

## LING 301 Introduction to Phonetics & Phonology USC, Spring 2022

**Instructor:** Sam Zukoff

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**Office:** GFS 301C

**Lecture:** Mondays & Wednesday 2:00pm–3:20pm; GFS 229

**Office hours:** TBD; *also by appointment*

**Course website:** Blackboard

### Course Description

When we look at the languages of the world, we see a huge diversity in the number and combination of speech sounds. However, when we look closely at individual languages, and carefully compare different languages, we find that there is a huge amount of order and patterns in that diversity. In this class, we will investigate the sounds of human language, focusing on the way that the physical properties of speech sounds (phonetics) interact with sound-related cognitive principles (phonology) to produce the sound patterns that are observable in the world's languages. This will involve the study of phonetic/phonological features, rules, and constraints as applied to a variety of empirical phenomena relating to sound systems, including assimilation, deletion, epenthesis, syllable structure, stress, and tone.

### Prerequisites

LING 210

### Course Plan

Throughout this course, we will develop a set of tools as a class that will allow us to analyze the phonetic and phonological structures we find in human language. As such, the class will be highly interactive and based on student participation, revolving around in-class group work and problem-solving exercises. The problem sets and tests will be a chance for you to apply those tools on your own, and demonstrate your understanding of the material. Readings will not generally be required. Supplemental readings will be provided as appropriate, *after* we have covered the relevant material in class.

The course will be structured around three units, each focusing on a different set of empirical phenomena and their technical analysis. The initial schedule (which is subject to change, though hopefully minimally) is given on the next page. Each unit will have one problem set in the middle of the unit. The first two units will each have a take-home test at the end of the unit. The course will conclude with a comprehensive/cumulative final exam.

### Requirements

- *Problem sets* (×3): 10% each (**30%** total)
- *Two tests* (×2): 15% each (**30%** total)
- *Final exam* (cumulative): **25%**
- *In-class participation*: **15%**

Substantive participation and regular attendance is expected. Excessive, unexcused absences may result in grade deductions as appropriate, as may excessive lack of participation.

## Schedule

Semester Plan		
Date	Topic	[Assignments]
<b>Unit 0: Introduction</b>		
Mon, Jan 10	Introductions	
Wed, Jan 12	Alternations	
Mon Jan 17	<i>No class – Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday</i>	
Wed, Jan 19	Distributions	
<b>Unit 1: Assimilation</b>		
Mon, Jan 24	Assimilation 1: Rules and features	
Wed, Jan 26	Assimilation 2: Natural classes	
Mon, Jan 31	Vowel features	[Assignment #1 distributed]
Wed, Feb 2	Assimilation 3: Alpha notation	
Mon, Feb 7	Assimilation 4: Feature geometry	[Assignment #1 due]
Wed, Feb 9	Harmony	
Mon, Feb 14	Review for Test #1	[Test #1 (take-home) distributed]
Wed, Feb 16	<i>The Linguists</i>	
Mon Feb 21	<i>No class – Presidents' Day Holiday</i>	[Test #1 due EOD]
<b>Unit 2: Deletion, Epenthesis, and Syllable Structure</b>		
Wed, Feb 23	Deletion	
Mon, Feb 28	Syllable structure 1: Introduction	
Wed, Mar 2	Syllable structure 2: Constraints	
Mon, Mar 7	Syllable structure 3: Optimality Theory (OT)	[Assignment #2 distributed]
Wed, Mar 9	Syllable structure 4: Epenthesis and Faithfulness	
Mon Mar 14	<i>No class – Spring Break</i>	
Wed Mar 16	<i>No class – Spring Break</i>	
Mon, Mar 21	Syllabic consonants	[Assignment #2 due]
Wed, Mar 23	Processes in OT	
Mon, Mar 28	Distributions in OT	
Wed, Mar 30	Review for Test #2	[Test #2 (take-home) distributed]
Mon, Apr 4	<i>TBD</i>	
<b>Unit 3: Stress</b>		
Wed, Apr 6	Stress 1: Introduction	[Test #2 due (beginning of class)]
Mon, Apr 11	Stress 2: Constraints	
Wed, Apr 13	Stress 3: Quantity sensitivity	
Mon, Apr 18	Stress 4: Quantity sensitivity (cont.)	[Assignment #3 distributed]
Wed, Apr 20	Stress-driven processes	
Mon, Apr 25	Tone	
Wed, Apr 27	Review for Final Exam	[Assignment #3 due]

## Covid Policy

**The university's covid policy, which is subject to change at any time, will supersede anything stated in this syllabus.**

The first two weeks of the semester will take place remotely over Zoom. Assuming circumstances permit, we will subsequently transition to in-person learning. While exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis, I do not plan to allow for remote participation once we have transitioned to in-person classes.

Compliance with the covid policy is required for in-person participation in class. This includes properly wearing surgical grade mouth-nose coverings at all times in the classroom, preferably N95 or KN95 masks. If you need help acquiring masks, let me know and I can help you.

These are difficult times. If you are dealing with any health challenges, whether physical or mental, or just generally having a hard time, just let me know, and we'll come up with a plan that works for everyone. For additional resources, you can visit <https://studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling/>.

## Statement for Students with Disabilities

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in GFS 120 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Website for DSP (<https://dsp.usc.edu/>) and contact information: (213) 740-0776 (Phone), (213) 740-6948 (TDD only), (213) 740-8216 (FAX), [dspfrontdesk@usc.edu](mailto:dspfrontdesk@usc.edu).

## Statement on Academic Integrity

USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one's own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another's work as one's own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. SCampus, the Student Guidebook, contains the University Student Conduct Code (see University Governance, Section 11.00), while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A.

## Emergency Preparedness/Course Continuity in a Crisis

In case of a declared emergency if travel to campus is not feasible, USC executive leadership will announce an electronic way for instructors to teach students in their residence halls or homes using a combination of Blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technologies. See the university's site on Campus Safety and Emergency Preparedness.