Ling 190B: Phonology II
Fall 2019

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Teaching Assistant: TBD
TA office hours: TBD
Course time and location: MWTh 1:00-1:50pm, location TBD

1 Description

This is the second course in a two-course sequence on theoretical phonology, the study of the sound systems of the world’s languages.

This course builds on the fundamental principles of phonology covered in Ling 110 to teach students current theoretical approaches to some of the classic problems of phonology. Students will learn the constraint-based approach of Optimality Theory (OT), which is the theory used by most theoretical phonologists in the United States, and two prominent extensions of OT: harmonic grammar, which permits the weighted ranking of constraints, and harmonic serialism, which takes a derivational approach to OT.

Students will learn more about the typology and analysis of 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.

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 coursework

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

Homework assignments 35%
Engagement 15%
Quizzes and exams 30%
  Quizzes 30%
  Final project 20%
Final percentage grade 100%

6.1 Assignments

There will be 6 homework assignments during the semester. Assignments will typically be assigned on Thursdays 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 for credit.

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 Engagement

The engagement portion of the final grade has two components. The first half (7.5 points) of the engagement portion of the final grade is earned through class attendance and coming to class prepared to engage with the assigned material. Class attendance is required, but you may miss up to three classes for any reason; additional absences will result in a reduction of the engagement portion of the final grade. Please come to class each day on time and prepared to engage with the assigned material.

The second half of the engagement portion of the final grade is earned through active engagement with the course, which may include participating in class discussions, playing an active role in group work done in class, and coming to office hours with questions about class material or homework assignments.

6.4 Quizzes

There will be two 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 engagement grade.

8 Disabilities

Brandeis seeks to welcome and include all students. If you are a student who needs accommodations as outlined in an accommodations letter, please talk with me and present your letter of accommodation as soon as you can. I want to support you.

In order to provide test accommodations, I need the letter more than 48 hours in advance. I want to provide your accommodations, but cannot do so retroactively. If you have questions about documenting a disability or requesting accommodations, please contact Student Accessibility Support (SAS) at 781.736.3470 or access@brandeis.edu.

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):

**Weeks 1-3: Part I: Basic principles of Optimality Theory**

- 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

**Weeks 4-10: Part II: Current approaches to classic problems in Standard OT**

**Weeks 4-6: Syllable structure and stress**

- Kager ch. 3: Syllable structure and economy
- **Quiz** (tentatively sched. for Thurs., Oct. 3)
- Kager ch. 4: Metrical structure and parallelism

**Weeks 7-9: Correspondence**

- Kager ch. 5: Correspondence in reduplication
- **Quiz** (tentatively sched. for Thurs., Nov. 7)
- Kager ch. 6: Output-to-output correspondence

**Week 10: Residual issues and opacity**

- Kager ch. 7: Residual issues
- **Quiz** (tentatively sched. for Thurs., Nov. 7)

**Weeks 11-16: Part III: Prominent Extensions of OT**

- McCarthy & Pater ch. 1: Universal grammar with weighted constraints
- McCarthy & Pater ch. 2: The theory and practice of Harmonic Serialism

**Final project** presentations and due date TBD