

**General Information**

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**Lectures:** MW 1:00–1:50      Education (EDC) 057  
**Discussion:** F 1:00–1:50      Education (EDC) 057

This course is an introduction to the phonetics of the languages of the world. We will explore this broad topic by (primarily) employing phonetic transcription and acoustic analysis to look at speech cross-linguistically. Readings, lectures and homework exercises provide an extensive survey of the speech sounds of the languages of the world, and an introduction to the basic tools of phonetic science.

Practical training in phonetics is particularly valuable for professions in language education – whether foreign language education, English education, or ESL. Phonetic training also benefits students who are interested in human/computer interface technology, and students who are in training for certification as speech pathologists or audiologists. Of course, students who major in linguistics should take phonetics.

Note on departmental grade requirement: a student may not register in any linguistics course unless a grade of at least C- has been achieved in each prerequisite for that course. The prerequisite for this course is linguistics 201.

**Course Web Page:** [uofclinguistics.org/341/](http://uofclinguistics.org/341/)

All lecture notes, handouts and homework exercises—along with updated versions of this syllabus—will be posted to the course website. Please check it on a regular basis if you are interested in having access to these materials.

### ***Textbook***

Peter Ladefoged and Keith Johnson (2014), *A Course in Phonetics*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. Boston: Wadsworth.

Henning Reetz and Allard Jongman (2009), *Phonetics: Transcription, Production, Acoustics and Perception*, Chichester, UK: Wiley/Blackwell.

Both of these textbooks are optional (but highly recommended!) for this course. Any further readings will be announced and made available during the course of the semester.

### ***Discussion sessions***

It is relatively easy to learn the basic principles of phonetics (and phonetic transcription), but you will only become better at working with those principles through practice. Lots and lots of practice. Therefore, each Friday will be devoted to a review and application of the material covered during the lecture sections that week. During these discussion sessions you will have an opportunity to practice your skills at phonetic transcription, work on in-class phonetic analysis projects, and to discuss the assigned reading(s) for that week.

### ***Technology Policy***

I do not allow the use of laptops or cell phones, tablets, etc., during class, unless you have a documented educational need to use a device of some sort. I am serious about this. Put your gadgets away during classtime and focus on the lecture or the phonetic task at hand. Your mind will be better off for it!

### ***Grading***

The course grade will be based on your performance on homework exercises, production exercises, a production exam, course participation, a midterm exam and a final exam.

**Homework** will consist primarily of transcription practice and acoustic analysis exercises. I will expect you to complete these assignments independently, outside of class, as they will be graded for credit. Materials for the transcription exercises will be made available from the course website. These assignments are labeled as (HW) in the

course schedule given below. Late homeworks will only be accepted in cases of documented medical or family emergencies.

**Production Exercises.** Over the course of the semester, you will be expected to learn how to produce the various sounds of the International Phonetic Alphabet. I will assign production exercises to test your ability to produce the sounds that have been presented in class. These assignments are labeled as (PEX) in the course schedule given below. You will be responsible for making recordings of yourself producing these sounds and sending the sound files to me for grading purposes. If you do not own a computer with which you can record yourself, you may use the facilities of the Phonetics Lab (see below) to do so.

I will provide you with more details regarding the production exam as the semester proceeds.

**Participation** grades will primarily be based on the completion of assignments in and for each Friday discussion section. These assignments are labeled as (TRES) in the course schedule below. Since these assignments will be discussed in class, points will *not* be taken off if honest (independent) effort yielded incorrect results. However, points will be taken off if an assignment is incomplete or carelessly done.

In borderline cases, class participation in the traditional sense may be used when assigning final grades.

**Exams.** The final exam will be cumulative. Make-up exams will not be given except in the case of dire, documented medical emergencies.

These components of the coursework will be weighted as follows in determining your final grade:

Homework exercises (HW):	15%
Production exercises (PEX):	15%
Participation (TRES):	15%
Midterm exam:	25%
Final exam:	25%
Production exam:	5%

The grading scale for the course will be as follows:

$97\% \leq A+$	$71 \leq C+ < 75$
$92 \leq A < 97$	$66 \leq C < 71$
$88 \leq A- < 92$	$62 \leq C- < 66$
$84 \leq B+ < 88$	$58 \leq D+ < 62$
$79 \leq B < 84$	$50 \leq D < 58$
$75 \leq B- < 79$	$F < 50$

Please note that I do not round up in calculating final grades.

### **Resources**

1. The Department of Linguistics Phonetics Lab is located in Education 259 (EDC 259; phone: 220-3598). The lab is set up to make high quality acoustic recordings of speech, which you are more than welcome to use for your production exercises for this class. If you would like to use the resources of the Phonetics Lab at any time, please contact me or the TA to set up an appointment.

2. Sound files and exercises from *A Course in Phonetics* (one of the textbooks for this class), may be found on the web at:

<http://linguistics.berkeley.edu/acip/>

An older, but still useful version of the textbook's website may be found here:

<http://www.phonetics.ucla.edu/course/contents.html>

3. Additionally, helpful sound materials may be found here:

<http://www.phonetics.ucla.edu/vowels/contents.html>

4. Doulos SIL is a freely available phonetics font for your computer. You may download it from this weblink:

<http://software.sil.org/doulos/>

Although it is not necessary to do so, you are encouraged to use your computer—and this font—in writing up homework assignments for this class.

