

LING 3010: Introduction to Phonetics and Phonology

Yang Wang
Syllabus

Course

Semester: Spring 2026

Time: TuTh/10:45AM-12:05PM

Textbook: None

Website: Canvas

Location: BEH S 108

Prerequisites: LING 2200

Instructor

Email: yangx.wang@utah.edu

Office Hours: T/TR 1pm - 2pm or by appt.

Pronoun: she/her/hers

Location: LNCO 2321

1 Course Description

This course focuses on the physical and linguistic aspects of speech sounds. We will examine these sounds from articulatory, acoustic, and perceptual points of view. These topics are at the heart of phonetics and are fascinating in their own right, but they are also essential topics as preparation for studying phonology, which seeks an understanding of how speech sounds are organized in languages. By the end of the course we will have shifted our focus onto these language-specific patterns.

1.1 Course objective

- Identify the parts of the vocal tract and their roles in speech production
- Practice perceiving and producing (as best as you can) sounds of the world's languages
- Understand basic acoustic properties of different speech sounds
- Describe the processes involved in speech perception
- Describe the sounds and sound patterns of a familiar language using phonetic symbols and phonological rules
- Provide a phonological analysis of an unfamiliar language given sufficient data
- Practice and improve analytical skills

1.2 What is knowing phonetics and phonology useful for?

- Learning more phonetics and phonology!
- Studying other aspects of language (acquisition, processing, bilingualism, neurolinguistics...)
- Language learning and language teaching
- Education, especially reading and language arts
- Speech and language therapy
- Language technology (speech synthesis, speech recognition)
- Studying and creating literature, especially poetry and song lyrics

1.3 What life skills will we work on?

- Formulating, and communicating in writing, a clear description and analysis of a set of data
- Evaluating and comparing different analyses of the same data
- Meta-cognitive skills: assessing your knowledge and skills in light of a task, planning your approach, monitoring your progress

2 Course materials

2.1 Readings

There is no required textbook for this course. All materials (assignments, notes, readings) will be distributed through the course website on Canvas. However, students are encouraged to use the following books to reinforce and complement their learning.

- Hayes, Bruce.(2009) *Introductory Phonology*. Wiley/Blackwell.
- Zsiga, Elizabeth (2013). *The Sounds of Language: An Introduction to Phonetics and Phonology*. Wiley-Blackwell. ISBN: 978-1405191036

2.2 Technology

- Students need regular and reliable access to a laptop/computer with internet access. A tablet computer is probably not sufficient to fully participate in the course.
- For some homework assignments, students will need speech analysis software. The most popular among phoneticians is called Praat (<http://www.praat.org>), free and available for Windows, Macintosh, and Linux operating systems.

3 Requirements and grading (tentative)

3.1 Grade break-down

In-person weekly quizzes	10%			
Homework	60%			
Midterm	10%			
Final	20 %			
In total	100%			
		+		-
A			94–100%	90–93.99%
B	87–89.99%		84–86.99%	80–83.99%
C	77–79.99%		74–76.99%	70–73.99%
D	67–69.99%		64–66.99%	60–63.99%
E			≤ 59.99%	

3.2 In-person weekly quizzes (10% in total)

Your quizzes will not be graded based on accuracy but will be graded based on attendance and completion.¹ This is a great opportunity for you to refresh your memory on the content from the previous

¹If you are still curious why I am doing this, take a look at this paper (testing seems to be more effective than studying because it involves “effortful retrieval”; access [here](#).)

class. It also gives me a chance to identify any areas where you might be struggling, so I can find more effective ways to help you!

There will be 13 quizzes in total (see the course schedule below). You are allowed to miss up to 3 quizzes without needing to provide any excuses. **However, if you complete all the quizzes, you will earn one extra credit point toward your final grade.** Here are policies for makeup quizzes.

