

## SYLLABUS

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<b>Time</b>	W 10:00-10:50	<b>Place</b>	Math Sciences 7608	<b>Web</b>	On ccle.ucla.edu
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This class is a supplement to 103, and **doesn't replace your regular Thursday or Friday sections with Yu or Byron!**

### Course plan

- We'll read and discuss articles on the application of phonetics to legal matters, including
  - speaker identification (is it the defendant on the answering machine?) by human and machine
  - effect of voice disguise and alteration
  - identifying speaker traits from speech (can a witness reliably detect a speaker's age, sex, height, or weight from voice alone?)
  - detection of deception, stress, or intoxication from speech
  - determining a speaker's linguistic background (does the refugee claimant talk like someone from the town they say they're from? )
  - acoustic effects of telephones
  - cleaning up and transcribing poor-quality audio; disputed transcripts
- We'll take a scientific perspective: what is the evidence for the reliability of various techniques?
- Wherever we have the data, we'll take a *signal-detection* perspective: what are the rates of false positives and false negatives? (Or, another way of dividing things up: false alarm rate vs. hit rate)
- We'll think about reliability in probabilistic terms: if you already thought there was a 50% chance that the defendant was guilty, how does that probability go up or down in light of a positive or negative finding using one of these techniques?
- I have no legal training, so we'll keep track of our legal questions, and then ask Joe Buffington, who is both a linguist and an attorney, to answer them.

### What to expect

- Class time will be spent on students presenting articles, except during Joe's visits.
- How many articles you present in the quarter depends on how many people are enrolled.
- You don't have to read the articles that you're not presenting (the course is only 1 unit, after all).
- All the articles will be available on the course website.

### Requirements

- Present your articles.
- Attend and participate in discussing articles that others present.
- Maybe do a couple of online exercises, if I can work out the kinks.

### Course goals/why take this course?

Many of you will go on to law school. Nearly all of you will end up on a jury at some point. If you encounter phonetic evidence, you'll be especially well equipped to think about it intelligently. You'll probably also be better equipped to evaluate forensic evidence in general.

This class is also a chance to read and discuss real scientific articles (not textbook material).