> **Land Acknowledgement**
>
> McGill University is on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples, including the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabeg nations. We acknowledge and thank the diverse Indigenous peoples whose presence marks this territory on which peoples of the world now gather.

LING 331: Phonology 1

Course Information

Instructor:	Roger Yu-Hsiang Lo (`roger.lo@xxx.yyy`)
Credits:	3
Time:	Mon/Wed/Fri 9:35 AM–10:25 AM
Location:	TBD
Online discussion forum:	TBD
Teaching assistant:	Jane Doe (`jane.doe@xxx.yyy`)
Instructor office hours:	Wed 1:00 PM–2:00 PM @TBD
TA office hours:	Fri 11:30 AM–12:30 PM @TBD

Course Overview

This course introduces the foundational concepts of phonological theory and analysis, with a focus on describing and analyzing sound patterns from a wide range of languages. The primary goal is to familiarize you with uncovering, analyzing, and modelling the sound systems of languages. While phonology is typically associated with sounds or speech, the concepts and methods we will cover also apply to signed languages, which use the visual-gestural modality instead of the oral-auditory modality.

We will primarily explore a rule-based model of phonology, while also providing a basic introduction to Optimality Theory (OT), a constraint-based approach to phonological analysis. Additionally, the course will cover basic concepts in morphological analysis—understanding how words can be decomposed into smaller, meaningful units—given the interesting ways in which phonology and morphology interact.

To enrich our understanding, we will draw data from diverse languages, enabling us to appreciate the similarities and differences in phonological patterns across the world's languages.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Explain key phonological terms, such as *allophone*, *alternation*, *constraint*, *contrast*, *feature*, *natural class*, *phoneme*, and *underlying representation*;

- Recognize phonological contrasts and processes, gaining familiarity with a wide range of patterns and common phenomena;

- Understand central questions in phonological theory, comparing the solutions offered by rule-based and constraint-based frameworks.

Prerequisites

LING 201 Introduction to Linguistics and *LING 330 Phonetics*. Please consult me if you have not satisfied these prerequisites.

Course Materials

Required readings will be drawn from the following books:

- **[G&J]** Gussenhoven, Carlos, and Haike Jacobs. 2017. *Understanding phonology*. Routledge, 4th edition. (eBook available from the library)

- **[H&S]** Haspelmath, Martin, and Andrea D. Sims. 2010. *Understanding morphology*. Hodder Education, 2nd edition. (Full text)

- **[Hayes]** Hayes, Bruce. 2009. *Introductory phonology*. Wiley-Blackwell. (Full text)

- **[Sandler (2012)]** Sandler, Wendy. 2012. The phonological organization of sign languages. *Language and Linguistics Compass* 6:162–182. (Available from the library)

- **[Zsiga]** Zsiga, Elizabeth C. 2013. *The sounds of language: An introduction to phonetics and phonology*. Wiley-Blackwell. (Full text)

Course Format

Lectures

Lectures will take place on Mondays and Wednesdays **in-person** and will **not** be recorded. Lecture slides/notes will be posted in advance.

Tutorials

Tutorials will be held on Fridays **in-person** by the TA, and will also **not** be recorded. You must be registered in one of the tutorial sessions. The material will be posted beforehand, and solutions will be shared after the last sessions on Friday.

Assessment

- **Homework assignments** (40%; 8% per assignment; 6 assigned with the lowest mark dropped): There will be 6 homework assignments over the course of the term, roughly one every other week. The assignment with the lowest mark will be dropped, and the remaining **5** assignments will contribute to 40% of the overall course score.

These assignments will be posted on the myCourses site and are due at **9:30 AM** on the specified due date (see the Tentative Schedule & Topical Outline below for specific dates). Late submission will **NOT** be accepted, that is, you will receive a mark of zero if you miss the cut-off time. The assignments must be typed and submitted as PDF files on myCourses.

You may work in groups of up to **three** people for each assignment. Please make sure you clearly indicate the names and student numbers of all group members on the document you upload (details on how to submit an assignment as a group will be posted before HW 1 is due). In an assignment is done by a group, all members will receive the **same** grade. Also note that you do **not** need to work with the same people for all assignments.

