

Introduction to Phonetics

General Information

Instructor: Steve Winters
Social Sciences 814
2500 University Drive NW
Phone: 220-7230
Email: swinters@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: by appointment

Teaching Assistant: Jacqueline Jones
Social Sciences 1048
Phone: 220-6135
Email: jacqland@gmail.com
Office Hours: by appointment

Lectures: MW 12:00–12:50 Professional Faculties (PF) 114

Discussion: F 12:00–12:50 Professional Faculties (PF) 114

This course is an introduction to the phonetics of the languages of the world. We will explore this broad topic by (primarily) employing phonetic transcription and acoustic analysis to look at speech cross-linguistically. Readings, lectures and homework exercises provide an extensive survey of the speech sounds of the languages of the world, and an introduction to the basic tools of phonetic science.

Practical training in phonetics is particularly valuable for professions in language education – whether foreign language education, English education, or ESL. Phonetic training also benefits students who are interested in human/computer interface technology, and students who are in training for certification as speech pathologists or audiologists. Of course, students who major in linguistics should take phonetics.

Note on departmental grade requirement: a student may not register in any linguistics course unless a grade of at least C- has been achieved in each prerequisite for that course. The prerequisite for this course is linguistics 201.

Course Web Page:

https://webdisk.ucalgary.ca/~swinters/public_html/ling341/index.html

All lecture notes, handouts and homework exercises—along with updated versions of this syllabus—will be posted to the course website. Please check it on a regular basis if you are interested in having access to these materials.

Textbook

Peter Ladefoged and Keith Johnson (2011), *A Course in Phonetics*, 6th ed. Boston: Wadsworth.

Henning Reetz and Allard Jongman (2009), *Phonetics: Transcription, Production, Acoustics and Perception*, Chichester, UK: Wiley/Blackwell.

Both of these textbooks are optional (but highly recommended!) for this course. Any further readings will be announced and made available during the course of the semester.

Discussion sessions

It is relatively easy to learn the basic principles of phonetics (and phonetic transcription), but you will only become better at working with those principles through practice. Lots and lots of practice. Therefore, each Friday will be devoted to a review and application of the material covered during the lecture sections that week. During these discussion sessions you will have an opportunity to practice your skills at phonetic transcription, work on in-class phonetic analysis projects, and to discuss the assigned reading(s) for that week.

Grading

The course grade will be based on your performance on homework exercises, production exercises, a production exam, course participation, a midterm exam and a final exam.

Homework will consist primarily of transcription practice and acoustic analysis exercises. I will expect you to complete these assignments independently, outside of class, as they will be graded for credit. Materials for the transcription exercises will be made available from the course website. These assignments are labeled as (HW) in the course schedule given below. Late homeworks will only be accepted in cases of documented medical or family emergencies.

Production Exercises. Over the course of the semester, you will be expected to learn how to produce the various sounds of the International Phonetic Alphabet. I will assign production exercises to test your ability to produce the sounds that have been presented in class. These assignments are labeled as (PEX) in the course schedule given below. You will be responsible for making recordings of yourself producing these sounds and sending the sound files to me for grading purposes. If you do not own a computer with which you can record yourself, you may use the facilities of the Phonetics Lab (see below) to do so.

I will provide you with more details regarding the production exam as the semester proceeds.

Participation grades will primarily be based on the completion of assignments in and for each Friday discussion section. These assignments are labeled as (TRES) in the course schedule below. Since these assignments will be discussed in class, points will *not* be taken off if honest (independent) effort yielded incorrect results. However, points will be taken off if an assignment is incomplete or carelessly done.

In borderline cases, class participation in the traditional sense may be used when assigning final grades.

Exams. The final exam will be cumulative. Make-up exams will not be given except in the case of dire, documented medical emergencies.

These components of the coursework will be weighted as follows in determining your final grade:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Homework exercises (HW): | 15% |
| Production exercises (PEX): | 15% |
| Participation (TRES): | 15% |
| Midterm exam: | 25% |
| Final exam: | 25% |
| Production exam: | 5% |

The **grading scale** for the course will be as follows:

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| $97\% \leq A+$ | $71 \leq C+ < 75$ |
| $92 \leq A < 97$ | $66 \leq C < 71$ |
| $88 \leq A- < 92$ | $62 \leq C- < 66$ |
| $84 \leq B+ < 88$ | $58 \leq D+ < 62$ |
| $79 \leq B < 84$ | $50 \leq D < 58$ |
| $75 \leq B- < 79$ | $F < 50$ |

Please note that I do not round up in calculating final grades.

Resources

1. The Linguistics Phonetics Lab is located in Education 259 (phone: 220-3598). The lab is set up to make high quality acoustic recordings of speech, which you are more than welcome to use for your production exercises for this class. If you would like to use the resources of the Phonetics Lab at any time, please contact me or the TA to set up an appointment.

