CAS LX405 / GRS LX705: Prosody

Fall 2019
MWF 10:10-11
Room: CAS 426

Instructor:

Jonathan Barnes
CAS Program in Linguistics
Dept. of Romance Studies
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Office Hours: Monday 11-12:30, Tuesday 3:30-5, or by appointment

Course Information:

Prerequisites: LX250, Introduction to Linguistics, LX301/601, Phonetics and Phonology, or equivalent.

Text: There is no textbook required for this class. Instead, we will make use of a range of readings, mostly published articles in the areas we will cover. These will be distributed to you as the semester progresses.

Text recommended:

Some useful books in this area, especially for graduate students intending to go on this part of the field, include:


Other Resources:

- The International Phonetic Alphabet for your computer: [http://scripts.sil.org/IPAhome](http://scripts.sil.org/IPAhome)
- Typing IPA online: [http://ipa.typeit.org](http://ipa.typeit.org)
- Praat: [http://www.fon.hum.uva.nl/praat/](http://www.fon.hum.uva.nl/praat/)

Course Requirements:

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<tr>
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<th>CAS LX 405</th>
<th>GRS LX 705</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classroom participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm examination, October 18</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>15%</td>
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Final examination, Monday, 12/16, 9-11 AM  |  20%  |  20%
Final Project            |  30%  |  25%
Critical reading summaries |  NA  |  10%

**Homework**

- 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.

**Final Project**

- As a final project, you will either participate in a group experiment involving original research in the domain of speech prosody, or you will undertake your own investigation of the prosody of a language or variety, aiming to produce the beginnings of a basic description of that language’s prosodic system. Experiments will be carried out in small groups (± 3 students per group), but each student will be expected to produce a write-up of the results individually. Details to follow fairly early in the semester...

  NOTE: Alternative individual project ideas will be considered by me, though not necessarily accepted. If you wish to do this, please contact me with a plausible alternative proposal as early in the semester as possible.

**Graduate Students**

- Students enrolled in this class as GRS LX705 will be required to complete certain additional assignments for this course. In particular, throughout the semester there will be a series of additional readings, taken either from more advanced text- or handbook presentations of the material, or from the primary literature itself. In addition to being responsible for the content of these readings, graduate students will also be required to submit, for a total of FIVE of these readings, a critical summary and evaluation of the reading in question, between one and two pages double-spaced in length. Each summary, in addition to an overview and commentary on the reading, must present at least one “question for further study”, with a blueprint for follow up, that emerges from this reading.

**Academic Integrity**

All students are responsible for understanding and complying with the BU Academic Conduct Codes, available at [http://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/academic-conduct-code](http://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/academic-conduct-code) and [http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/graduate/grs-forms-policies-procedures/academic-discipline-procedures/](http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/graduate/grs-forms-policies-procedures/academic-discipline-procedures/)
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sep 4, 6</td>
<td>Introduction: What is prosody... and why should we care?</td>
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| 2    | Sep 9, 11, 13 | Intro to Intonation: tunes and texts  
|       |            | - Pitch phonetics and working with Praat                             |
| 3    | Sep 16, 18, 20 | Building blocks of English intonation contours  
|       |            | - Autosegmental-Metrical analyses of English  
|       |            | - Intro. to intonational transcription                               |
| 4    | Sep 23, 25, 27 | Prominence, in English and across languages  
|       |            | - Disentangling word- and phrase-level prosody                       |
| 5    | Sep 30, Oct 2, 4 | Speech rhythm and rhythmic typologies                              |
| 6    | Oct 7, 9, 11 | Phrasing and hierarchical structure in prosody  
|       |            | - Boundary signals: time, F0, and more                              |
| 7    | Oct 15, 16, 18 | Duration in phonetics and phonology  
|       |            | - Note anomalous Tuesday class!  
|       |            | Midterm on Friday, October 18                                       |
| 8    | Oct 21, 23, 25 | Tonal and intonational phonetics 1:  
|       |            | - Tonal alignment, tone scaling, downtrends, contrast maintenance   |
| 9    | Oct 28, 30, Nov 1 | Tonal and intonational phonetics 2:  
|       |            | - Voicelessness and discontinuity; Segmental intonation  
|       |            | - Whispering in tone languages!  
|       |            | - Singing in tone languages!  
|       |            | - Tone deafness!                                                     |
| 10   | Nov 4, 6, 8 | Focus and accent placement                                           |
| 11   | Nov 11, 13, 15 | Prosody and meaning  
|       |            | - Prosody and processing                                             |
| 12   | Nov 18, 20, 22 | Prosodic typology 1:  
|       |            | - What is a tone language?  
|       |            | - What, if anything, is a pitch accent language?  
|       |            | - Edge- and head-based prosodic systems                              |
| 13   | Nov 25     | No class W + F!  
|       |            | - Paralanguage and universals 1: Questions                          |
| 14   | Dec 2, 4, 6 | Paralanguage and universals 2: Focus expression  
|       |            | - Interactions between word- and phrase-level prosody               |
| 15   | Dec 9, 11  | - Prosody and social meaning                                         
|       |            | - Individual differences in prosody                                 |

Note: This schedule is tentative and subject to change.