

Linguistics 503: Phonology

Spring 2006

Class Information:

Time: MW, 9:30-11:18
Location: Mendenhall 125
Website: www.ling.osu.edu/~kchall/503
Textbook: *Introducing Phonology*, David Odden, Cambridge University Press (2005)
<http://www.ling.ohio-state.edu/~odden/IntroducingPhonology/>
Prerequisite: Ling 201, 202, 270, 601, or equivalent.
Office Hours: Fridays, 9:30-11:00 or by appointment, in Oxley 024

Instructor Information:

Name: Kathleen Currie Hall
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Mailbox: Oxley 222

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the study of phonology, the sound structure of languages. This will be a very “hands-on,” data-intensive course: you will learn about phonology and phonological issues by doing phonological analyses of data from languages across the world. In addition to learning about phonology itself, the course will also help you hone your analytical skills and help you learn how to present an analysis clearly.

The Kinds of Questions We’ll Examine:

1. What is phonology?
2. Why do we think phonology exists?
3. How is phonology different from phonetics?
4. What are the basic building blocks of phonology?
5. What are the symbolic representations used by phonologists?
6. What kind of phonological patterns are in the world’s languages?
7. How do you *recognize* phonological patterns in a set of data from an unfamiliar language?
8. How do you *describe* phonological patterns?
9. How do you *explain* phonological patterns?
10. What are the big topics in phonological theory?

Elements of the class:

1. Homework – Each week, you will have a homework assignment due on Wednesday. With the exception of the first week, this will allow you to work on the assignment over the weekend and ask questions in class on Monday, before it is due on Wednesday. The first few homework assignments will be practice with terminology, symbols, features, etc. The rest will be of two

types: (1) data analysis problems and (2) short-answer / essay-style questions on phonological theory. I will be giving you lots of information about how to solve and write up these homework assignments, and you should also refer to the textbook for good advice. I encourage you to work together to solve homework problems, but each person should write up the solution independently. Each homework assignment will count for 8% of your grade. Homeworks must be turned in on time – no late homeworks will be accepted. You may submit homeworks in person in class, by e-mail, in my mailbox in Oxley, or by courier.

2. Final exam – There will be one final take-home exam in this class. It will be distributed during the last week of classes and be due during Finals week. The exam will be a combination of data analysis questions and questions about phonological theory. Unlike the homeworks, you may *not* discuss the final exam with your classmates. The exam is worth 20% of your grade.

3. Class participation – Each class session will involve a lot of practice exercises and discussion of phonological analysis, which are crucial to really learning about phonology. Hence attendance and active participation are encouraged.

4. Reading – The readings for this course come from the textbook *Introducing Phonology*, by Dave Odden. This book gives an excellent overview of phonology, using example data from numerous languages to illustrate each point. I will generally not be lecturing directly from the book, but we will be covering many of the concepts addressed in the text. Many of the assignments will come from data in this book, and you can download the data itself from the website associated with the book, which makes writing up your analysis much simpler. (<http://www.ling.ohio-state.edu/~odden/IntroducingPhonology/>)

Grading:

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|-------------------------|-----|------------------|
| 1. Homework assignments | 80% | 10 worth 8% each |
| 2. Final Exam | 20% | 1 worth 20% |

Grading Scale:

(A+ 97-100)	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	E < 60
A 93-(96)	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
A- 90-92	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

Note that OSU doesn't recognize "A+" as a distinct grade. On individual assignments, however, I may assign grades of A+, with the understanding that such grades fall in the upper range of OSU's "A" category. Final grades will not, however, make the distinction between A and A+.

Policies:

Accommodations: If you feel you may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability, please contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. Please also contact the Office of Disability Services, who will help coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities, at (614) 292-3307 or in person in 150 Pomerene Hall.

Conduct: We're all adults. I will treat you with respect, and you will treat me and each other with respect. Academic misconduct will not be tolerated by anybody, and I will follow University Rule 3335-31-02, which requires that "each instructor shall report to the committee on academic misconduct all instances of what he or she believes may be academic misconduct."

The most common form of misconduct is plagiarism. Remember that any time you use the ideas or the statements of someone else, you must *explicitly* acknowledge the source in a citation. This includes material that you found on the Web or that you get from classmates. It is not wrong to get ideas from another person (in fact, I encourage collaboration!), but it is wrong to pass those ideas off as your own. The university provides thoughtful guidelines for research on the Web at <http://gateway.lib.ohio-state.edu/tutor>.

Concerns: If you have any concerns about this course that you do not feel comfortable discussing with me, please contact Laurie Maynell, the Linguistics Department TA coordinator, at maynell@ling.osu.edu.

Tentative Schedule of Events:

Week	Date	Topic	Readings	Due
1	Mon., Mar. 27	Introduction: Pattern Recognition		
	Wed., Mar. 29	Phonology vs. Phonetics	Chapter 1: p. 1-17	HW 1
2	Mon., April 3	Phonetic Transcription	Chapter 2: p. 19-38	
	Wed., April 5	Classifying Speech Sounds		HW 2
3	Mon., April 10	Tackling a Phonology Problem	Chapter 3: p. 43-61	
	Wed., April 12	Phonemes and Allophones		HW 3
4	Mon., April 17	Neutralizing Processes	Chapter 4: p. 67-80	
	Wed., April 19	Underlying Representations	Chapter 4: p. 80-94	HW 4
5	Mon., April 24	Problem Solving	Chapter 5: p. 99-112	
	Wed., April 26	Interacting Processes	Chapter 5: p. 112-122	HW 5
6	Mon., May 1	Rule Interaction	Chapter 5: p. 99-122	
	Wed., May 3	Rule Interaction		HW 6
7	Mon., May 8	Features and Feature Theory	Chapter 6: p. 129-154	
	Wed., May 10	Theoretical Issues	Chapter 6: p. 154-166	HW 7
8	Mon., May 15	Problem Solving	Chapter 7: p. 169-191	
	Wed., May 17	Problem Solving	Chapter 7: p. 191-207	HW 8
9	Mon., May 22	Typology	Chapter 8: p. 225-255	
	Wed., May 24	Naturalness		HW 9
10	Mon., May 29	NO CLASS		
	Wed., May 31	Abstractness	Chapter 9: p. 257-298	HW 10
11	Wed., June 7	<i>Exam Week</i>		Final Exam (by 5:00 PM)