2. Sound files and exercises from *A Course in Phonetics* (one of the textbooks for this class), may be found on the web at:

<http://www.phonetics.ucla.edu/course/contents.html>

3. Additionally, helpful sound materials may be found here:

<http://www.phonetics.ucla.edu/vowels/contents.html>

4. Doulos SIL is a freely available phonetics font for your computer. You may download it from this weblink:

http://scripts.sil.org/cms/scripts/page.php?site_id=nrsi&id=DoulosSIL_download

Although it is not necessary to do so, you are encouraged to use your computer—and this font—in writing up homework assignments for this class.

Another IPA font (for Mac) can be found here:

<http://www.davidmontero.net/Linguistics.php>
<http://www.blugs.com/IPA/>

5. Praat is a great software package for phonetic analysis. Among (many) other things, you may use Praat to record, edit and play sound files on your computer. You will need to download Praat to complete many of the exercises in this class; you can get it for free here:

<http://www.fon.hum.uva.nl/praat/>

6. The University of Calgary Phonetics Club meets on a weekly basis to read and discuss recently published papers in phonetics, or to listen to presentations by club members on their ongoing research. If you are interested in learning more about current research in phonetics, you are welcome to attend club meetings, which are usually held in either the phonetics lab or the linguistics seminar room. Contact me at swinters@ucalgary.ca for specific meeting times and details.

7. Just for (educational) fun: I have a homemade IPA Scrabble set, which you are welcome to borrow at any time. All you have to do is ask!

Additional resources in the main library

The following books, in the main library, may be of use in providing a deeper perspective on the materials covered in this course.

- Borden, G. J. (1984) *Speech Science Primer, 3rd ed.* [QP306.B65 1984]
- Johnson, K.A. (2003) *Acoustic & Auditory Phonetics, 2nd ed.* [P221.5.J64 2003]
- Ladefoged, P. (1996). *Elements of Acoustic Phonetics, 2nd ed.* [QP306.L33 1996]
- Ladefoged, P. & Maddieson, I. (1995) *Sounds of the World's Languages* [P221.L315 1995]
- Pullum, G.K. (1996) *Phonetic Symbol Guide, 2nd Ed.* [P221.P85 1996] (in the library's reference section)

Course Schedule

Please note that this schedule is meant to provide an *ideal* course of future action and is therefore likely to change before the end of the semester. New course schedules will be issued if and when those changes occur.

| Wk | Date | Day | Lecture Topic | Reading | Exercises |
|-----------|-------------|------------|-------------------------------|--|--|
| 1 | 9/9 | M | Introduction + Overview | Phon: 23-36; Course: Ch. 2 | TREX: English Basics |
| | 9/11 | W | English Phonemic System | | |
| | 9/13 | F | Canadian Vowels | | |
| 2 | 9/16 | M | | Phon: 37-47 Course: Ch. 3 | TREX: English Basics |
| | 9/18 | W | English Varieties | | TREX: Narrow English |
| | 9/20 | F | English Allophony | | |
| 3 | 9/23 | M | Dimensions of Articulation | Course: Ch. 1 | HW 1: Features + Word transcription TREX: English Vowels |
| | 9/25 | W | Cardinal Vowels | Course: 217-223 | |
| | 9/27 | F | | | |
| 4 | 9/30 | M | Place of Articulation | Phon: 49-56 Course: 163-172 Course: 136-150 Phon: 91-94 | HW 2: Sentence transcription PEX 1: Name Backwards TREX: Place of Articulation |
| | 10/2 | W | Airstream Mechanisms | | |
| | 10/4 | F | | | |
| 5 | 10/7 | M | Trills + Voicing | Phon: 72-81 | TREX: Airstream Mechanisms |
| | 10/9 | W | Basic Acoustics | Phon: Ch. 7 | |
| | 10/11 | F | | | |
| 6 | 10/14 | M | Thanksgiving: No Class | Course: 254-261; Phon: 218-225 | TREX: Tone |
| | 10/16 | W | Pitch + Tone | | |
| | 10/18 | F | | | |
| 7 | 10/21 | M | Syllables + Stress | Course: 111-116; 243-253 Phon: 208-217 | PEX 2: Place + Airstream |
| | 10/23 | W | Mid-term review | | |
| | 10/25 | F | MID-TERM EXAM | | |

| | | | | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------|---------------------|--|---|--|
| 8 | 10/28 10/30 11/1 | M W F | Harmonics Resonance | Course: 193-198 | TREX: Spectrogram Matching I |
| 9 | 11/4 11/6 11/8 | M W F | Vowels Source/Filter Theory | Course: Ch. 4; Phon: 182-186 Phon: Ch. 9 Course: 187-189 | TREX: Quantity |
| 10 | 11/11 11/13 11/15 | M W F | Reading Days: No Class Vowels of the World | Course: 224-232 | HW 3: Acoustics TREX: Vowels |
| 11 | 11/18 11/20 11/22 | M W F | Fricatives Fricatives + Affricates | Course: 174-175 | PEX 3: Vowels HW 4: Formant measurements TREX: Fricatives |
| 12 | 11/25 11/27 11/29 | M W F | VOT + Voice Quality Stop + Approximant Acoustics | Course: 151-156 Phon: 96-102 Course: 198-204 Phon: 192-194 | TREX: Spectrogram Matching II |
| 13 | 12/2 12/4 12/6 | M W F | Liquids + Nasals Nasal Acoustics Time for catch-up and review | Phon: 61-62; 186- 189 Course: 174-180 Phon: 194-199 | PEX 4: Obstruents TREX: Spectrogram Reading |
| | | | FINAL EXAM Time and Place TBA | | |

