LX510: Introduction to Phonetics

Fall 2010
T-Th, 9:30-11
Room: KCB 107

Instructor:

Jonathan Barnes
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Office Hours: W 9:30-11:30, Th 3:30-4:30

Course Information:

Prerequisites

LX250: Foundations of Language, or equivalent.

Texts


Note: Make sure you get the correct edition of Ladefoged! Previous editions, enticingly affordable though they be, have been changed too dramatically to substitute. In particular, the CD included with the current edition is a tremendously valuable resource on all things phonetic.


• The Ladefoged textbook is available at the Barnes and Noble bookstore at Boston University.

Some online resources

Praat: http://www.fon.hum.uva.nl/praat/
Wavesurfer: http://www.speech.kth.se/wavesurfer/
Course Requirements:

- Regular attendance and class participation
- Weekly problem sets and/or transcription exercises (35% of grade)
- Midterm exam – October 21 (15% of grade)
- Phonetic fieldwork project (25% of grade)
- Final exam – Wednesday, December 15, 9:00-11:00 PM (25% of grade)

Homework

- Weekly homework assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day they are due. Late homework (without prior excuse) will not be accepted. Your lowest homework grade will be dropped.
- You may, if you wish, collaborate with your fellow students on homework assignments. You must, however, state CLEARLY on each assignment the identities of your collaborators, and you must each write up your homeworks individually.

CAS Student Academic Conduct Code

- As a member of a CAS course, it is essential that you read and adhere to the CAS Student Academic Conduct Code. In particular, several types of plagiarism (any attempt to represent the work of another as your own) are defined by this academic conduct code. A copy is available in CAS 105.

Final Project

- For our final project, you will take on the role of linguistic field worker. Working with a native speaker of a language with which you have no previous experience, and without consulting existing sources, you will create an original description of the sound pattern of the language you have chosen. Initial proposals for projects due in class October 7. An early start is highly recommended.

- Your consultant must be a living, intact, fluent speaker of the language in question.

- Your consultant should use the language in question on a regular basis.

- Please do not consult ANY reference materials (published grammars, dictionaries, articles, online descriptions, or what have you) regarding your language. Doing so defeats the purpose of the assignment, and will most likely be detected and frowned upon severely by your instructor.

- A note on using linguists as consultants: you should always seek out your consultant's intuitions concerning the structure of his or her language ("are these two sounds the same or different?"), but if your consultant should happen to be a linguist (or otherwise in-the-know about grammar), please explain to him or her the nature of this assignment and ask that he or she refrain from simply telling you "the way it really is".

- This project will be discussed in detail as the semester progresses. An archive of successful projects from previous years is available for your perusal upon request.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sep 2</td>
<td>Basic terminology and anatomy; What is linguistic phonetics?</td>
<td>Read: Ladefoged, 1-2</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Sep 7, 9</td>
<td>Airstream mechanisms; Phonation; Aspiration and VOT</td>
<td>Read: L, Ch. 3-4, 6; HW 1, due Tuesday</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Sep 14, 16</td>
<td>Obstruents: Place and manner of articulation</td>
<td>Read L, Ch. 7; HW 2, due Tuesday</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Sep 21, 23</td>
<td>Complex Segments; Sonorants</td>
<td>Homework 3: Cutting up speech on a computer, due Tuesday.</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Sep 28, 30</td>
<td>More sonorants; secondary articulations</td>
<td>Read: L, Ch. 9</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Oct 5, 7</td>
<td>Vowels and diphthongs</td>
<td>Proposals due in class on October 7! You should be starting work by now.</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Oct 12, 14</td>
<td>NO CLASS OCTOBER 12! ☹ Phonemic Analysis</td>
<td>Read: L, Ch. 11</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Oct 26, 28</td>
<td>Suprasegmentals 1: syllables, stress</td>
<td>Read: L, Ch. 5, 10</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Nov 2, 4</td>
<td>Suprasegmentals 2: Tone and intonation</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Nov 9, 11</td>
<td>Coarticulation, Contextually-determined variation; Acoustic phonetics</td>
<td>Read: L, Ch. 8</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Nov 16, 18</td>
<td>Still more acoustic phonetics</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Nov 23</td>
<td>Even more acoustic phonetics</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Nov 30, Dec 2</td>
<td>Acoustic phonetics, continued; Speech perception</td>
<td>Read: Diehl, Lotto, Holt</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Dec 7, 9</td>
<td>More Speech perception; Review and wrap-up</td>
<td>December 9: Projects due in class!</td>
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- A number of supplemental readings will be assigned and made available to you over the course of the semester.