



## Phonetics

Course Number	L44 Ling 312	Instructor	Dr. Nick Danis
Semester	Spring 2019	Contact	nsdanis@wustl.edu
Time	Tu./Th. 11:30am–1:00pm	Office Location	Psychology 402F
Location	Mallinckrodt 302	Office Hours	Wed 1–3pm or by appt.

### 1 Description

This course introduces the main areas of study in phonetics as a scientific discipline and subfield of linguistics. We focus on both acoustic and articulatory phonetics, with an emphasis on both English and languages of typological significance. We will analyze natural speech data in specialized software (Praat) to make our acoustic analyses, and often we will record our own data with an emphasis on experimental methodology. Students will gain the ability to produce transcriptions in the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) from given speech data, and to produce utterances already transcribed in the IPA.

### 2 Course Goals

- Understand fundamentals of acoustic and auditory phonetics
- Create broad phonetic transcriptions of American English speech
- Use modern tools (e.g. Praat) and experimental methodologies to make basic phonetic measurements

### 3 Required Materials

The required textbook is listed below.

- Peter Ladefoged & Keith Johnson. 2014. *A Course in Phonetics*. 7th Edition. Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning. 356 pp. ISBN: 978-1-285-46340-7

Please note that we are using the 7th edition, which differs substantially from the 6th edition. Throughout this syllabus, the textbook is abbreviated CiP. Other required material is available at no cost: the computer program Praat ([url](http://www.speech.ku.dk/~praat/)), and a spreadsheet program of your choice (Excel, Google Sheets, OpenOffice, etc.).

## 4 Grade

There are four take-home labs throughout the semester. Each requires knowledge of the practical tools used in class (making recordings in Praat) in addition to the core course material. Additionally, certain labs will require either another classmate or someone else as a source of data. (Specific instructions will be given in the assessments themselves.) Together, these are worth 80% of your final grade. The remaining 20% consists of attendance and in-class work, as the breakdown below shows.

Item	Pct.
Transcriptions	15%
Midterm	20%
Take-home Labs	40%
Final Project	25%

### 4.1 Transcriptions

There will be two transcription problem sets, one focusing on consonants and one on vowels.

### 4.2 Midterm

The midterm will be in class and will contain material up to that point in the class. It will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions.

### 4.3 Take-home Labs

The two take-home labs will prepare you for making your own recordings and analyzing the data in Praat, both of which will be necessary for your final project. You may use yourself as the subject of these labs, but you are strongly encouraged to use someone else. It might be a good idea to find a classmate to pair up with, and each can be the subject for the other's assignment. More detail will be given in class.

### 4.4 Final Project

The final project consists of you finding a native speaker of a non-English language, compiling and recording a wordlist, and making various phonetic measurements. This includes creating a consonant and vowel inventory, noting any and all minimal pairs, and so on. You *cannot* use yourself as the subject of this assignment. More detail will be given in class.

## 5 Academic Integrity

This course adheres to the university's Academic Integrity Policy (<https://studentconduct.wustl.edu/academic-integrity/>), and takes cheating and plagiarism very seriously.

### Schedule (tentative)

Date	Day	Comment	Reading	Due
1/15/19	Tu.		Ch 1 Articulation and Acoustics	
1/17/19	Th.			
1/22/19	Tu.		Ch 2 Phonology and Phonetic Transcription	
1/24/19	Th.			
1/29/19	Tu.		Ch 3 The Consonants of English	
1/31/19	Th.			
2/5/19	Tu.		Ch 4 English Vowels	Transcription 1
2/7/19	Th.	Praat lab		
2/12/19	Tu.		Ch 6 Airstream Mechanisms and Phonation Types	
2/14/19	Th.			
2/19/19	Tu.		Ch 7 Consonantal Gestures	Transcription 2
2/21/19	Th.			
2/26/19	Tu.		Ch 8 Acoustic Phonetics	
2/28/19	Th.	Recording lab		
3/5/19	Tu.	Review		
3/7/19	Th.	<b>Midterm</b>		
3/12/19	Tu.	No class (Spring Break)		
3/14/19	Th.	No class (Spring Break)		
3/19/19	Tu.			VOT
3/21/19	Th.			
3/26/19	Tu.		Ch 9 Vowels and Vowel-Like Articulations	
3/28/19	Th.			
4/2/19	Tu.	<b>Praat lab - vowels</b>		
4/4/19	Th.		<b>Ch 5 English Words and Sentences</b>	
4/9/19	Tu.		<b>CLASS CANCELED</b>	
4/11/19	Th.			<b>Vowel Space</b>
4/16/19	Tu.		Ch 10 Syllables and Suprasegmental Features	
4/18/19	Th.			
4/23/19	Tu.		Ch 11 Linguistic Phonetics	
4/25/19	Th.	Last day of classes		
TBD				Final Project

## 6 ADA Compliance

Washington University is committed to providing accommodations and/or services to students with documented disabilities. Students who are seeking support for a disability or a suspected disability should contact Disability Resources at 935-4153. Disability Resources is responsible for approving all disability-related accommodations for WU students, and students are responsible for providing faculty members with formal documentation of their approved accommodations at least two weeks prior to using those accommodations. I will accept Disability Resources VISA forms by email and personal delivery. If you have already been approved for accommodations, I request that you provide me with a copy of your VISA within the first two weeks of the semester. Please see more information at <http://cornerstone.wustl.edu/>.