoll, Cheryl (1997). Conflicting Directionality. <i>Phonology</i> 14, 263-286.
7 10/22	Feature classes in OT Reading: Padgett, Jaye (2002). Feature Classes in Phonology. <i>Language</i> 78.1, 81-110.
8 10/24	P-map and cue-based approaches to assimilations and neutralizations. Reading: Steriade, Donca (2001). Directional Asymmetries in Place Assimilation: a Perceptual Account. In Hume, E. & K. Johnson (eds.), <i>The Role of Speech Perception in Phonology</i> . New York: Academic Press, 219-250. HW: Diola
10/29	No class
9 10/31	P-map (cont) Reading: Kawahara, Shigeto (2006). A faithfulness ranking projected from a perceptibility scale: the case of [+voice] in Japanese. <i>Language</i> 82.3, 536-574, through section 3 only. HW: Palatalization asymmetries
10 11/5	Dispersion theory Reading: Padgett, Jaye & Marzena Żygis (2007). The evolution of sibilants in Polish and Russian. <i>Journal of Slavic linguistics</i> 15.2, 291-324.
11 11/7	Variation and change: Partial rankings; stochastic OT

	Reading: Anttila, Arto & Young-mee Yu Cho (1998). Variation and change in Optimality Theory. <i>Lingua</i> 104, 31-56. HW: VOT
12 11/12	Harmonic grammar
	Pater, Joe (to appear). Universal grammar with weighted constraints. In McCarthy, J. & J. Pater (eds.), <i>Harmonic grammar and harmonic serialism</i> , Equinox. HW: Turn in proposal for final squib.
13 11/14	Harmonic grammar (cont) and variation
	No Reading
14 11/17**	(Make-up) Derivational opacity
	Reading: McCarthy, J. (2007). Derivations and levels of representation. <i>The Cambridge handbook of phonology</i> , Paul de Lacy (ed.).
15 11/19	Derivational opacity.
	Reading: McCarthy, J. (2008). The gradual path to cluster simplification. <i>Phonology</i> 25, pp.271-319. HW: Squib – data and descriptive generalizations.
16 11/21	Derivational opacity (cont).
	Reading: Kiparsky, P. (2000). Opacity and cyclicity. <i>The linguistic review</i> 17, pp.351-365.
17 11/24**	(Make-up) Evolutionary phonology.
	Reading: Hansson, G. (2007). On the evolution of consonant harmony: the case of secondary articulation agreement. <i>Phonology</i> 24, pp. 77-120.
18 11/26	Artificial grammar experiments; under- and over-phonologization.
	Reading: Wilson, C. (2006). Learning phonology with substantive bias: an experimental and computational study of velar palatalization. <i>Cognitive Science</i> 30.5, pp. 945-982. Note: skim section 3. HW: Squib – (partial) analysis in OT.
11/28	Holiday
12/2	No class
12/5	No class
19 12/10	Students present papers in progress.
20 12/12	Students present papers in progress.

Final paper due Thursday, December 18