

University of Florida at Gainesville
Department of Linguistics
4131 Turlington Hall
LIN 3201
Sounds of Human Language

T 4th period (10:40-11:30) AND034
R 4-5th periods (10:40 -12:30) AND034

Professor: Ratree Wayland Turlington 4131E
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Office Hours: T (11:45-12: 35), R (12:50-1:40), and by appointment

Teaching Assistant: Tristan Czarnecki-Verner
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Office Hours: TBA

Overview:

Humans use a wide variety of sounds in producing language. This course enables the students to recognize the sounds of human languages, to understand how they are made, and to identify the physical properties that correspond to them. We study the patterning and function of sounds in languages of the world, doing in-class research on an unfamiliar language to apply the methods of analyzing a language's sound system.

Prerequisite: LIN 3010 (Introduction to Linguistics)

Objectives: On completion of this course, students should be able to:

- accurately transcribe speech from an unfamiliar language or dialect
- describe the articulatory processes involved in producing speech sounds
- perform a phonemic analysis on phonetic data
- recognize and label common phonological processes
- appreciate similarities among phonetic/phonological systems of languages

| Assessment | % of course grade |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Perception Exercises | 8% |
| Attendance & Classroom Participation | 10% |
| Drill sessions | 10% |
| Home work (5) | 20% |
| Quizzes (5) | 20% |
| Fieldwork Project (1) | 20% |
| Production Quiz (1) | 6% |
| Perception Quiz (1) | 6% |

Grading Scale

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|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 93.7–100% = A | 90-93.6% = A- | 86.7-89.9% = B+ |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------|

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|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 83.7-86.6% = B | 80.0-83.6% = B- | 76.7-79.9% = C+ |
| 73.7-76.6% = C | 70.0-73.6% = C- | 66.7-69.9% = D+ |
| 63.7-66.6% = D | 60.0-63.6% = D- | Below 60% = E |

Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points can be found here.
<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>.

Late Policy: No late transcriptions, homework, or quizzes unless you receive permission before the due date. Let us know as soon as you realize you will be unable to meet a deadline. Assignments are collected at the beginning of class on the date they are due.

Details of Assessments

- **Perception Exercises (8%):** Due on Tuesdays. The assignments can be found in your course packet. After recording your answers while listening to the recordings for each exercise, compare your answers to the answer given and note any problems.
- **Attendance & Classroom Participation (10%):** In most classes, as time permits, 15-20 min will be spent on exercises given. They will either be individual or group oriented. Your attendance and participation in these exercises contributes 10% to your final grade. Therefore, regular class attendance is crucial to earning these 10%.

| # of Missed Classes | Percentage earned |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | 10% |
| 2 | 9% |
| 3 | 8% |
| 4 | 7% |
| 5 | 6% |
| 6 | 5% |
| 7 | 4% |
| 8 | 3% |
| 9 | 2% |
| 10 | 1% |
| 11 | 0% |

- **Drill Sessions (10%):** Tristan will meet with small groups of students (5-6) each week for practice on the sounds covered in class; each drill session will be approximately 25 minutes and will take place in the Linguistics Conference Room (Room 4104) inside Turlington Hall. Drill sessions start week 3 (January 23rd). You are required to attend one session per week; you are allowed to miss one session for the entire semester, but each additional absence will cost you 1% out of the 10% of your drill session grade. You may make up for a missed session by attending a different session during the same week if space permitted. These sessions will reinforce your ability to perceive and to produce the different sounds, and attendance will not only be reflected in your drill session grade, but also in your success in the perception and production quizzes and the final field work project. Because of the extra time commitment, formal class on Thursdays will end 15-20 minutes early; we will cover no new material after that point. However, you are welcome to stay to ask questions or do practice quizzes or drills.

| # of Missed Sessions | Percentage earned |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | 10% |
| 2 | 9% |
| 3 | 8% |
| 4 | 7% |
| 5 | 6% |
| 6 | 5% |
| 7 | 4% |
| 8 | 3% |
| 9 | 2% |
| 10 | 1% |
| 11 | 0% |

