

## Ling 212

[NB: Now Ling 214 Phonetics]

## Phonology B

Winter 2009

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Time: Tu-Th 3-4:45  
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In spite of its name, this course spends a lot of time on phonetics (mostly of the acoustic and perceptual sort). But it also spends a lot of time on exploring the relationship between phonetics and phonology.

It has always been useful for a phonologist to understand some phonetics. But during the last 12 years or so, phonetics has taken on a much more prominent role in phonological theory, so that appreciation of phonetics has become indispensable.

Our graduate phonology sequence presupposes some background in phonetics and phonology. The sort of phonetics presupposed is what you might get from Ladefoged's *A course in phonetics*, especially the ability to describe and transcribe (in IPA) a fair range of sounds. The sort of phonology presupposed includes understanding phonemics and allophony, and notions like alternation, neutralization, assimilation, dissimilation, syllables and stress. If you're lacking some of this background, it may be possible to keep up by doing some outside reading. Talk to me about it.

### *Requirements*

- ☆ Lab work and written phonetics assignments
- ☆ Some presentations in class
- ☆ Readings: Ladefoged's *Elements of acoustic phonetics*; Johnson's *Acoustic and auditory phonetics*, both available at Bay Tree; various articles and handouts.
- ☆ A final experimental project/paper.

### **Phonetics**

For roughly the first half of the quarter you will have lab assignments. These will give you practical experience with phonetic analysis, and will (I hope) deepen your understanding of the course material and readings. They will involve some writing up, as usual. Feel free to work in pairs on the speech analysis parts of the homework. (More than two isn't good, because you won't get enough time operating the software yourself.) I also encourage you to discuss all aspects of the assignments with each other. But try to do the write-ups on your own.

We'll be doing phonetic analysis using Praat, speech analysis freeware available on-line. Praat is installed on the computers in the phonetics lab. It is probably also on some of the computers in the grad space. (If not it is easy to download and install, and the latest version should probably be installed anyway.) If you have your own computer, I encourage you to download Praat yourself and install it. It comes in Windows, Mac, and Unix versions. Find it at <http://www.fon.hum.uva.nl/praat/>.

### **Phonetics and phonology**

Readings and class discussion will explore the ways in which phonetics is shaping current phonology. We will explore both “laboratory phonology” and “functional phonology”.

“Laboratory Phonology” refers to work that exploits instrumental phonetic techniques in order to illuminate a phonological analysis or some question involving phonetics and phonology.

“Functional phonology” refers to work that questions or shifts the boundaries between phonetics and phonology.

### *Final Project/Paper*

A final phonetics or “labphon” project. We'll talk about possible projects a few weeks into the course.

## Course schedule

1/6	<b>Introduction: phonetics and phonology</b>
1/8	No Class (LSA)
1/13	<b>Acoustics:</b> waves; sound waves; complex waves. Ladefoged chaps 1-4
1/15	<b>Laboratory phonology</b> Myers, "Surface underspecification in Chichewa"
1/20	<b>Acoustic and LabPhon (cont)</b>
1/22	<b>Acoustics (cont):</b> resonance; source-filter theory Ladefoged 5, 7-8
1/27	<b>Acoustics (cont):</b> more source-filter theory
1/29	<b>Laboratory phonology (cont)</b> Gordon, "A phonetically-driven account of syllable weight"
2/3	<b>Perception:</b> hearing. Johnson 3
2/5	<b>Acoustics (cont):</b> spectra; the sound spectrograph; acoustic correlates of features. Johnson 6.3-5, 7.1-4
2/10	<b>Acoustics (cont):</b> more acoustic correlates of features. Johnson 8.1-4, 9.1-4
2/12	<b>Phonetically informed phonology: prosodic vs. cue-based accounts</b> Kawahara, Shigeto, "A faithfulness ranking projected from a perceptibility scale"
2/17	<b>Doing perceptual experiments</b> (Johnson 4, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5, 9.5)
2/19	<b>Phonetically informed phonology (cont)</b> Kawahara (cont: sections 4-)
2/24	<b>Perception and sound change</b> Padgett & Zygis, "A perceptual study of Polish fricatives, and its relation to historical sound change"
2/26	<b>Dispersion theory</b> Padgett & Zygis, "The evolution of sibilants in Polish and Russian"
3/3	<b>Presentations</b>
3/5	<b>Channel vs. analytic bias</b> Moreton, "Analytic bias and phonological typology"
3/10	<b>Marit presents</b>
3/12	
3/20	<b>Final papers due</b>