Ling 110A: Introduction to Phonological Theory
Spring 2017

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Office hours: M 1-2pm, W 11-12pm or by appt.
(Advising OH: M 2-3pm, priority for advising)

Teaching Assistants: TBD
TA office hours: TBD

Course time and location: MWTh 12-12:50pm, Volen 119

1 Description and goals

This course will provide an introduction to phonology, the study of the sound systems of the world's languages. In the course students will learn the fundamental aspects of phonological theory, including allophonic relations, distinctive feature theory, the concept of a "natural class," phonological processes and their representation, phonological typology and naturalness, and nonlinear phonological representations. Additional advanced topics may be covered based on students' interests and class progress.

2 Prerequisites

Ling 100a (Introduction to Linguistics) or permission of instructor.

3 Readings

Our textbook will be: Kennedy, Robert. Phonology: a coursebook.

Additional recommended and required readings will be made available on the course LATTE site from time to time.

4 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.
5 Requirements and grading

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework assignments</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation and attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>Quizzes and exams</td>
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<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td>Final exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Final percentage grade</td>
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5.1 Assignments

There will be 8-10 homework assignments during the semester. Assignments will typically be assigned on Thursdays and due at the beginning of class on Wednesdays. They will be graded on a 10-point scale, and the lowest homework score will be dropped. Late homework will be accepted only for 2 days after an assignment's due date, provided that one point will be deducted for each day the assignment is late, up to a maximum of 2 points off. Please note that homework submitted on the date it is due but after the beginning of class will be deemed one day late. As an illustration, if an assignment due on a Wednesday is submitted on by midnight on Thursday, the assignment would be accepted but 1 point would be deducted from the grade for the assignment. Although I strongly encourage you to work on each of the assignments independently, if you find yourself having difficulty with an assignment you may work with one other person, provided that (i) in your assignment you must identify the person that you worked with and (ii) each student must write up the assignment separately. 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. If you do not currently use an IPA font, you should check the font resources linked to the course LATTE page. You should feel free to use any IPA font that you prefer so long as it contains all of the characters and diacritics that you need. (I especially recommend the SIL Doulos Unicode font.) I also highly recommend http://ipa.typeit.org/.

Please note that it is expected that you will expend three hours of out of class effort (e.g., reading, writing papers, completing assignments, studying for exams) each week for each hour of classroom instruction.

5.2 Participation and attendance

Class attendance is required and preparedness for and participation in class is expected. Please come to class each day on time and prepared to engage with the assigned material.

You may miss up to three classes for any reason. Each additional class missed will result in a reduction of your final percentage grade for the course by 0.25%, up to a maximum of 5% lost. Please note that you will be deemed absent on any day in which you use an electronic device in class without prior permission.

5.3 Quizzes and exams

There will be a short quiz every 2-3 weeks, along with a longer midterm quiz, which will count as two quizzes; all of the quizzes together will comprise 30% of your final grade. The final exam will take place at the date and time scheduled by the Registrar. I will provide more details on each as the dates approach.
6 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). (See also Participation and attendance, above.)

7 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.

8 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.

9 Topics and general schedule

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

Week 1 - 2: Introduction to the course and the study of phonology; overview of phonetic preliminaries to study of phonology

- Kennedy ch. 1: Introduction
- Transcription
- Place of articulation
- Manner of articulation
- Vowels
- Phonetics quiz - Mon., Jan. 30

Weeks 3-6: Phonological theory (Allophones, Distinctive Feature Theory, Underlying Representations)

- Kennedy ch. 5: Phonemic analysis
- Kennedy ch. 2: Alternation
- Kennedy ch. 3: Alternation with zero
- Kennedy ch. 6: Natural classes and distinctive features
- Features quiz - Wed., Feb. 15
- February recess Feb. 20-24

Weeks 7-8: Phonological analysis (Interaction of Processes)

- Kennedy ch. 7: Rule ordering, opacity, and abstractness
• Midterm - Mon., Mar. 13

Weeks 9-14: Specialized topics (Syllables, stress, nonlinear representations)

• Kennedy ch. 8: Syllables
• Kennedy ch. 10: Stress
• Kennedy ch. 9: Tone
• Quiz - Wed., Apr. 5
• Passover and spring recess Apr. 10-18
• Feature Geometry

**Final exam on date and time scheduled by Registrar** (tentatively Thurs., May 11 at 9:15am)