

Sounds of English (Ling 10)

Spring 2016

TuTh 2:00pm–3:30pm

Wheeler 222

Professor Brian Smith

Office hours Monday 11am–12pm, Wednesday 1pm–2pm
In Dwinelle 1222

E-mail bwsmith@berkeley.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, students will learn the fundamentals of speech production and perception with special emphasis on the sounds of English. Students who take this course will learn the basics of vocal tract anatomy and speech production. Using English as a case study, they will gain a deeper knowledge of a language they already speak. They will also gain tools to study other languages inventories and phonological processes.

TEXTBOOK AND HANDOUTS

There is a bCourses site where you can access all readings, class handouts, assignments, extra readings, etc.

There is a required textbook:

Accents of English: Volume I by John C. Wells, ISBN 0521297196

There is an optional textbook, worth owning if you're interested in phonetics:

A Course in Phonetics by Peter Ladefoged and Keith Johnson, ISBN 1285463407

REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance and participation — required for your success in the course. I'll take attendance at the beginning of every class.
2. Weekly readings – which you should read carefully before class. For every required reading, you should bring written questions or comments to our class meeting. Engaged discussion is part of your grade.
3. Five homework assignments – about one every other week. You are required to work alone. Submit **hard copies at the beginning of class** on the assigned due date. We may cover more or less material than planned, but I will stick to the due dates on the syllabus.

4. Weekly quizzes — **every** Tuesday during the first fifteen minutes of class (2:10–2:25). Quizzes will consist of questions about course content and transcription tasks (I'll produce sounds, which you will transcribe). The lowest quiz grade is dropped.
5. A midterm exam — covering the first half of the course. During regular class time on 3/1, 2:10pm–3:30pm.
6. A final exam — covering the second half of the course. During exam week on 5/7, 11:30am–2:30pm.
7. A production exam — in which you'll read words written in the IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet). You'll complete the exam by meeting with me one-on-one during the last week of classes (4/23–4/28). You'll be able to sign up starting 4/17. You'll have 20 minutes to complete the exam.

GRADE BREAKDOWN

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| Attendance and participation | 10% |
| Assignments (5) | 20% |
| Quizzes (lowest dropped) | 20% |
| Midterm exam (2/29) | 20% |
| Final exam (5/7) | 20% |
| Production exam (4/23–4/28) | 10% |

IMPORTANT DATES FOR SPRING 2018

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| 1/26 | Deadline for dropping a class without fees |
| 2/2 | Deadline for adding a class without fees |
| 2/16 | Final deadline for add/drop |
| 2/19 (Mon.) | President's Day — no classes |
| 3/1 | Midterm exam for Ling 10 (2:10pm–3:30pm) |
| 3/26–3/30 | Spring recess — no classes |
| 4/27 | Last day of formal instruction |
| 4/30–5/4 | Reading/review/recitation week |
| 5/7 | Final exam for Ling 10 (11:30am–2:30pm) |
| 5/11 | Spring semester ends |

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Collaboration and independence: Reviewing lecture and reading materials can be enjoyable and enriching things to do together with one's fellow students, and I recommend it. However, homework assignments should be completed independently and materials turned in as homework should be the result of one's own independent work.

Cheating: Anyone caught cheating on a quiz or exam will receive a failing grade and will also be reported to the University Office of Student Conduct. In order to guarantee that you are not suspected of cheating, please keep your eyes on your own materials and do not converse with others during the quizzes and exams.

Plagiarism/Self-plagiarism: You must be original in composing the writing assignments in this class. To copy text or ideas from another source (including your own previously, or concurrently, submitted course work) without appropriate reference is plagiarism and will result in a failing grade for your assignment and usually further disciplinary action. For additional information on plagiarism, self-plagiarism, and how to avoid it, see, for example: <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/instruct/guides/citations.html#Plagiarism>

CLASSROOM ACCESSIBILITY

Accommodations: If you need disability-related accommodations in this class and have an LOA, have emergency medical information you wish to share with me, or need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please inform me immediately. Please see me privately after class or at my office.

The Disabled Students' Program (DSP): DSP is the campus office responsible for authorizing disability-related academic accommodations, in cooperation with the students themselves, and their instructors. Students who need academic accommodations, or have questions about their eligibility, should contact DSP, located at 260 César Chávez Student Center. Students may call 642-0518 (voice), 642-6376 (TTY), or e-mail dsp@berkeley.edu

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

I'll keep updating this schedule as we go. Readings will be announced in class and posted on bCourses.

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| Week 1: 1/16, 1/18 | The elements of pronunciation Reading: Ladefoged & Johnson pp. 1–20 |
| Week 2: 1/23, 1/25 | Reading: Ladefoged & Johnson pp. 23–45 |
| Week 3: 1/30, 2/1 | Describing sounds HW #1 due on Thursday |
| Week 4: 2/6, 2/8 | |
| Week 5: 2/13, 2/15 | Consonants of English HW #2 due on Thursday |
| Week 6: 2/20, 2/22 | |
| Week 7: 2/27, 3/1 | Vowels of English Midterm on 3/1 |
| Week 8: 3/6, 3/8 | HW #3 due on Thursday |
| Week 9: 3/13, 3/15 | Prosody |
| Week 10: 3/20, 3/22 | HW #4 due on Thursday |
| Spring recess: 3/26–3/30 | |
| Week 11: 4/3, 4/5 | Pronunciation “rules” |
| Week 12: 4/10, 4/12 | HW #5 due on Thursday |
| Week 13: 4/17, 4/19 | Letters to sounds |
| Week 14: 4/24, 4/26 | |
| RRR week: 4:30–5/4 | |
| Final exam: 5/7 (11:30am–2:30pm) | |