

# Introduction to Linguistic Phonetics

## Course Introduction

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University of Washington

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# What is Phonetics?

## Question

When you hear the word “phonetics,” what comes to mind?

# What is Phonetics?

- The study of the sounds of human speech
- Involves the production, transmission, and perception of speech sounds
- Key areas of focus include articulatory phonetics, acoustic phonetics, and auditory phonetics, and speech perception

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**Name:** Mykel Loren Brinkerhoff

**Education:** UCSC (Ph.D., 2025)

**Contact:** mlbrinke@uw.edu

**Research Interests:** Phonetics,  
Phonology, Phonology  
interfaces, fieldwork,  
endangered languages



# Teaching Assistants



**Name:** Ty Gill-Saucier

**Contact:** [ztgill@uw.edu](mailto:ztgill@uw.edu)

**Research Interests:** Sociophonetics,  
Language Ideologies,  
Mississippi Gulf Coast  
French, Phonetic bias in  
Automated Speech  
Recognition (ASR).

# How to contact us

- Email is the best way to reach us.
  - Response time: within 24 hours on weekdays, Monday on weekends
  - Include "[LING 450/550]" in the subject line of your email
- Office hours are also an excellent option.
  - Office hours are listed on Canvas and on the syllabus
- By appointment if necessary.



At the end of this course, you should be able to:

- 1 **Articulatory description and understanding:** how sounds of the world's languages are articulated
- 2 **Practical phonetic competence:** perceive and produce many of the world's speech sounds
- 3 **IPA transcription:** learn the International Phonetic Alphabet, a universal system for transcribing speech sounds

# DRS Accommodations

- If you have a disability and may require accommodations to fully participate in this class, please visit the Disability Resources for Students (DRS) website at <https://disability.uw.edu/>.
- DRS will work with you and me to make arrangements for accommodations.

# Course Overview

- Class meets: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30am - 10:20am
- Location: CUM 120 and Zoom (links on Canvas)

# Required Materials

## Software

- Praat (free): <https://www.fon.hum.uva.nl/praat/>
- IPA font and keyboard

## Readings

- All readings are available on Canvas
- Additional resources will be provided as needed

# Setting up Praat and IPA keyboard

- Download and install Praat from <https://www.fon.hum.uva.nl/praat/>
- Download and install an IPA font, such as Charis or Doulos SIL (from <https://software.sil.org/>)
- Set up an IPA keyboard layout on your computer (for Windows, Mac, or Linux)

# Course Requirements

- Regular attendance and participation
- Completion of assignments, quizzes, labs, and projects

# Assignments and Grading

- See syllabus for detailed breakdown of assignments and grading

- You will study the sounds of a language you do not know.
  - LING 450 students will work on one language given to them.
  - LING 550 students will work on one assigned language and a second language they choose.
- You will use skills from class, like IPA transcription, sound analysis, making sound charts, and comparing languages.
- The project has several steps during the quarter, with a final paper at the end.



- Please refer to the syllabus for detailed course policies.

10 minute break  
(stretch, grab a drink, etc.)