- If you are going to miss due to illness, let me know **in advance** by email.
- I do not accept any late requests for making up quizzes.
- You can make up the missed work during my office hours **within one week after the class.**
- Please note that while the makeup problems will cover the same material, they will be different from the in-class ones.

3.3 Homework (60%)

There will be **six** homework assignments throughout the semester.

- Each of these assignments will require a great amount of work outside of class, so be sure to plan accordingly.
- Each assignment will make up 10% of your grade.
- Unless otherwise indicated, your work should be submitted via Canvas.
- At my discretion, I may grant you an extension on a particular assignment; however, I will only do this if you talk to me **before** the assignment is due. If I don't have your assignment when class begins, it is late.
- Late submissions are allowed (up to 48 hours) with penalty (10% per 24 hours) for these assignments.
- I encourage you to work together on homework assignments. However, your write-up must be done independently. You should include in your write-up the names of the people you worked with.
- Makeup points: For each homework assignment, you may earn back all of the points you lost by doing the following. Come and talk with Yang during my office hours, bring your original submission, and be prepared to talk about the parts of the homework that you lost points on. There is no deadline for doing this, though if you have not done it before I compute final grades, I will have to use your original homework grade. Caveats: (i) you must have submitted the original homework; (ii) any penalty for a late submission still applies.

3.4 Midterm (10%)

No make-up exam will be allowed (barring serious documented emergencies).

3.5 Cumulative final (20%)

No make-up exam will be allowed (barring serious documented emergencies).

3.6 Extra credits (up to 5% bonus to final grade)

SONA credit (2% bonus to final grade)

In this course students can earn two extra credits for participation in Linguistics studies this semester. For more information and to sign up for linguistics studies, please visit: <https://sites.google.com/view/speech-acquisition-lab/participate-in-experiments>.

If you need accommodation of any kind, have a question about accommodation, and/or prefer to complete an alternative assignment for any reason, please create a SONA account and then email us at speechlab@utah.edu. Arrangements for alternative assignments must be made before the current semester's add/drop deadline. If no study appointments are available, check back later, as new appointments are added periodically. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Linguistics Study Pool or the Sona sign-up system, please contact the Linguistic Study Pool coordinators at speechlab@utah.edu.

Class engagement (up to 3% bonus to final grade)

You can earn up to three extra credits through the following activities. No double-dipping except in the first category.

1. attending a Department of Linguistics colloquium talk
2. pointing out problems with the materials (e.g. typos, notes, my posts)
3. raising a question on Canvas discussion board
4. volunteering answers to peer questions during lectures and office hours, and/or on Canvas
5. sharing useful links or resources
6. attending office hours during the first three weeks of classes

4 Course policies and getting help

- **Emailing:** You can email me at the address (yangx.wang@utah.edu), with "LING 3010" somewhere in the subject line for any logistical/administrative matters. I will respond to emails within 24 hours.
- **Use of Generative AI (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini, Grok):** This course assumes that work submitted for a grade by students – all process work, drafts, brainstorming artifacts, final works – will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups as directed by class assignment instructions. The use of generative AI tools to complete any aspect of assignments for this course is not permitted and will be treated as plagiarism. In-class quizzes will be used to assess core competencies. If you have questions about what constitutes a violation of this statement, please contact the instructor.
- **Honors Contract Option:** LING 3010 is eligible for an Honors Contract. Honors students who wish to earn Honors credit through a contract should contact the instructor early in the semester to discuss contract work and must follow the Honors College process and deadlines posted on the Honors Contract website.

