

General Information

Instructor: Steve Winters
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Office Hours: Tue. & Thu. 1:00-2:00, and by appointment.

Teaching Assistant: Stephanie Archer
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Lectures: MW 2:00–2:50 Social Sciences 541
Discussion: F 2:00–2:50 Social Sciences 541

This course is an introduction to the phonetics of the languages of the world. We will explore this broad topic by (primarily) employing phonetic transcription and acoustic analysis to look at speech cross-linguistically. Readings, lectures and homework exercises provide an extensive survey of the speech sounds of the languages of the world, and an introduction to the basic tools of phonetic science.

Practical training in phonetics is particularly valuable for professions in language education – whether foreign language education, English education, or ESL. Phonetic training also benefits students who are interested in human/computer interface technology, and students who are in training for certification as speech pathologists or audiologists. Of course, students who major in linguistics should take phonetics.

Note on departmental grade requirement: a student may not register in any linguistics course unless a grade of at least C- has been achieved in each prerequisite for that course. The prerequisites for this course are linguistics 201/203 or linguistics 205/207.

Course Web Page:

https://webdisk.ucalgary.ca/~swinters/public_html/ling341/index.html

All lecture notes, handouts and homework exercises—along with updated versions of this syllabus—will be posted to the course website. Please check it on a regular basis if you are interested in having access to these materials.

Textbook

Peter Ladefoged (2006) *A Course in Phonetics*, 5th ed. Boston: Thomson/Wadsworth.

Peter Ladefoged (1996). *Elements of Acoustic Phonetics*, 2nd ed. The University of Chicago Press.

Both of these textbooks are required for this course. Any further readings will be announced and made available during the course of the semester.

Discussion sessions

It is impossible to learn phonetics by reading books alone. Therefore, each Friday will be devoted to a review and application of the material covered during the lecture sections that week. During these discussion sessions you will have an opportunity to practice your skills at phonetic transcription, work on in-class phonetic analysis projects, and to discuss the reading.

Grading

The course grade will be based on your performance on homework exercises, production exercises, quizzes, course participation, a midterm exam and a final exam.

Homework will consist primarily of transcription practice and assigned exercises from the textbook. I will expect you to complete these assignments independently, outside of class. Materials for transcription practice will be made available from the course website. (If you do not have an internet connection, please let me know, and I will provide you with the transcription materials on CD.)

Late homeworks will only be accepted in cases of documented medical or family emergencies.

Participation grades will primarily be based on the completion of assignments in and for each Friday discussion section. Since these assignments will be discussed in class, points will *not* be taken off if honest (independent) effort yielded incorrect results. However, points will be taken off if an assignment is incomplete or carelessly done.

In borderline cases, class participation in the traditional sense may be used when assigning final grades.

Production Exercises. Over the course of the semester, you will be expected to learn how to produce the various sounds of the International Phonetic Alphabet. I will assign production exercises to test your ability to produce the sounds that have been presented in class. You will be responsible for making recordings of yourself producing these sounds and sending the sound files to me for grading purposes. If you do not

own a computer with which you can record yourself, you may use the facilities of the Phonetics Lab (see below) to do so.

Quizzes. Occasional, in-class quizzes will be given during the semester. These quizzes will be announced at least one lecture period ahead of time.

Exams. The final exam will be cumulative. Also please note that a portion of your final exam grade will be based on a production exam. Make-up exams will not be given except in the case of dire, documented medical emergencies.

Your final grade will be based on:

Homework exercises:	15%
Participation:	15%
Production exercises:	10%
Quizzes:	10%
Midterm exam:	25%
Final exam:	25%

FOR THE FUTURE:

Production exam is worth 1/5th of the final exam grade.
I.e., final exam = 100 points; production exam = 25 points.

The grading scale for the course will be as follows:

$98\% \leq A+$	$78 \leq C+ < 80$	F	< 60
$92 \leq A < 98$	$72 \leq C < 78$		
$90 \leq A- < 92$	$70 \leq C- < 72$		
$88 \leq B+ < 90$	$68 \leq D+ < 70$		
$82 \leq B < 88$	$62 \leq D < 68$		
$80 \leq B- < 82$	$60 \leq D- < 62$		

Please note that I do not round up in calculating final grades.

