

Linguistics 450: Introduction to Phonetics

Syllabus & Calendar

Texts

- **Required:** *A Course in Phonetics*, 7th ed., by Peter Ladefoged and Keith Johnson
- **Optional:** *Introductory Phonology* by Bruce Hayes

Please note that there are significant differences between editions of the Ladefoged & Johnson text, so use editions other than the seventh edition at your own risk. We will only use a couple chapters from the Hayes book, and scans of them are posted on the class webpage. However, this is the text for LING 451: Phonology 1, so you might want to buy your Hayes book now.

Course Requirements This course will introduce you to the linguistic study of speech sounds. It is critically important that you keep abreast of the required readings and assignments and do not miss class. Please do the assigned readings before coming to class. If you miss class, you are responsible for getting lecture notes from a classmate.

Learning Goals After completing this course, you should:

- be familiar with the anatomy of the vocal tract and the terminology used to describe speech articulations
- have a good working knowledge of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) and be able to use it to transcribe speech
- have some experience hearing and producing the sounds of the world's languages
- understand basic acoustic theory as it relates to speech sounds
- be able to use software to analyze speech sounds
- grasp the ways in which speech sounds can vary, and be able to assess patterns in variation to perform basic phonological analysis.

Evaluated Work Homeworks, quizzes, and the final exam will all be taken online on Canvas. Labs and projects will also be submitted there.

Homeworks are typically short (5-15 questions, though a few are longer) and do not have a time limit: once you start, you can save your progress and return later to finish them (but be sure to click "submit answers" when you are satisfied with your work).

Quizzes are similar to homeworks, but each counts more toward your final grade. Quizzes are also timed, so once you begin work on a quiz, you will have a fixed amount of time to finish it (typically 30 minutes). Quizzes allow only one attempt and cannot be retaken. Homeworks, transcriptions, and quizzes all must be completed **by the beginning of class on the due dates** to receive credit. Your recorded grade will be the one you received on your **first attempt**. Assignments may be reopened later for students to use for review.

The final exam is split into two 1-hour sections that are just like quizzes (only longer). Both parts of the final must be completed during the final exam period, as indicated on the Calendar. They can be taken in any order, and you do not have to take them both on the same day.

Transcription exercises are a way to train your ears to distinguish subtle variations in speech sounds and help you master the symbols of the IPA. We will practice in class using worksheets that will count toward your final grade. As long as you make honest attempts and correct your work, you will get full credit. If you are absent on a day we do transcription, you may get the worksheet from the webpage and fill it out on your own. Turn it in within two class days, and you will receive the answer key, from which you must correct your own work.

There are also transcription exercises on Canvas, which you are encouraged to use for your own practice. (They are not graded.) They will require you to type phonetic symbols into the computer, so you will need to use an online character picker to do these exercises. The Canvas system will only give partial credit if your answer doesn't match the key exactly, but many variations are acceptable. You should compare your answers to the key to make sure you're not missing important distinctions. The exercises can be repeated, and each repetition has a new randomization of questions, so you may practice more than the initial set.

Labs are designed to give you practical experience with the tools and methodologies of practicing phoneticians. This includes evaluating the quality of reference materials, analyzing speech sounds using software tools, and interpreting, explaining, and presenting your results (including creating appropriate graphs). You are encouraged to work together on the lab exercises and talk to each other about your findings, but the lab write-ups must be done individually (submitted through Canvas). There will be 2-3 labs; more information will be available later in the course.

Projects involve research into the phonetic and phonological properties of a language that you are not familiar with. Each student will work on one language project, involving skills such as transcribing words, assembling phoneme charts, and comparing features to other languages, all gathered together in one final report. Further details on the project will be available later in the course.

Grading The final course grade is weighted as follows:

- 5% – Class participation and preparation (including daily readings)
- 10% – Transcription exercises (2-3/week, in class and/or on Canvas)
- 20% – Homework assignments (~daily, on Canvas)
- 12% – Quizzes (3-4 total, on Canvas)
- 15% – Labs (2-3 total, on Canvas)
- 18% – Project (2-3 parts, including written portion)
- 20% – Final exam (2 parts, on Canvas)

It is your responsibility to keep track of your score in the course. If you want to discuss your grade in person, please make an appointment. Due to FERPA, I cannot discuss any grades over email.

Disability accommodations: To request academic accommodations due to a disability, please contact Disabled Student Services, 448 Schmitz, 206-543-8924 (V/TTY). If you think I have already received a message about you from DSS, please check in with me in person near the beginning of the quarter so I can give you the code to the DRS version of the quizzes.

Religious Accommodation Policy: Washington state law requires that UW develop a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The UW's policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available at [Religious Accommodations Policy \(https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/\)](https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/).

Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of this course using the [Religious Accommodations Request form \(https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/\)](https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/).

Course Schedule (Tentative)

W	Date/ Day	Topic	Reading Assignment (Before Class)	Homework (Before Class)
1	W 9/25	Course Intro, Review	L&J Ch. 1	
2	M 9/30	IPA	L&J Ch. 2	Quiz 0: font support; Beginning of
	W 10/2	Acoustics	L&J Ch. 8	HW 1: Vocal Tract Anatomy
3	M 10/7	Source-Filter	L&J Ch. 8	HW 2: IPA Eng Consonants
	W 10/9	Spectrograms	L&J Ch. 8	HW 3: IPA Eng Vowels
4	M 10/14	Spectrograms	L&J Ch. 8	HW 4: Acoustic
	W 10/16	Vowels	L&J Ch. 9	HW 5: Spectrogram
5	M 10/21	Measuring Vowels, Lab 1		Quiz 1: Spectrogram Reading
	W 10/23	Place	L&J Ch. 7	HW 6: IPA all vowels articulation
6	M 10/28	Manner	L&J Ch. 7	HW7: Vowel Analysis
	W 10/30	Airstream	L&J Ch. 6	
7	M 11/4	Phonation, VOT, Lab 2	L&J Ch. 6	Lab 1: Vowels
	W 11/6	Syllables Suprasegmentals	L&J Ch. 10,5	HW8: IPA implosives, ejectives, clicks
8	M 11/11	Veterans Day	NO CLASS	NO CLASS
	W 11/13	Suprasegmentals	L&J Ch. 10,5	HW9: Obstruent dynamics; Quiz 2; Project transcriptions due
9	M 11/18	ToBI, Transcription	L&J Ch. 5,2	HW10: word stress; Lab 2; VOT

	W 11/20	English consonants	L&J Ch. 3	HW11: IPA all vowel phonation
10	M 11/25	English Vowels	L&J Ch. 4	HW12: intonation, tone
	W 11/27	Phonology	Hayes Ch. 2	HW13: IPA all consonants articulation
11	M 12/2	Features	Hayes Ch. 4	HW 14: Eng word transcription
	W 12/4	Review		HW 15: phonemics; HW 16: Natural Class; HW 17: Features; Quiz 3
E	12/9	Final Exam		Project Final Report Due Final Exam Due