

Linguistics 3020: Introduction to Phonology; Fall, 2017

Section Code: 17072, TY11

Instructor: Rennie Gonsalves; E-mail: renisong@brooklyn.cuny.edu;

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Class Meets on Tuesdays, 11:00-12:15; and on Thursdays 11:00-1:05, in 3407 Boylan

Office Hours: 8:00-9:00 and 12:30-1:30 on Tuesdays, and 8:00-9:00 on Thursdays in 1420 Ingersoll

Description:

This class will be an introduction to phonology, with emphasis on giving you the ability to isolate the phonemes and phonological rules of a language given linguistic data. Our text for the course will be *The Sounds of Language; An Introduction to Phonetics and Phonology*, by Elizabeth C. Zsiga (2013). We will be concerned with developing the ability to identify different speech sounds, to describe how they are produced, and to transcribe them.

Throughout the semester, however, our main focus will be on analyzing language data in order to find the phonemes and allophones of a language, and to derive the corresponding phonological rules. We will study the distinctive features of speech sounds, phonotactics, phonological alternations, morphophonemics, syllable structure, prosodic domains, and a host of other related phenomena and issues in phonology. Though much of our work will focus on the area of derivational generative phonology, we will take a brief look at constraint-based phonology, or Optimality Theory. By the end of this course you will be able to identify different speech sounds, provide articulatory descriptions of them, transcribe human speech, and analyze unfamiliar language data to find the phonemes and the phonological rules of a language. There will be weekly homework assignments, several in-class quizzes, an open-book midterm, and an open-book final.

Required Texts:

Zsiga, Elizabeth C. *The Sounds of Language: An Introduction to Phonetics and Phonology*, Wiley-Blackwell, 2013.

The text is available at the Brooklyn College Bookstore or can be purchased online.

Course Schedule:

1 August 29: Introductions, backgrounds, preview of the text.

2 August 31: Chapter 1, (Zsiga—all chapters are from Zsiga), The Vocal Tract.

3 September 5: Chapter 1, The Vocal Tract.

4 September 7: Chapter 2, Basics of Articulation: Manner and Place in English.

5 September 12: Chapter 2, Basics of Articulation: Manner and Place in English (quiz). 6

September 14: Chapter 3, A Tour of the Consonants.

7 September 19: Chapter 3, A Tour of the Consonants.

(note: Tuesday, 9/19 is a Conversion Day and follows a Thursday schedule.)

8 September 26: Chapter 4, A Map of the Vowels.

9 September 28: Chapter 4, A Map of the Vowels (quiz).

10 October 3: Chapter 6, The Physics of Sound: Pendulums, Pedals and Waves.

11 October 5: Chapter 6, The Physics of Sound: Pendulums, Pedals and Waves.
 12 October 10: Review.

*13 October 12: **Midterm Exam** (open book).

14 October 17: Chapter 10, Phonology 1: Abstraction, Contrast, Predictability.

15 October 19: Chapter 10, Phonology 1: Abstraction, Contrast, Predictability.

16 October 24: Chapter 11, Phonotactics and Alternations.

17 October 26: Chapter 11, Phonotactics and Alternations (quiz).

18 October 31: Chapter 12, What is a Possible Language.

19 November 2: Chapter 12, What is a Possible Language.

20 November 7: Chapter 13, Rules and Derivation in Generative Grammar.

21 November 9: Chapter 13, Rules and Derivation in Generative Grammar (quiz).

22 November 14: Chapter 14, Constraint-based Phonology.

23 November 16: Chapter 14, Constraint-based Phonology.

(note: Tuesday, 11/21 is a Conversion Day and follows a Friday schedule.)

24 November 28: Chapter 15, Syllables and Prosodic Domains.

25 November 30: Chapter 15, Syllables and Prosodic Domains (quiz).

*26 December 5: Student Presentations and Review

*27 December 7: Student Presentations and Review.

*28 December 12: Review

*Final Exam: On Tuesday, December 19, 10:30-12:30. The Exam Schedule is available here:

<http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/academics/schools/naturalsciences/undergraduate/computers/forstudents.php>

Participation:

Students must attend regularly, arrive on time and must be prepared to participate, having done the assigned work. Participation will count for 20% of the overall grade for the course.

Exams:

There will be an open-book midterm and an open-book final.

Quizzes:

There will be 5 in-class short quizzes (about 30 minutes each) throughout the semester.

Presentations:

There will be group presentations near the end of the semester on carefully selected topics in phonology, the main option being a group presentation on a chapter of Zsiga's text that we haven't covered. There will be about 5 people in each group.

Grading:

Grades will be based on the following percentages:

Attendance and participation, including in group presentations-20%, quizzes-10%, homework assignments-10%, midterm exam-25%, final examination-35%.

Statement on the University's policy on Academic Integrity

The faculty and administration of Brooklyn College support an environment free from cheating and plagiarism. Each student is responsible for being aware of what constitutes cheating and plagiarism and for avoiding both. The complete text of the CUNY Academic Integrity Policy and the Brooklyn College procedure for implementing that policy can be found at this site: <http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/about/initiatives.php>. If a faculty member suspects a violation of academic integrity and, upon investigation, confirms that violation, or if the student admits the violation, the faculty member MUST report the violation.

Statement in Reference to the Center for Student Disability Services

In order to receive disability-related academic accommodations students must first be registered with the Center for Student Disability Services. Students who have a documented disability or suspect they may have a disability are invited to set up an appointment with the Director of the Center for Student Disability Services, Ms. Valerie Stewart-Lovell at 718-951-5538. If you have already registered with the Center for Student Disability Services please provide your professor with the course accommodation form and discuss your specific accommodation with him/her.

The state law regarding non-attendance because of religious beliefs

You should check this on page 64 in the Bulletin: http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/off_registrar/2015-2016_Undergraduate_Bulletin.pdf

Information Regarding College Deadlines and Regulations:

See the Fall 2017 Calendar at:

<http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/about/administration/enrollment/registrar/bulletins/fall17.php>