

University of Florida at Gainesville
Linguistics Program
4131 Turlington Hall

LIN 3201

Sounds of Human Language

MWF 4th period (10:40-11:30) Anderson 0134

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Overview:

Humans use a wide variety of sounds in producing language. This course enables the student 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 |
|--|-------------------|
| Transcription Exercises (Smalley) (16) | 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

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

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 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

- **Smalley Transcription (8%):** The Smalley assignments, listed by number on your schedule, are due by Tuesdays. Each week's assignment is worth ½ point. To complete them, go to the Language Lab webpage <http://www.clas.ufl.edu/llc/audio.htm>. Select the link to Lin 3201 Sounds of Modern Language. Your user name is **smalley** and your password is **articulate**. Details on how to complete the assignment including further instruction, copies of the assignments, answer keys in IPA can be found in your course packet. After recording your answers while listening to the tapes, compare your answers to the answer sheet and note any problems. Alternatively, you can complete these exercises on the web at <http://bach.arts.kuleuven.be/MOAP> by clicking on the **J.-Ph. Goldman's interactive course** link at the bottom of the page.
- **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 |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 0 | 10% |
| 3 | 8% |
| 7 | 6% |
| 7 | 4% |
| 10 | 0% |

- **Drill Sessions (10%):** Olga 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 (September 4th). You should 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 | 0% |

- **Homework (20%):** Homework assignments are due on Mondays, 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 Fridays, 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 12/4.
- **Production Quiz (6%):** Administered during the last week; I 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 during the last day of class. You will be asked to identify or discriminate sounds presented to you on a computer in the classroom. 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)

Smalley, W. A. (1980) *Manual of Articulatory Phonetics*. (The language lab has a copy you can read with the drills; this book is out of print).

Course Outline

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

| Week | Date | Topic | Reading Assignment | Transcription (Smalley exerci | HW & Quiz |
|------|---------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Aug 21 | Cat Ch. 1 | Introduction | | |
| | Aug 23 | Rat pp.1-9 | Anatomy | | |
| 2 | Aug 26 | Cat Ch. 2 | Airstream | | |
| | Aug 28 | Rat pp. 9-15 | Airstream | | |
| | Aug 30 | | Voicing | | |
| 3 | Sept 2 | Labor Day no Class | | | |
| | Sept 4 | Rat pp.15-18 | Articulation Place | 1,31 | HW 1 Drill sessions start |
| | Sept 6 | | place | | |
| 4 | Sept 9 | Cat Ch. 4 | Articulation Manner | 5,7 | |
| | Sept 11 | Rat pp. 18-22 | Manner | | |
| | Sept 13 | | | | Quiz 1 |
| 5 | Sept 16 | Cat Ch. 5 | vowels | 3,13 | HW2 |
| | Sept 18 | Rat pp. 22-29 | | | |
| | Sept 20 | | | | |
| 6 | Sept 23 | Cat Ch. 6 | | 11,15 | |
| | Sept 25 | Rat pp. 30-31 | prosodics | | |
| | Sept 27 | | | | Quiz 2 |
| 7. | Sept 30 | Cat Ch. 7 | | 9, 21 | HW3 |
| | Oct 2 | Rat pp. 31-40 | prosodics | | |
| | Oct 4 | | | | |
| 8. | Oct 7 | Cat Ch. 8 | phonemics | 12, 14 | |
| | Oct 9 | | | | |

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|-----|--------|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| | Oct 11 | | | | Quiz3 |
| 9. | Oct 14 | Cat Ch. 9 | | 16, 22 | HW4 |
| | Oct 16 | Rat pp. 40-53 | morphophonemics | | |
| | Oct 18 | | | | |
| 10. | Oct 21 | Handouts | Field Methods | 2, 6 | |
| | Oct 23 | Rat 53-60 | | | |
| | Oct 25 | | | | Quiz 4 |
| 11. | Oct 28 | Rat pp. 60-61 | Field Methods | | HW 5 |
| | Oct 30 | | | | |
| | Nov 1 | | | | |
| 12. | Nov 4 | Handouts | | | |
| | Nov 6 | | | | |
| | Nov 8 | Home coming no class | | | |
| 13. | Nov 11 | Veterans Day no class | | | |
| | Nov 13 | | | Production test | |
| | Nov 15 | | | | Quiz 5 |
| 14. | Nov 18 | Handouts | Field method | | |
| | Nov 20 | | Field method | | |
| | Nov 22 | | Field method | | |
| 15. | Nov 25 | | | | |
| | Nov 27 | Thanksgiving | | | |
| | Nov 29 | Thanksgiving | | | |
| 16. | Dec 2 | | | Perception test | |
| | Dec 4 | | | | Final project due |

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>.