

Linguistics 200: Phonology

Syllabus

August 19, 2008

<i>Time:</i>	MW 3:30–4:45	<i>Instructor:</i>	Elliott Moreton
<i>Place:</i>	Peabody 216	<i>Office:</i>	Smith 101 (after 8/22)
<i>Textbook:</i>	None	<i>Office hours:</i>	W 12–2, or appointment
<i>Blackboard:</i>	https://blackboard.unc.edu	<i>Email:</i>	moreton@unc.edu
<i>Website:</i>	http://www.unc.edu/moreton/Ling200/200main.html		

1 Description

LING 200 is an introduction to phonology, the study of the sound systems of naturally-occurring spoken human languages. We will study phonology by building and testing *models*—devices that simulate human speakers, except that we'll only be building them on paper—with the goal of explaining (1) *productivity* of patterns within a given language, and (2) *typology* of patterns across all languages. Our models will simulate many of the phonological phenomena most commonly encountered in the languages of the world, such as allophony, neutralization, harmony, assimilation, reduplication, etc. We will apply formal modelling tools including distinctive features, autosegmental and prosodic representations, rewrite rules, and Optimality Theory.

LING 200 is intended mainly for undergraduates majoring or minoring in Linguistics. It differs from LING 523, a graduate-level introduction which emphasizes reading original research literature. Credit can be had for only one of LING 200 and LING 523.

The only prerequisite for LING 200 is LING 101, Introduction to Linguistics.

2 Requirements

Final grades for the course will be calculated as follows:

- 10% *Attendance and participation.* Students are supposed to come to class, do the assigned readings on time, and participate in class activities and discussion. Missing classes will make it hard to keep up. It will also lower your participation grade (unless due to illness or other unavoidable events, which it is your responsibility to document).
- 60% *Homework and quizzes.* In addition to two quizzes, there will be numerous problem sets throughout the semester. As is often the case in linguistics courses, the homework may be meant as preparation for the class, not the other way around. Students may have to figure out how to do things which they have not yet been shown how to do.
- 30% *Exams.* There will be two midterms and one final, all in-class, all cumulative from the beginning of the course.

Numeric grades will be converted to UNC's letter-grade system by mapping the numeric range from 60 to 100 onto the 10 passing letter grades from D to A, with four numeric points per step (except that A has 5 points, 95 to 100).

3 Policies

Attendance. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to get missed materials from me or other students. Always check the website if you have been absent.

Reading. Students are expected to come to class having done the readings. If I start getting the impression that people aren't doing the readings, I'm going to institute pop quizzes. These are annoying because they waste class time, but coming to class without having done the reading wastes even more class time.

Homework. You'll get detailed information about each one when it's assigned, but there are some general points that apply to all of them. When you hand in homework, it can be handwritten, word-processed, or even typewritten, but it has to be (1) neat, (2) legible, (3) on paper, and (4) well-organized. Homeworks handed in on time will be graded on a scale from 1 to 3 in a way that will be explained along with each assignment using a device called a *grading rubric*. The 1–3 scale will map approximately onto a 66–100 scale in computation of the final grade. Other homeworks will receive a zero. Hence, a 0 is *much* worse than a 1.

Late assignments. As a general rule, NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR CREDIT. Exceptions *may* be made if

- You got *advance* permission (by asking me *before* the due date) to hand in an assignment late, or
- You couldn't come to campus on the day the assignment is due because of a serious illness or other unexpected emergency. You need to get the assignment in at the earliest possible opportunity with a *written explanation* of the situation. Email is best.

Collaboration and citation. It is a really good idea to discuss assignments with others in the class and solve the problems together. However, each person should write up their solution alone. If you work with others, or look up information in sources that aren't officially part of this course, you are required to acknowledge them in the writeup. (There is no shame in collaborating, or in digging out information independently, but you need to give credit where it is due.)

<p>The Carolina Honor Code is in effect in this class, and I will treat violations seriously. You should review it at http://instrument.unc.edu. If you have questions about interpretation, you should bring them to me. Every assignment you hand in must be accompanied by a signed statement that you have complied with the Code requirements in everything related to that work, e.g., “I completed this assignment in full compliance with the Honor Code.”.</p>

Midterm dates are still tentative at this point; they may move one or two days in either direction. You'll have at least two weeks' notice of the date, and will receive a midterm syllabus (a study guide) one week before the midterm. Individual exceptions will not be allowed without an extraordinarily compelling reason.

4 (Approximate) schedule

WEEK	DATE		TOPICS
1	8/20	W	Course organization. What is phonology? Representations and patterns
2	8/25	M	Anatomy quiz. Phonetics review I: Vowels.
	8/27	W	Phonetics review II: Consonants.
3	9/3	M	IPA quiz. Motivating phonology: Predictable vs. unpredictable.
4	9/8	M	Phonological modelling. Deciding between competing analyses.
	9/10	W	Natural classes. Abstract underlying representations.
5	9/15	M	Distinctive-feature theory. Non-place features.
	9/17	W	Place features. Derivational rules
6	9/22	M	Features and rules.
	9/24	W	Rules and rule ordering.
7	9/29	M	More on rule ordering.
	10/1	W	MIDTERM 1. Nonlinear representations
8	10/6	M	Tone and autosegments.
	10/8	W	Feature Geometry.
9	10/13	M	The Place tier.
	10/15	W	Syllables and syllabification. Introduction to Optimality Theory
10	10/20	M	Candidates, constraints, and repairs.
	10/22	W	Constraint ranking.
11	10/27	M	Faithfulness. Ranking arguments and summary tableaux.
	10/29	W	Practice basic Optimality Theory.
12	11/3	M	MIDTERM 2 Applications of Optimality Theory
	11/5	W	Universality of constraints. Syllable-structure constraints.
13	11/10	M	Factorial typology.
	11/12	W	Segmental processes.
14	11/17	M	Emergence-of-the-Unmarked effects in child language.
	11/19	W	TETU effects in prosodic morphology.
15	11/24	M	Featural autosegments.
16	12/1	M	The Obligatory Contour Principle in child language.
	12/3	W	In-class review.
	12/5	F	FINAL EXAM, 4 p.m.
