Ling 190B: Phonology II  
Fall 2017

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TA office hours: TBD

Course time and location: MW 3:30 - 4:50 (Block L), TBD

1 Description

This course will focus on current theoretical approaches to some of the classic problems of phonology. In the course, students will build on the knowledge and skills gained in Ling 110 as they learn the constraint-based approach of Optimality Theory (OT). We will examine general issues of markedness, syllable structure, metrical phonology, and phonological phenomena that are sensitive to morphological structure. Additional topics may be covered based on student interests.

The final project of the course will ask each student to analyze a phonological phenomenon of a language of their choice, using a constraint-based approach.

2 Learning goals

As a result of having taken this course, students will be able to:

- Identify and clearly articulate the patterns and generalizations present in sets of sound, word, phrase, sentence, and discourse data involving language change or variation in a given language or languages;

- Formulate reasonable next questions to ask, or identify the sort of additional examples that need to be gathered and examined, in order to fully discover the empirical generalizations present in such sets of data, or to choose between competing hypotheses about the facts;

- Formulate well-reasoned hypotheses and analyses of the facts present in a set of data relating to change in a language; demonstrate how well a given analysis would or would not work to fully capture the facts that it aims to explain; evaluate competing analyses as to which should be chosen as the best account available, in terms of both empirical adequacy and theoretical merits.
3 Prerequisites

Ling 110a (Phonological Theory) or equivalent.

4 Readings


Additional recommended and required readings will be made available on the course LATTE site from time to time, including selections from:

- Yip, Moira. 2002. Tone. CUP.

5 LATTE

Please check the course LATTE site frequently. The course schedule, additional/supplemental readings, assignments, and other materials will be posted on the site as we progress through the semester.

6 Requirements and grading

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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Homework assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation and attendance</td>
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<td>Quizzes and exams</td>
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<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>Final project</td>
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<td>Final percentage grade</td>
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6.1 Assignments

There will be approximately 5 homework assignments during the semester. (Given the nature of the course, the assignments will focus on applying the new theory learned and should be less time-consuming than the assignments in Ling 110.) Assignments will typically be assigned on Wednesdays and due at the beginning of class on the following Wednesday. Unless otherwise stated for a particular assignment, all homework must be typed and submitted in hard copy; due to the many issues that can occur with fonts, assignments may not be submitted by email.

Homework assignments will be graded on a 10-point scale. Since we will discuss the homework assignments in class on the day they are due, late homework will not be accepted.

Success in this four-credit course is based on the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 9 hours of study time per week in preparation for class (readings, papers, discussion sections, preparation for exams, etc.).

6.2 Final project

For the final project for the course students will write and present a 'squib'—a short paper focused on an interesting problem in phonology and proposing a solution using OT. More details will be provided as the semester progresses.
6.3 Participation and attendance

Class attendance is required and participation in class is expected. Please come to class each day on time and ready to discuss the readings and other material for the day.

You may miss up to three classes for any reason. Each additional class missed will affect your participation and attendance grade.

6.4 Quizzes

There will be two short quizzes during the semester. Tentative dates for the quizzes are given in the course schedule on the following page. I will provide more details on each as the dates approach. There will not be a final exam.

7 Electronic devices

No electronic devices (including laptops, tablets, and cellphones) may be used in class without my prior permission. Please keep all cellphones put away (and turn them off completely if the thought of a new message is irresistible). Please note that use of an electronic device in class without prior permission will negatively affect your participation and attendance grade.

8 Disabilities

If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.

9 Academic integrity

You are expected to be honest in all of your academic work. Please consult Brandeis University Rights and Responsibilities for all policies and procedures related to academic integrity. Students may be required to submit work to TurnItIn.com software to verify originality. Allegations of alleged academic dishonesty will be forwarded to the Director of Academic Integrity. Sanctions for academic dishonesty can include failing grades and/or suspension from the university. Citation and research assistance can be found at LTS - Research Guides - Citing Sources.
10 Topics and general schedule

The topics that will be covered in the course and general schedule, along with the corresponding chapters in the textbook, are as follows (subject to minor change based on class progress and interests):

Week 1: Introduction

Weeks 2-5: Part I: Basic principles of Optimality Theory

- Mon., Sept. 4 - No class (Labor Day)
- Thurs., Sept. 21 - No class (Rosh Hashanah)
- McCarthy ch. 1: An introduction to Optimality Theory
- Kager ch. 1: Conflicts in Grammar
- Kager ch. 2: The typology of structural changes
- McCarthy ch. 2: How to construct an analysis
- Quiz (tentatively sched. for Wed., Sept. 27)

Weeks 6-14: Part II: Current approaches to classic problems

- Kager ch. 3: Syllable structure and economy
- Tues., Oct. 3 - Brandeis Thursday
- Thurs., Oct. 5 - No class (Sukkot)
- Kager ch. 4: Metrical structure and parallelism
- Wed., Oct. 11 - Brandeis Thursday
- Thurs., Oct. 12 - No class (Shmini Atzeret)
- Kager ch. 5: Correspondence in reduplication
- Quiz (tentatively sched. for Wed., Nov. 1)
- Kager ch. 6: Output-to-output correspondence
- McCarthy ch. 5: Language typology and universals
- Thanksgiving recess Nov. 22-24
- Kager ch. 7: Residual issues

Final project presentations and due date TBD