



Phonetics

Course Number	L44 Ling 312	Instructor	Dr. Nick Danis
Semester	Spring 2020	Contact	nsdanis@wustl.edu
Time	Tu./Th. 4–5:20pm	Office Location	Somers 402F
Location	Eads 216	Office Hours	TBD 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 and 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](#)), 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.
Quizzes/HWs	25%
Exams	25%
Labs	25%
Final Project	25%

4.1 Quizzes/HWs

About every other week, class will begin with a short quiz. The quizzes and topics will be announced in advance. Additionally, there will be occasional homework assignments in between the larger lab assignments. Each HW and quiz will be graded out of ten points, and the lowest scoring item (either HW or quiz) will be dropped.

4.2 Exams

There will be two equally-weighted exams throughout the semester. These are similar in respect to the quizzes, but longer. There is **no** final exam.

4.3 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 should use a classmate as the subject of these labs, though you may use yourself in a pinch. 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. There will be multiple "reports" throughout the semester on your progress. The first will be on what language and native speaker you have found or chosen, so start thinking about this soon.

More detail will be given in class.

Schedule (updated Feb 5, 2020)

Date	Week	Reading	Due
1/14/2020	1	Ch 1 Articulation and Acoustics	
1/16/2020	1	<i>Praat Basics</i>	
1/21/2020	2	Ch 2 Phonology and Phonetic Transcription	
1/23/2020	2		
1/28/2020	3	Ch 3 The Consonants of English	
1/30/2020	3	<i>Recording Basics</i>	
2/4/2020	4	Ch 4 English Vowels	
2/6/2020	4		
2/11/2020	5	Ch 6 Airstream Mechanisms and Phonation Types	FP1 - Speaker & Language
2/13/2020	5		
2/18/2020	6	<i>Experimental Basics</i>	
2/20/2020	6	Exam 1	
2/25/2020	7	Ch 7 Consonantal Gestures	
2/27/2020	7		Consonants Lab
3/3/2020	8	Ch 8 Acoustic Phonetics	
3/5/2020	8		FP2 - Materials
3/10/2020	9	<i>No Class - Spring Break</i>	
3/12/2020	9	<i>No Class - Spring Break</i>	
3/17/2020	10	Ch 9 Vowels and Vowel-Like Articulations	
3/19/2020	10		Vowel Lab
3/24/2020	11	Ch 5 English Words and Sentences	
3/26/2020	11	Ch 10 Syllables and Suprasegmental Features	
3/31/2020	12	<i>Perception</i>	
4/2/2020	12	<i>Auditory System</i>	FP3 - Recordings
4/7/2020	13	Ch 11 Linguistic Phonetics	
4/9/2020	13	Exam 2	
4/14/2020	14	Presentations	
4/16/2020	14	Presentations	
4/21/2020	15	Presentations	
4/23/2020	15	Presentations	
TBD			Final Project Due

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.

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/>.