Resources

1. The Department of Linguistics Phonetics Lab is located in Education 259 (phone: 220-3598). The lab is set up to make high quality acoustic recordings of speech, which you are more than welcome to use for your production exercises for this class. If you would like to use the resources of the Phonetics Lab at any time, please contact me to set up an appointment

2. Sound files and exercises from the primary textbook for this class, *A Course in Phonetics*, may also be found on the web at:

<http://www.phonetics.ucla.edu/course/contents.html>

3. Additionally, helpful sound materials may be found here:

<http://www.phonetics.ucla.edu/vowels/contents.html>

4. Doulos SIL is a freely available phonetics font for your computer. You may download it from this weblink:

http://scripts.sil.org/cms/scripts/page.php?site_id=nrsi&id=DoulosSILfont

Although it is not necessary to do so, you are encouraged to use your computer—and this font—in writing up homework assignments for this class.

5. Praat is a great, freely available software package for phonetic analysis. Among (many) other things, you may use Praat to record, edit and play sound files on your computer. Praat is available for download at:

<http://www.fon.hum.uva.nl/praat/>

6. Just for (educational) fun: I have a homemade IPA Scrabble set, which you are welcome to borrow at any time. All you have to do is ask!

Books on reserve in the main library

I will be putting the following books on reserve for this class (listed under Linguistics 341) in the main library.

- Borden, G. J. (2003) *Speech Science Primer*, 4th ed. [QP306.B65 2003]
- Johnson, K.A. (2003) *Acoustic & Auditory Phonetics*, 2nd ed. [P221.5.J64 2003]
- Ladefoged, P. & Maddieson, I. (1995) *Sounds of the World's Languages* [P221.L315 1995]

The following useful book is also available in the Library's Reference Section:

- Pullum, G.K. (1996) *Phonetic Symbol Guide*, 2nd Ed. [P221.P85 1996]

Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct

Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course, when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:

- a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),
- b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
- c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or
- d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Some course assignments call for students to work in groups. Unless noted otherwise in writing, students must write up their own answers for submission of the assignment. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism.

Plagiarism is an extremely serious academic offense. Possible penalties for plagiarism include: failing the assignment, failing the course, disciplinary probation, suspension, or expulsion.

Any student who voluntarily and consciously aids another student in the commission of plagiarism is also guilty of academic misconduct.

UNDERGRADUATE ADVISORS:

Suzanne Curtin, Administration 260, 220-7670, ling.undergrad@ucalgary.ca

Disability Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

Course Schedule

Please note that this schedule is meant to provide an *ideal* course of future action and is therefore likely to change before the end of the semester. New course schedules will be issued if and when those changes occur.

Wk	Date	Day	Lecture Topic	Reading	Exercises
1	9/8 9/10 9/12	M W F	Introduction + Overview English Phonemic System	Course: Ch. 2	Transcription: English Basics
2	9/15 9/17 9/19	M W F	English Allophony Dimensions of Articulation	Course: Ch. 1	Transcription: Features + Narrow English
3	9/22 9/24 9/26	M W F	Cardinal Vowels Place of Articulation	Course: 159-168 Course: 133-143	Transcription: Place of Articulation
4	9/29 10/1 10/3	M W F	Airstream Mechanisms Trills; Voicing	Course: 133-143	Production Exercise #1 Transcription: Airstream Mechanisms
5	10/6 10/8 10/10	M W F	Basic Acoustics Pitch; Tone	Elements; Ch. 1 Course: 247-254; Elements: Ch. 2	Transcription: Tone
6	10/13 10/15 10/17	M W F	Thanksgiving: No Class Syllables; Stress Mid-term review	Course: 110-114; 237-245; Elements: 80-88	Production Exercise #2
7	10/20 10/22 10/24	M W F	MID-TERM EXAM Harmonics	Elements: 36-43	Transcription: Length

8	10/27	M	Resonance	Course: 181-190; Elements: 56-61 Course: 83-98; 211-220	Exercise: Spectrogram Matching I
	10/29	W	Vowels		
	10/31	F			
9	11/3	M	Source/Filter Theory	Elements: 92-108	Production Exercise #3
	11/5	W	Vowels of the World	Course: 221-226	Transcription: Vowels
	11/7	F			
10	11/10	M	Reading Days: No Class	Course: 64-66; 168-176	Transcription: Fricatives
	11/12	W	Fricatives		
	11/14	F			
11	11/17	M	Fricatives + Affricates	Course: 191-208	Production Exercise #4
	11/19	W	Approximants + Secondary Articulations		Exercise: Spectrogram Matching II
	11/21	F			
12	11/24	M	Nasals + Nasalization	Course: 143-151	Transcription: Grab Bag
	11/26	W	Voice Onset Time		
	11/28	F			
13	12/1	M	Stop Acoustics	Elements: 74-80	Production Exercise #5
	12/3	W	Audition		Spectrogram Reading
	12/5	F	Review		
14			FINAL EXAM Time and Place TBA		