

Northwestern University
Linguistics 250-0 Section 20
Sound Patterns in Human Language
Winter 2015

Class time and place: Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30–10:50 am, Annenberg Hall G21
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Linguistics 250 is an introduction to the sound structure of language. We will learn to describe speech sounds in the three domains of speech: the articulatory domain (how speech sounds are produced in the human vocal tract), the acoustic domain (their form in the acoustic medium), and the perceptual domain (how listeners process the incoming speech signal). We will learn to recognize the ways in which speech sounds pattern in language to convey meaning, and the ways in which these patterns are similar and different across the languages of the world. Finally, we will learn about current speech technology as it applies to computerized speech synthesis and speech recognition.

Together Linguistics 250, 270 (“Meaning”), and 260 (“Formal Analysis of Words and Sentences”) form a three-course introduction to linguistics, for majors and non-majors alike. Each course may be taken independently of the others and in any sequence. All three courses are prerequisites for the major and minor in Linguistics. Linguistics 250 also satisfies the WCAS Area I Distribution Requirement in Natural Sciences.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Introduction to the sound structure of language
- Learn to describe the physical form and cognitive representation of speech sounds across the languages of the world
- Introduction to acoustic analysis of digitized speech and applications for speech synthesis and recognition

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

Projects	50%
Quiz 1	25%
Quiz 2	25%

Experiment Requirement Not graded, but failure to complete will result in a lowered final course grade

NOTE: In the calculation of final grades, all project and quiz grades are converted to percentages before entering into the calculation of a weighted average. Letter grades are then assigned as follows:

A = 92.5 – 100	B+ = 86.5 – 89.4	C+ = 76.5 – 79.4
A- = 89.5 – 92.4	B = 82.5 – 86.4	C = 72.5 – 76.4
	B- = 79.5 – 82.4	C- = 69.5 – 72.4

COURSE POLICIES

1. Keep up with the class. The syllabus, topics, assignments, readings, etc. may change. These changes will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard. It is your responsibility to keep up with these changes.
2. You have to do your work on time. Due dates are firm. If this is a problem, see #3. Out of fairness to the majority of students who submit their projects on time, please note that the following late policy will be strictly enforced.
 - a. Tier 1: 20% deduction for a project submitted within 24 hours of the due date
 - b. Tier 2: 50% deduction for a project submitted within 48 hours of the due date
 - c. Tier 3: no credit for a project submitted more than 48 hours after the due date
3. If you have a problem, give us sufficient time to help you! If you've tried to do an assignment, but can't seem to complete it, come to us well before it's due.
4. All written work is to be done by you as an individual. Collaboration is not allowed on written work. Homework assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date. No make-up quizzes or late assignments will be accepted.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

As with all courses at Northwestern University, registration in this course requires adherence to the University's principles regarding academic integrity

(<http://www.northwestern.edu/provost/students/integrity/principles.html>). Suspected violations of academic integrity in this course will be immediately referred to the WCAS Assistant Dean for Advising and Academic Integrity. For details on procedures for handling suspected violations of academic integrity: <http://www.weinberg.northwestern.edu/advising/integrity/violations.html>

NOTICE TO STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Any student with a documented disability requesting accommodations is required to speak directly to the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (Evanston campus: 847-467-5530; Chicago campus: 312-503-4042) preferably within the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain confidential. For more information: <http://www.northwestern.edu/disability/>

CLASS MATERIALS/REQUIRED TEXT BOOKS:

Title:	Vowels and Consonants
Authors:	Peter Ladefoged and Sandra Ferrari Disner
Publication Date:	May 7, 2012
ISBN-10:	1444334298
ISBN-13:	978-1444334296
Edition:	3

Title:	English Phonetics and Phonology
Author:	Philip Carr
Publication Date:	September 17, 2012
ISBN-10:	ISBN-10: 1405134542
ISBN-13:	ISBN-13: 978-1405134545
Edition:	2

Title:	Hands on Phonetics: A Praat Workbook. Unit 1: Visualizing Sound
Author:	Kenneth Konopka and Jenna Luque
Publication Date:	2012

E-Book available for download from:
http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00DZTBSJK/ref=pe_245070_24466410_M1T1DP