5 Course schedule (subjective to change)

<i>Week</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Homework</i>	<i>In person quiz</i>
1	1/06	Syllabus, overview		
	1/08	Basic articulation		
2	1/13	Consonants		Quiz 1
	1/15	Consonants		
3	1/20	Vowels		Quiz 2
	1/22	Transcription		
4	1/27	Basic Acoustics		Quiz 3
	1/29	Basic Acoustics	HW1	
5	2/03	Vowel Acoustics		Quiz 4
	2/05	Consonant Acoustics		
6	2/10	PRAAT		Quiz 5
	2/12	Speech perception	HW2	
7	2/17	Speech perception		Quiz 6
	2/19	Review		
8	2/24	Midterm		
	2/26	Contrast & Distribution		
9	3/03	Phonological features		Quiz 7
	3/05	Phonological features	HW3	
10	3/10	Spring break		
	3/12	Spring break		
11	3/17	Morphology		Quiz 8
	3/19	Alternations driven by rules		
12	3/24	Alternations driven by rules		Quiz 9
	3/26	Alternations driven by rules	HW4	
13	3/31	Syllables		Quiz 10
	4/02	Syllables		
14	4/07	Derivations & rule ordering	HW5	Quiz 11
	4/09	Derivations & rule ordering		
15	4/14	Derivations & rule ordering		Quiz 12
	4/16	Autosegmental representations	HW6	
16	4/21	Course wrap-up, final review		Quiz 13
	4/23	No class		
17	4/24	Final exam	Friday	10:30 am – 12:30 pm

Note: This syllabus is meant to serve as an outline and guide for our course. Please note that I may modify it with reasonable notice to you. I may also modify the Course Schedule to accommodate the needs of our class. Any changes will be announced in class and posted on Canvas under Announcements.

6 University Policies

1. **The Americans with Disabilities Act.** The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability & Access, 162 Olpin Union Building, (801) 581-5020. CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to [the Center for Disability & Access](#).

Given the nature of this course, attendance is required and adjustments will only be permitted as required by Policy 6-100(III)(O). If you need to seek an ADA accommodation to request an exception to this attendance policy due to a disability, please contact the Center for Disability and Access (CDA). CDA will work with us to determine what, if any, ADA accommodations are reasonable and appropriate.

In compliance with ADA requirements, some students may need to record course content. Any recordings of course content are for personal use only, should not be shared, and should not be made publicly available. In addition, recordings should be destroyed at the conclusion of the course.

2. **University Safety Statement.** The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort, call campus police at 801-585-COPS (801-585-2677). You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit <https://safeu.utah.edu>
3. **Addressing Sexual Misconduct.** Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status or genetic information.

If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 383 South University Street, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).

Lauren's Promise: Lauren's Promise is a vow that anyone – faculty, staff, students, parents, and community members – can take to indicate to others that they represent a safe haven for sharing incidents of sexual assault, domestic violence, or stalking. Anyone who makes Lauren's Promise vows to: 1.) listen to and believe those individuals who are being threatened or experiencing sexual assault, dating violence or stalking; 2.) represent a safe haven for sharing incidents of sexual assault, domestic violence, or stalking; and 3.) change campus culture that responds poorly to dating violence and stalking. By making Lauren's Promise, individuals are helping

to change campus cultures that respond poorly to dating violence and stalking throughout the nation.

4. **Academic Misconduct Statement.** It is expected that students adhere to University of Utah policies regarding academic honesty, including but not limited to refraining from cheating, plagiarizing, misrepresenting one's work, and/or inappropriately collaborating. This includes the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools without citation, documentation, or authorization. Students are expected to adhere to the prescribed professional and ethical standards of the profession/discipline for which they are preparing. Any student who engages in academic dishonesty or who violates the professional and ethical standards for their profession/discipline may be subject to academic sanctions as per the University of Utah's Student Code: <https://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-410.php>
5. **Drop/Withdrawal Policies.** Students may drop a course within the first two weeks of a given semester without any penalties. Students may officially withdraw (W) from a class or all classes after the drop deadline through the midpoint of a course. A "W" grade is recorded on the transcript and appropriate tuition/fees are assessed. The grade "W" is not used in calculating the student's GPA. For deadlines to withdraw from full-term, first, and second session classes, see the U's Academic Calendar.

This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.