Contact information: Jennifer Smith, 322 Dey Hall
jlsmith@email.unc.edu / 962-1474 (e-mail is recommended)

Office hours: Tu 1:00-3:00 and by appointment

Class meets: MWF 1:00-1:50, Dey 313

Readings:
• Acoustic & Auditory Phonetics, 2 ed. (K. Johnson, 2003)
• Vowels & Consonants (P. Ladefoged, 2005); has CD-ROM
Textbooks are available at the campus bookstore.
Additional required readings will be distributed in class or online.

Course web site: http://www.unc.edu/~jlsmith/ling120.html
Check the web site for announcements, relevant links, and a detailed course syllabus (updated after every class).

I. Goals
Linguistics 120 is an introduction to the general principles and concepts of linguistic phonetics, using audiovisual materials and hands-on projects.

In this course, you will:

• Learn basic acoustics for speech analysis
  † How are sound waves produced, and what are their general properties?
  † What are formants, and how are their frequencies determined?

• Use speech analysis software to investigate the acoustic properties of speech sounds
  † What are the acoustic properties of different kinds of sounds?
  † Which acoustic properties are linguistically relevant?

• Learn about the articulation of speech sounds, including the anatomy of the vocal tract and the physiology of speech production
  † How, physically, are speech sounds produced?
  † Which articulatory properties are linguistically relevant?
  † How does articulation relate to acoustics?

• Use the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) to transcribe speech sounds

II. Why take Ling 120?
This course will interest linguistics students, students in pre-Speech & Hearing, and anyone who wants to learn about the sounds of human speech. There is no prerequisite.
(See http://www.unc.edu/depts/ling for more about the linguistics major and minor.)
III. Course requirements

Final grades for the course will be calculated as follows:

- Attendance and participation (includes pop quizzes) 10%
- Homework assignments 15%
- Longer assignments: Lab #1, Lab #2, article report 15%
- Exams: 3 at 15% each 45%
- Final project 15%
- Total: 100%

- Attendance and participation: Students are expected to attend class, do the assigned readings and exercises on time, and participate in class activities and discussion.

  Multiple absences will make it difficult for you to keep up with the course material and will lower your participation grade — unless the absences are due to illness or other unavoidable events, in which case it is your responsibility to provide documentation.

  It is the responsibility of a student who has missed class to collect any missed materials or notes from me or from other members of the class. Check the daily syllabus online.

  Unannounced "pop" quizzes will be given in class from time to time. These will be graded pass/fail only, and they will cover major points from assigned readings and online practice materials — so they will be easy to pass if you keep up with the course material.

  One failed or missed pop quiz will be dropped, but additional fails/misses will lower your participation grade (unless a quiz is missed for a pre-authorized absence).

- Homework assignments: There will be approximately 8-10 homework assignments; most of them will be due during the first 10 weeks of the semester. These assignments are an important way for you to learn the course material and prepare for the exams, especially because I will give you feedback on your work.

  Homework papers may be handwritten or typed, but they should be neat, legible, and well organized.

  † EVALUATION: Homework assignments will be evaluated as follows. (Intermediate marks are also possible.)

  4 points The assignment is complete, neat, and well organized. Most of the answers are correct. (An average near 4 is an A.)

  3 points (a) The assignment is complete, neat, and well organized, but there are a significant number of incorrect answers. or

  (b) The assignment is complete and most of the answers are correct, but the assignment is not neat and well organized.

  (An average near 3 is a B.)

  2 points The assignment is mostly complete, but it is largely incorrect and it is not neat and organized. (An average near 2 is a C.)

  0 points Not turned in, turned in late, or turned in significantly incomplete. (An average between 1 and 1.6 is a D; an average below 1 is an F.)
WEB-BASED ASSIGNMENTS: Some homework assignments require accessing web sites on the Internet and listening to sound files. Students are encouraged to have a pair of headphones/earphones, like those used for personal cassette or CD players, available for these assignments. If accessing the Internet or listening to sound files will be difficult for you for any reason, please contact me soon so that we can talk about your situation and devise special accommodations or alternative assignments if necessary.

- Longer assignments: "Longer assignments" include two lab assignments and one article report. Lab assignments require Praat analysis and a write-up of the experiment and its results. For the article report, you will choose a phonetics journal article related to your final-project topic and summarize the important points of the experiment, the results, and the author's discussion.

- EVALUATION: Longer assignments will be assigned letter grades, A through F. Remember that A grades are for excellent work that shows insight and goes beyond satisfying the basic requirements of the assignment.

- General policies for assignments: The following policies hold for both homework and longer assignments (as well as for the final project).

  - COLLABORATION/CITATION POLICY FOR WORK OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM: Students are encouraged to discuss assignments with each other, but every student must write up his or her assignment independently unless otherwise indicated. If any reference materials other than course readings, handouts, the course web pages, or in-class notes are consulted for an assignment, students are required to list such outside references in their write-up.

  - LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY: As a general rule, no late assignments will be accepted for credit. However, exceptions may be made in the following circumstances:

    (i) With advance permission (before the due date), extensions may be granted on a case-by-case basis.

    (ii) If a serious illness or other emergency unexpectedly causes a student to be away from campus on the day an assignment is due, or otherwise makes the student unable to complete an assignment, the assignment should be turned in at the earliest possible opportunity with a written explanation of the situation (or, even better, an e-mail to let me know what is going on as early as possible). On a case-by-case basis, such assignments may be accepted.

- Exams: There will be two in-class (50-minute) midterm exams during the first 10 weeks of the course; exam dates are listed on the online course calendar. Exam #1 covers basic acoustics and the phonetics of vowels. Exam #2 covers experimental procedures and the phonetics of consonants. The final exam is cumulative and will be given during the official exam period, which is Monday, December 12, at 12:00pm.

  - MAKE-UP EXAM POLICY: If you absolutely must miss class on the day of a midterm exam, contact me in advance to determine whether you are eligible for a make-up exam.
Without such prior permission, a missed exam may not be made up unless you can provide documentation from Health Services, your dean, or another appropriate authority to demonstrate that your absence was unexpected and unavoidable.

Final exams can only be rescheduled or made up through the office of your dean.

• Final project: The final project is a chance to use the phonetic analysis skills you have developed throughout the semester. The project will be similar in scope to Lab #2, except that you will choose your own research question to investigate. You will carry out the necessary experimental work and measurements, and write up your results. More information about the final project will be provided later in the semester.

IV. More about phonetics: Additional readings

The following books are useful resources for phonetics. Students who plan to work in phonetics or who are interested in learning more about certain topics in phonetics might enjoy looking through them. The first three are on reserve in the Undergraduate Library, as are our course textbooks.

• UNC Libraries call number: P221 .L2 2001
• This book discusses the articulation and acoustics of non-English speech sounds in somewhat more detail than Vowels & Consonants.

• UNC Libraries call number: QP306 .L53 1988
• This book is a good place to start for learning more about the physiology of speech.

• UNC Libraries call number: P227 .I52 1999
• This book provides more information about the use of the IPA and the sounds represented by the symbols. Phonetic analyses of many languages are also given.

Another book (not on reserve) may also interest you. This is a very comprehensive and quite technical book that covers a lot of ground in acoustic phonetics.

• UNC Libraries call number: P221.5 .S74 1998

Please remember that the Honor Code of the university, which prohibits giving or receiving unauthorized aid on course work, is in effect in this course. If you have any questions about what constitutes acceptable collaboration or acceptable use of reference material on assignments, please feel free to talk with me at any time.

Read the Honor Code online at: http://instrument.unc.edu/