Reading guide:
Zsiga (2013: Ch 10), “Abstraction, contrast, predictability”

Background
This reading provides an overview of some of the most fundamental concepts in phonology. Make sure you master these concepts so that we can build on them in the rest of the course.

Points to focus on while reading
(1) sec 10.1: What argument is Zsiga making here?

(2) sec 10.2: How do we determine whether two speech sounds belong to two different phonemes, or are two allophones of the same phoneme?

(3) p 209: What does Zsiga mean by the following statement? “It is simpler to state a generalization when the elsewhere case is chosen as the basic form, and the more restricted variant as the derived form.”

(4) sec 10.3: Understand the importance of the following topics raised in this section.
   (a) why we can’t always identify a “basic” allophone, and how to think about situations where we can’t
   (b) phonetic similarity and complementary distribution
   (c) free variation
   (d) positional neutralization

Prepare for class discussion
Prepare answers for the following “Review exercises” from the end of the chapter. If you have trouble with any of these questions, go back and reread the relevant section of the chapter again.

(5) Review of key terms and concepts
   Ex (1), p 216
   Ex (2), p 217
   Ex (3), p 217 (This question is slightly confusingly worded. Give the key terms in this question some thought, and figure out what Zsiga thinks is important here.)
   Ex (4), p 217

(6) Problem-solving practice
   Ex (9), p 218
   Ex (10), p 218