

LX510: Introduction to Phonetics

Spring 2016
MWF, 11:00-12
Room: CAS 116

Instructor:

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Office Hours: Tuesday 3:30-5:00, Friday 3:00-4:30, or by appointment

Course Information:

Prerequisites: LX250, Introduction to Linguistics, or equivalent.

Texts

Required: Peter Ladefoged (& Keith Johnson) *A Course in Phonetics*, 7th ed. (Cengage Learning. ISBN-13: 978-1-285-46340-7)

Note: Make sure you get the correct edition of Ladefoged! Previous editions, enticingly affordable though they be, are quite different in many respects.

Recommended: J.C. Catford, *A Practical Introduction to Phonetics* (Oxford).
Peter Ladefoged and Ian Maddieson, *Sounds of the World's Languages* (Blackwell).
Peter Ladefoged, *Elements of Acoustic Phonetics* (U of Chicago Press).

- The Ladefoged & Johnson textbook is available at the Barnes and Noble bookstore at Boston University.

Some online resources

IPA fonts: http://scripts.sil.org/cms/scripts/page.php?site_id=nrsi&id=ipahome
Typing IPA online: <http://ipa.typeit.org>
Praat: <http://www.fon.hum.uva.nl/praat/>
Clickable IPA chart: <http://web.uvic.ca/ling/resources/ipa/charts/IPA1lab/IPA1lab.htm>
IPA Phonetics APP: <http://web.uvic.ca/ling/resources/ipaphonetics.htm>
Fun phonetics stuff from UCLA: <http://www.phonetics.ucla.edu>

Course Requirements:

- Regular attendance and class participation

- Weekly problem sets and/or transcription exercises (35% of grade)
- Midterm exam – March 18 (15% of grade)
- Phonetic fieldwork project (25% of grade)
- Final exam – Wednesday, May 4, 12:30-2:30 AM (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.

A Reminder:

Boston University Academic Conduct Code:

It is expected that you are familiar with the provisions of the Boston University Academic Conduct Code, available to you online at:

<http://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/academic-conduct-code/>

For graduate students, the GRS Academic Conduct Code:

<http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/graduate/forms-policies-procedures/academic-discipline-procedures/>

Cases of suspected academic misconduct will be referred to the Dean's office.

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 **March 4**. An early start is highly recommended.
- Your consultant must be a living, intact, fluent speaker of the language in question. And must 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.

Syllabus:

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS
1	Jan 20, 22	Basic terminology and anatomy; What is linguistic phonetics? Airstream mechanisms	Read: Ladefoged, 1-2, 6: 136-147
2	Jan 25, 27, 29	Phonation; Aspiration and VOT Obstruents: Place and manner of articulation	Read: L, Ch. 3-4, 6: 148-162
3	Feb 1, 3, 5	More obstruents, Complex segments; Sonorants	Read L, Ch. 7
4	Feb 8, 10, 12	More sonorants; secondary articulations	
5	Feb 16 , 17, 19	Vowels and diphthongs Note: No class Monday. Tuesday is our this week Monday instead.	Read: L, Ch. 9
6	Feb 29, Mar 2, 4	Phonemic analysis	Read: L, Ch. 11 Proposals due in class March 4! You should be starting work by now.
	Mar 7, 9, 11	SPRING BREAK!!! NO CLASS ☹️☹️☹️	
7	Mar 14, 16, 18	Suprasegmentals 1: Syllables, Stress; Review Mar 18: Midterm exam	Read: L, Ch. 5, 10
8	Mar 21, 23, 25	Suprasegmentals 2: Tone and intonation	
9	Mar 28, 30, Apr 1	Coarticulation, Contextually-determined variation; Acoustic phonetics	Read: L, Ch. 8
10	Apr 4, 6, 8	Still more acoustic phonetics	
11	Apr 11, 13, 15	Even more acoustic phonetics	
12	Apr 18 , 20, 22	No class April 18!!! ☹️ Wednesday is a Monday. Last acoustic phonetics Speech perception	Read: Diehl, Lotto, Holt (To be distributed)
13	Apr 25, 27, 29	More perception; Wrap-up	Apr 29: Projects due in class!

- A number of supplemental readings will be assigned and made available to you over the course of the semester.