Please also read the Use of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) tools section for the use of GenAI tools on the assignments.

- **Quizzes** (20%; 2% per quiz; 11 assigned with the lowest mark dropped): There will be 11 quizzes posted on myCourses at a frequency of one per week. The lowest mark will be dropped, and the remaining **10** quizzes will account for 20% of your final course score.

  These quizzes are generally due on **Mondays** at **9:30 AM** before the start of the first class of that week (see the Tentative Schedule & Topical Outline below for specific dates; note that Quiz 1 is due on **Wednesday, September 4**). Correct answers to quiz questions will be revealed immediately after the quiz is due, so you must do each quiz by its deadline (i.e., no make-up quizzes will be offered). Incomplete or unsubmitted quizzes by the deadline will result in a mark of zero.

  These quizzes are designed to help you understand the readings that are assigned for the week when the quiz is due. The quiz questions are meant to be **straightforward**, provided that you have understood the reading. Note that you can **see the quiz questions** before actually doing the quiz, so you should use the quiz questions as your guide when you are doing the assigned readings. You are also free to discuss quiz questions/answers with your classmates. However, you are only able to attempt the quiz **once** after you start it.

- **Midterm** (15%) and **final** (25%): Both exams will be **in-person** and **written**. For both exams, you will be working **on your own**.

  The midterm exam will take place on **Wednesday, October 23**, and the duration will be **1.5 hours**. The content of the midterm will be based on the topics covered up to October 11. The time and more details on the format of the midterm will be announced later on. The immediately preceding class (on Monday, October 21) will include a review session. There will be **no make-up** midterm, so if you miss the midterm for any reason, its weight will be transferred to the final.

  The date, time, and location of the final exam will be published on McGill's exam schedule. The final will last for **3 hours**. Note that the final can fall anywhere between **December 6** and **December 20**, so please only make travel plans after you know that exact date and time of the final. It will be **cumulative** though more emphasis will be on the material covered after the midterm. Details on the format of the final will be provided later, and the last class on Wednesday, December 4, will be a review session.

  If you are eligible for **exam accommodations**, please remember to register with the Student Accessibility & Achievement **at least 14 days before** the midterm and the final.

  If you are in satisfactory or probationary standing and received a grade of D, F, J, or U in the course, you may be eligible to write a supplemental exam, which will count for a large percentage of your final grade. Note that your original grade will still appear on your transcript,

and both the original grade and the supplemental exam grade will be calculated into your CGPA. Please see My Exams for more information.

Grading Scale

Percentage grades will be assigned for all assessments and converted to final letter grades based on the scale published by the university:

Letter grade	% grade	Definition
A	85–100	Excellent performance
A−	80–84	
B+	75–79	Good performance
B	70–74	
B−	65–69	
C+	60–64	Satisfactory performance
C	55–59	
D	50–54	
F	0–49	Unsatisfactory performance (fail)

Communication

For course-related questions, please follow these steps for the quickest response:

1. Consult this syllabus.

2. Post your question on the online discussion forum or ask classmates.

3. Meet with me during office hours.

For personal questions, feel free to email me directly. I aim to respond within 48 hours.

Accessibility

- **Accommodation for students with disabilities**: Students requiring academic accommodations due to a disability or medical condition should reach out to Student Accessibility & Achievement. More information is available on this page.

- **Well-being**: Being a student at any level can be challenging. You should always prioritize your well-being if you experience physical or psychological difficulties. Please refer to Student Wellness Hub for resources provided by the university.

McGill Policy Statements

Academic integrity

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of

Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures. (See McGill's guide to academic honesty for more information.)

L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et procédures disciplinaires. (Pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le guide pour l'honnêteté académique de McGill.)

Language of submission

In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French written work that is to be graded. This does not apply to courses in which acquiring proficiency in a language is one of the objectives.

Conformément à la Charte des droits de l'étudiant de l'Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté, sauf dans le cas des cours dont l'un des objets est la maîtrise d'une langue.

Copyright

© Instructor-generated course materials (e.g., handouts, notes, summaries, exam questions) are protected by law and may not be copied or distributed in any form or in any medium without explicit permission of the instructor. Note that copyright infringements can be subject to follow-up by the University under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.

