Ling 105a: Phonetics
Fall 2018

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Course time and location: MW 3:30-4:50pm, Location TBD

1 Description

This course will provide an introduction to phonetics [fəˈnɛriks], the study of the sounds of human speech, with an emphasis on the production and perception of the sounds of the world’s languages. Using audiovisual materials and hands-on projects, we will cover the transcription of speech, articulatory phonetics (the anatomy and physiology of speech), acoustic phonetics (how speech is transmitted), and auditory phonetics (how we perceive speech).

2 Learning goals

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Transcribe, and produce orally based on a transcription, speech in a variety of the world’s languages, using the International Phonetic Alphabet;

2. Communicate, clearly and effectively, key concepts and theories in articulatory, acoustic, and auditory phonetics;

3. Perform acoustic analysis of typical and atypical speech, from speakers of different languages, using contemporary computational tools;

4. Develop and complete experimental research projects that integrate phonetics into the study of language in a meaningful way.

3 Prerequisites

Ling 100A (Introduction to Linguistics) is recommended. Students with a strong interest in linguistics (and/or, specifically, phonetics or speech pathology) or who are engaged in the advanced study of a language are also welcome to take the course but may need to do additional background readings at the beginning of the semester.
4 Readings

Our textbook will be [TBD]. Additional recommended and required readings will be made available on the course LATTE site from time to time.

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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<td>Quizzes</td>
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6.1 Assignments

There will be approximately 8 homework assignments during the semester. Assignments are due at the beginning of class and will be graded on a 10-point scale. The lowest homework grade 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 Tuesday is submitted on by midnight on Wednesday, the assignment would be accepted but 1 point would be deducted from the grade for the 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. 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 Language project

During the semester, each student will work toward the production of a final project involving the phonetic investigation of a language of his or her choice using data from a native speaker. Students will begin by identifying a language or dialect and a native speaker who is willing to serve as his or her consultant. As part of several homework assignments, students will be required to research the phonetics of the chosen language or dialect using secondary sources, identify an area that the student would like to explore with phonetic analysis, and design and conduct an experiment to perform the phonetic analysis. At the end of the course, students will submit a 10-page (double-spaced) write-up of the research they conducted and briefly present their research and results to the class.
6.3 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, up to a maximum of 5% lost. Please note that use of an electronic device in class without prior permission will negatively affect your participation and attendance grade.

6.4 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 25% 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.

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 are as follows (subject to minor change based on class progress and interests):

Week 1 - 3: Introduction to the course, articulatory phonetics, and phonetic transcription

- Mon., Sept. 3 - No class (Labor Day)
- Thurs., Sept. 6 - Brandeis Monday
- Mon., Sept. 5 - No class
- Thurs., Sept. 8 - Brandeis Monday
- Mon., Sept. 10 - No class (Rosh Hashanah)
- Wed., Sept. 19 - No class (Yom Kippur)
- Mon., Sept. 24 - No class (Sukkot)
- Tues., Sept. 25 - Brandeis Monday
- Mon., Oct. 1 - No class (Shmini Atzeret)

Weeks 4-9: Consonants and vowels

- Tues., Oct. 25 - Brandeis Monday

Weeks 10-13: Acoustic phonetics

- Thanksgiving recess Nov. 21-23

Weeks 14-15: Auditory phonetics

**Final exam on date and time scheduled by Registrar**