

# Phonetics and Phonology (LING 4040) Syllabus

Alexander Smith (instructor)

Fall 2018

## BASICS

Email: alexander.smith@unt.edu  
Office: Language building 409L (hours to be determined)  
Room: Language 309  
Date and Time: Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30 – 10:45

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Phonetics is the study of speech sounds. How sounds are made, what their acoustic properties are, and how they are perceived. Phoneticians are interested in the human speech apparatus (the biological aspects of producing speech sounds), the measurable acoustic properties of speech, being able to understand, recognize, and write all the possible sounds that can be made in human speech, and using technology to interpret acoustic properties of speech sound. Phonology is the study of the mental organization of speech sounds. How do we interpret sound waves as meaningful units and how are those units recognized, even though their pronunciations vary between speakers and situations?

This course is designed to give a fundamental understanding of both phonetics and phonology, which may serve as a foundation for future study in the field. There will be weekly(ish) homework assignments, both from two textbooks. There will be a midterm exam on phonetics and a final exam on phonology. Try to take notes. Exams will be built around the lectures.

## GRADING

Participation	25
Homework	25
Midterm	25
Final	25
<hr/> Total	<hr/> 100

## TEXTS

I will provide readings and Homework myself, from these two sources:

*A Course in Phonetics*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition. By Peter Ladefoged.

*Problem Book in Phonology*. By Morris Halle and George Clements.

## ATTENDANCE

Attendance is important for this class. This is where we will discuss the readings and other class materials. We will introduce new ideas in the lecture and answer any questions students may have. If a student misses a class, it is the student's responsibility to catch up with what was missed by asking classmates and/or the instructor. The student's efforts in coming to class on time will be duly recognized.

## PARTICIPATION

To be successful in this class, students must attend class sessions with proper preparation. Assigned readings must be completed before corresponding lectures. Lectures are not simply a review of the material in the textbook; they presuppose and expand upon that material. To make the lectures more meaningful, please be prepared to share your questions and comments on assigned readings in class. Students are responsible for all of the information presented in this course, and students' active participation in class and proper preparation for class are also expected. Asking questions is important and will affect grades. Office hours (to be determined) and email are also good ways to get credit for participation.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic dishonesty includes plagiarism and cheating. Students who violate the University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course. There is no need to leave information that is taken directly from an outside source uncited, and there is no need to avoid using information from outside sources out of fear of being accused of plagiarism. If you need any help referencing and citing your information, just let me know.

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

WEEK	TOPIC
Aug 28, 30	Introduction; Chapter 1
Sep 4, 6	Chapter 2
Sep 11, 13	Chapter 3
Sep 18, 20	Chapter 4
Sep 23, 25	Chapter 6; Chapter 7
Oct 2, 4	Chapter 8
Oct 9, 11	Chapter 9; Chapter 10
Oct 16, 18	Review; MIDTERM

Oct 23, 25	Phonology; The Phoneme
Oct 30, Nov 1	Allophones; Formalizing Phonological Rules
Nov 6, 8	Problem Sets; Diachronic Phonology
Nov 13, 15	Diachronic Phonology; Sound Change
Nov 20, 22	Suprasegmental Phonology; (THANKSGIVING)
Nov 27, 29	Suprasegmental Phonology; Phonological Theories
Dec 4, 6	Phonological Theories; Review

## DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940-565-4323.