GENERAL COURSE/UNIVERSITY INFORMATION FOR ALL STUDENTS

LINGUISTICS STUDENT ADVISING

For any questions regarding the undergraduate or graduate program in linguistics, the organization of your program, or the selection of courses, contact the appropriate advisor as follows:

| | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------|--|
| Undergraduate Advisor | Dr Robert Murray | SS 824 | lingadv@ucalgary.ca |
| Graduate Program Director | Dr Susanne Carroll | SS 830 | linggrad@ucalgary.ca |

FACULTY of ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING and STUDENT INFORMATION

The Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance that they require. The PIC is located in the Social Sciences Building (SS 102), please contact them by phone 220-3580, or email artsads@ucalgary.ca, or visit the website <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>.

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (SSC). Degree advisors assist undergraduate students in planning their overall degree programs along with providing broad educational planning, learning support, assistance with academic difficulties, academic program guidance, writing support, success seminars and peer support. The SSC is on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library, you can contact them at 220-5881, by email success@ucalgary.ca, or visit their website <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/>.

For registration issues, contact Enrolment Services who will also be able to help you with questions about fee payments, awards, financial aid, admissions questions, visiting and exchange students, open studies, transcripts, deferred exams. Enrolment Services are in the MacKimmie Library Block, Room 117, or you can contact them at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit their website <http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/>.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation, and have not registered with **Student Accessibility Services** (formerly the Disability Resource Centre), please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with **Student Accessibility Services** are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. **You are required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.**

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY ACT (FOIP)

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act was enacted by the Alberta Legislature on June 1, 1994. The Act is intended first of all to allow any person the right of access to the records in the custody and under the control of a public body although this right is subject to limited and specific exceptions. The Act also includes a strong right to privacy component, allowing individuals to control the manner in which a public body collects personal information, to control the use that a public body may make of the information, and to control the disclosure of that information by a public body. It also allows individuals the right of access to personal information about themselves held by a public body and the right to request corrections to that information. For more information on FOIP, visit the website <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/>, or contact Jo-Anne Munn Gafuik at 403-220-3602 or by email munnafu@ucalgary.ca

PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course, when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:

1. the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test);
2. parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,;
3. the whole work (e.g. an essay) is copied from another source; and/or

4. a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Students are often encouraged to work together in preparing homework assignments, but check with your instructor beforehand. However, unless noted otherwise in writing, students must write up their own answers for submission of the assignment. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism.

Plagiarism is an extremely serious academic offence. Possible penalties for plagiarism include: failing the assignment, failing the course, disciplinary probation, suspension, or expulsion. Any student who voluntarily and consciously aids another student in the commission of plagiarism is also guilty of academic misconduct.

For more information on academic misconduct and related UofC regulations please consult the Student Misconduct pages in the UofC Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION AND ASSEMBLY POINTS

The University of Calgary is committed to creating a safe and healthy living and learning environment. The health and safety of our employees, students and the general public are the highest priority of the University of Calgary's Emergency Management Program. During times of emergency, Assembly Points have been identified across campus. These areas have been selected as they are large enough to hold a significant number of people and will provide an evacuated population access to washroom facilities and protection from the elements. Assembly points are also designed to establish a location for information updates:

- from the emergency responders to the evacuees; and
- from the evacuated population to the emergency responders.

Please familiarize yourself with the following:

Emergency Assembly Points: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Emergency Instructions: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/node/28>

SAFEWALK INFORMATION

Twenty four hours a day and seven days a week, Safewalk volunteers walk people safely to their destination on campus. This service is free and available to students, staff and campus visitors. Requesting Safewalk volunteers to walk with you is easy:

- Call 403-220-5333 (24 hours a day/seven days a week, 365 days a year)
- Use the Help Phones (they are not just for emergencies)
- Approach an on-duty Safewalker and request a walk

For more information, contact the Safewalk main office at 403-220-4750, by email safewalk@ucalgary.ca or visit their website <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE INFORMATION

The Students' Union and the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) in partnership with the University of Calgary offers students a key advocacy resource to assist in addressing concerns and issues they encounter at the University with the Student Ombuds Office.

Students in an undergraduate program, contact the Student's Union in the MacEwan Student Centre, MSC 251, by phone at 403-220-6551, by email arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, or visit their website <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>.

The Student Ombuds Office offers a safe place for undergraduate and graduate students of the University of Calgary to discuss student related issues, interpersonal conflict, academic and non-academic concerns, and many other problems. The office is in the Admin. Building, Room A166, or you can contact them at 220-6420, by email ombuds@ucalgary.ca, or visit the website <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>.