Another IPA font (for Windows) can be found here:

<http://davidmontero.net/IPACharmap/>

The Mac counterpart is here:

<http://www.blugs.com/IPA/>

5. Praat is a great software package for phonetic analysis. Among (many) other things, you may use Praat to record, edit and play sound files on your computer. You will need to download Praat to complete many of the exercises in this class; you can get it for free here:

<http://www.fon.hum.uva.nl/praat/>

6. The University of Calgary Phonetics Club meets on an occasional basis to read and discuss recently published papers in phonetics, or to listen to presentations by club members on their ongoing research. If you are interested in learning more about current research in phonetics, you are welcome to attend club meetings, which are usually held in either the phonetics lab or the linguistics seminar room. Contact me at [swinters@ucalgary.ca](mailto:swinters@ucalgary.ca) for specific meeting times and details.

7. Just for (educational) fun: I have a homemade IPA Scrabble set, which you are welcome to borrow at any time. All you have to do is ask!

***Additional resources in the main library***

The following books, in the main library, may be of use in providing a deeper perspective on the materials covered in this course.

- Borden, G. J. (1984) *Speech Science Primer, 3rd ed.* [QP306.B65 1984]
- Johnson, K.A. (2003) *Acoustic & Auditory Phonetics, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.* [P221.5.J64 2003]
- Ladefoged, P. (1996). *Elements of Acoustic Phonetics, 2nd ed.* [QP306.L33 1996]
- Ladefoged, P. & Maddieson, I. (1995) *Sounds of the World's Languages* [P221.L315 1995]
- Pullum, G.K. (1996) *Phonetic Symbol Guide, 2nd Ed.* [P221.P85 1996] (in the library's reference section)
- Gick, B., Wilson, I. & Derrick, D. (2012) *Articulatory Phonetics* [P221.G48 2013]

## Course Schedule

Please note that this schedule is meant to provide an *ideal* course of future action and is therefore likely to change before the end of the semester. New course schedules will be issued if and when those changes occur.

<b>Wk</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Lecture Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Exercises</b>
<b>1</b>	9/12	M	Introduction + Overview	Phon: 23-36; Course: Ch. 2	TREX: English Basics
	9/14	W	English Phonemic System		
	9/16	F	Canadian Vowels		
<b>2</b>	9/19	M	English Varieties	Phon: 37-47 Course: Ch. 3	TREX: English Basics II
	9/21	W	English Allophony		
	9/23	F			
<b>3</b>	9/26	M	Dimensions of Articulation	Course: Ch. 1	PEX 1: Name Backwards  TREX: Narrow English
	9/28	W	Cardinal Vowels	Course: 217-223	
	9/30	F			
<b>4</b>	10/3	M	Place of Articulation	Phon: 49-56 Course: 163-172 Course: 136-150 Phon: 91-94	HW 1: Features + Word transcription  TREX: Place of Articulation
	10/5	W	Airstream Mechanisms		
	10/7	F			
<b>5</b>	10/10	M	<b>Thanksgiving: No Class</b> Trills + Voicing	Phon: 72-81	HW 2: Sentence transcription TREX: Airstream Mechanisms
	10/12	W			
	10/14	F			
<b>6</b>	10/17	M	Basic Acoustics	Phon: Ch. 7 Course: 254-261; Phon: 218-225 Course: 111-116; 243-253 Phon: 208-217	PEX 2: Place + Airstream
	10/19	W	Pitch + Tone		
	10/21	F	Loudness + Intensity		
<b>7</b>	10/24	M	Syllables + Stress		TREX: Tone
	10/26	W	<b>MID-TERM EXAM</b>		
	10/28	F	Harmonics		
<b>8</b>	10/31	M	Resonance	Course: 193-198	

	11/2 11/4	W F	Vowels	Course: Ch. 4; Phon: 182-186	TREX: Spectrogram Matching I
<b>9</b>	11/7 11/9 11/11	M W F	Source/Filter Theory Vowels of the World <b>Reading Days: No Class</b>	Phon: Ch. 9 Course: 187-189 Course: 224-232	
<b>10</b>	11/14 11/16 11/18	M W F	Vowels of the World, cont. Fricatives	Course: 174-175	HW 3: Acoustics TREX: Vowels
<b>11</b>	11/21 11/23 11/25	M W F	Fricatives + Affricates VOT + Voice Quality	Course: 151-156 Phon: 96-102	PEX 3: Vowels HW 4: Formant measurements TREX: Fricatives
<b>12</b>	11/28 11/30 12/2	M W F	Stop + Glide Acoustics Nasal Acoustics	Course: 198-204 Phon: 192-194 Course: 174-180 Phon: 194-199	TREX: Spectrogram Matching II
<b>13</b>	12/5 12/7 12/9	M W F	Liquids + Rhotics Audition (time permitting) Time for catch up and review	Phon: 61-62; 186- 189	PEX 4: Obstruents TREX: Spectrogram Reading
			<b>FINAL EXAM</b> <b>Time and Place TBA</b>		