- **Homework (20%):** Homework assignments are due on Tuesdays, and each will be worth 4% of your grade. They will ask you to use the terms, methods, or information presented in class. You are free to work with fellow students on these assignments, but you should write up the answers on your own.
- **Quizzes (20%):** Quizzes take place in class on Thursdays, and each will be worth 4% of your grade. Each will involve transcription of sounds produced by myself followed by questions on the material covered during the preceding weeks. Each quiz will take around 30 minutes.
- **Fieldwork Project (20%):** In the last or one before last week of class, a native speaker of a language which no one in the class has studied will join us so that you can practice “field methods” on the language. You will interact with the speaker to determine the sound system (phones and phonemes) of his/her language, and you will write up the results for 4/25.
- **Production Quiz (6%):** Administered during the 4/5 week. Lu will meet with each of you for 5 minutes and ask you to produce various sounds by reading from the IPA transcription.
- **Perception Quiz (6%):** Administered on 3/29. You will be asked to identify or discriminate sounds I produce. This quiz will take approximately 10-15 minutes.

Reading

Required:

Ratree Wayland. (2003). *Sounds of Human Language Manual* (Rat)

Optional:

Catford, J.C. (1988). *A Practical Introduction to Phonetics*. (Cat)

Course Outline

Lectures will follow the outline below. This outline is tentative and may be updated as we go.

| Week | Date | Reading Assignment | Topic | Perception Exercises | HW & Quiz |
|------|--------|--------------------|--------------|----------------------|-----------|
| 1 | Jan 9 | Cat Ch. 1 | Introduction | | |
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| | Jan 11 | Rat pp. 1-9 | Anatomy | | |

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|-----|--------|--------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 2 | Jan 16 | Cat Ch. 2 | Airstream | | |
| | Jan 18 | Rat pp. 9-15 | Airstream/voicing | | |
| 3 | Jan 23 | Rat pp.15-18 | Articulation Place | Airstream/phonation | Drill sessions start |
| | Jan 25 | | Articulation Place | | HW 1 |
| 4 | Jan 30 | Cat Ch. 4 | Articulation Manner | Place and manner | |
| | Feb 1 | Rat pp.18-22 | Manner | | Quiz 1 |
| 5 | Feb 6 | Cat Ch. 5 | vowels | | HW2 |
| | Feb 8 | Rat pp.22-29 | | | |
| 6 | Feb 13 | Cat Ch. 6 | | Vowels | |
| | Feb 15 | Rat 30-31 | prosody | | Quiz 2 |
| 7. | Feb 20 | Cat Ch. 7 | | Pitch/tone | HW3 |
| | Feb 22 | Rat 31-34 | prosody | | |
| 8. | Feb 27 | Rat Ch. 5 | Speech transcription | | |
| | Mar 1 | | | | Quiz3 |
| 9. | Mar 6 | Spring Break | NO CLASS! | | |
| | Mar 8 | | | | |
| 10. | Mar 13 | Cat Ch. 8 | phonemics | | |
| | Mar 15 | | | | |
| 11. | Mar 20 | Cat Ch. 9 | morphophonemics | | HW4 |
| | Mar 22 | Rat 40-53 | | | |
| 12. | Mar 27 | Handout | Field Methods | | |
| | Mar 29 | | | | Quiz 4 |
| 13. | Apr 3 | | Field Methods | Production test | HW 5 |
| | Apr 5 | Handout | | | |
| 14. | Apr 10 | | Field Methods | Perception test | |

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|-----|--------|----------|---------------------|--|--------|
| | Apr 12 | | | | Quiz 5 |
| 15. | Apr 17 | Handouts | Field methods | | |
| | Apr 19 | | | | |
| 16. | Apr 24 | | Field method review | | |

Accommodations for students with disabilities Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drp/>. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

Academic honesty It is expected that all students will adhere to the University of Florida Honor Code and the academic honesty guidelines available at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/honestybrochure.php>.