Use of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) tools

You may choose to use GenAI tools as you work through the assignments in this course. However, you should be aware that the code/text generated by GenAI may by inaccurate, biased, or incomplete. You are ultimately accountable for the work you submit, and any content generated or supported by an artificial intelligence tool must be documented appropriately. The documentation should include what tool(s) were used, how they were used, and how the results from the GenAI were incorporated into the submitted work.

Extraordinary circumstances

In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or assessment tasks in this course are subject to change and students will be advised of the change.

Tentative Schedule & Topical Outline

Wk #	Date	Topics	Readings	Due
1	08/28 (Wed)	**Introduction**		
	08/30 (Fri)	**Review**: phonetics	Hayes 1.1-1.8	
2	~~09/02 (Mon)~~	Labour Day (no class)		
	09/04 (Wed)	**Sound patterns**: phoneme, allophone	Zsiga 10.1-10.3	Quiz 1
	09/06 (Fri)	**Sound patterns**: rule	Hayes 3.1-3.4	
3	09/09 (Mon)	**Morphology**: structure, analysis	H&S 2.1-2.3	Quiz 2
	<mark>Tuesday, September 10, is the add/drop deadline</mark>			
	09/11 (Wed)	**Sound patterns**: alternation	Zsiga 11.1-11.3	HW 1
	09/13 (Fri)	**Tutorial 1**		
4	09/16 (Mon)	**Features**: manner	G&J 5.1-5.8	Quiz 3
	09/18 (Wed)	**Features**: place	G&J 6.1-6.3	
	09/20 (Fri)	**Tutorial 2**		
5	09/23 (Mon)	**Features**: rule	G&J 6.4-6.6	Quiz 4
	09/25 (Wed)	**Features**: representation	Zsiga 13.1-13.3	HW 2
	09/27 (Fri)	**Tutorial 3**		
6	09/30 (Mon)	**Phonological analysis I**	Hayes 6.1-6.4	Quiz 5
	10/02 (Wed)	**Phonological analysis II**	Hayes 7.1-7.2	
	10/04 (Fri)	**Tutorial 4**		
7	10/07 (Mon)	**Feature geometry**: tree	G&J 14.1-14.3	Quiz 6
	10/09 (Wed)	**Feature geometry**: rule	G&J 14.4-14.7	HW 3
	10/11 (Fri)	**Tutorial 5**		
	~~10/14 (Mon)~~	Thanksgiving (no class)		
	~~10/16 (Wed)~~	Fall reading break (no class)		
	~~10/18 (Fri)~~	Fall reading break (no class)		
8	10/21 (Mon)	**Review**: midterm		
	10/23 (Wed)	**Midterm** (time: TBD)		
	10/25 (Fri)	**Q&A**: midterm		
9	10/28 (Mon)	**Syllable**: representation	Hayes 13.1-13.5	Quiz 7
	10/30 (Wed)	**Syllable**: alternation	Hayes 13.6-13.8	
	11/01 (Fri)	**Tutorial 6**		
10	11/04 (Mon)	**Tone**: properties	G&J 10.1-10.5	Quiz 8
	11/06 (Wed)	**Tone**: implementation	G&J 10.6-10.10	HW 4
	11/08 (Fri)	**Tutorial 7**		

Wk #	Date	Topics	Readings	Due
11	11/11 (Mon)	**Stress**: properties	Hayes 14.1-14.4	Quiz 9
	11/13 (Wed)	**Stress**: syllable weight	Hayes 14.5	
	11/15 (Fri)	**Tutorial 8**		
12	11/18 (Mon)	**Metric**	G&J 11.3	Quiz 10
	11/20 (Wed)	**Intonation**	Zsiga 17.2	HW 5
	11/22 (Fri)	**Tutorial 9**		
13	11/25 (Mon)	**Sign language phonology**	Sandler (2012)	Quiz 11
	11/27 (Wed)	**Introduction**: OT	Zsiga 14.1-14.2	
	11/29 (Fri)	**Tutorial 10**		
14	12/02 (Mon)	**OT**: analysis	Zsiga 14.3-14.4	HW 6
	12/04 (Wed)	**Review**: final		
	12/06-12/20	**Final** (date/time: TBD)		