

LING 3100 - Language Sound Structures

Syllabus - Fall 2012

Instructor - Will Styler

- **IPA:** [wɪl 'stajlə]
- **Office:** HLMS 287B (CU Phonetics Lab)
- **Directions:** Enter 287 (marked "Rebecca Scarborough"), then take an immediate left.
- **Office Hours:** 12:30-2pm Mondays (before class), 2:00-3:30pm Tuesdays, or by appointment
- **Email:** william.styler@colorado.edu (Please put "3100" in the subject line)

TA - Kate Phelps

- **IPA:** [kejt fɛlps]
- **Office:** HLMS 162
- **Office Hours:** 11-12:30pm Mondays, 3:30-5:00pm Tuesdays, or by appointment
- **Email:** katherine.phelps@Colorado.EDU (Please put "3100" in the subject line)

Course Website

All course content and assignments will be posted at:

<http://verbs.colorado.edu/3100> (user: vowels pass: awesome)

Desire2Learn (available in MyCUInfo) will be used for grading only

Official Course Twitter Account: @vocalicmatters (follow for course-related news, links, and more)

Course Description

This course is designed to serve as an introduction to the role of speech and sounds in **language**, examining both the sounds themselves (Phonetics) and their patterns of use in language (Phonology). Concentrating on the English language, we'll be examining the nature of the sounds used in language, our production of them, the acoustics and physical realities of these sounds, and the multitude of ways in which your writing system is lying to you right now. In addition, we'll spend considerable time training our ears to hear aspects of our speech that we don't normally hear, learning to transcribe these sounds using the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), learning to analyze sounds using their acoustical properties, and examining the questions still left for us in the fields of Phonetics, Phonology, and Linguistics.

Prerequisites

You must have passed LING 2000 (or an equivalent) to take this course

Required Materials

- Rogers, Henry (2000) *The Sounds of Language: An introduction to Phonetics* (ISBN: 0582381827)
- We will be using the free PDF guide *Using Praat for Linguistic Research* (from the LSA Institute Praat Workshops) as a lab manual for the course. It's available at <http://savethevowels.org/praat> or on the course website.

Course Schedule

The course schedule is posted on the course website, and will be updated throughout the semester. Always check the website schedule for schedule-related questions.

Course Requirements

Item	% of final grade
Homework Assignments	20%
Two in class exams (10% each)	20%
Final Exam (cumulative)	20%
Term Paper/Project (with proposal)	20%
Lab Assignments	10%
Recitation Participation	10%

Grading

The grading scale used for this course is the University standard scale, where A is 93% or more, A- is 92.99 to 90%, B+ is 89.99 to 87%, and so forth. Up-to-date grade information will be provided automatically by Desire2Learn. Your final grade is calculated as below:

$$\text{Your Grade} = (20 * \text{Average \% score of homeworks}) + (10 * \text{Average \% score of labs}) + (10 * \text{Exam 1 \% Score}) + (10 * \text{Exam 2 \% Score}) + (20 * \text{Final Exam \% score}) + (20 * \text{Term paper \% score}) + (10 * \text{Class participation \% score})$$

Homework Assignments

There are nine (9) homework assignments which will be assigned this semester. We will try to distribute them via the website at least one week before they are due, and you will have a homework assignment due in lecture nearly every Wednesday.

Lab Assignments

You'll also have lab assignments every week. They'll be given out during the lab/recitation session on Friday, and although we encourage you to finish them in lab, they'll be technically due the following Monday to give you extra time to go over them if you need it. If you know you're going to miss a lab session, it is your responsibility to get the assignment from the website and complete it on your own and turn it in the following Monday.

Assignment Policies

- **All assignments are meant to be completed individually.** Although you're welcome to form study groups to discuss questions and help each other out with Labs or Homeworks, you should be the only person working on your copy of your assignment, and every answer should reflect your own learning and work.
- **We will automatically drop your lowest homework assignment grade and your lowest lab assignment grade during the semester.** You will still be responsible for knowing the material covered in any dropped homeworks or labs.

- Because we drop your lowest grade automatically, **no late homework or lab work will be accepted without prior arrangements or a doctor's note.** If you know you're not going to be in class the day an assignment is due, contact us to make arrangements to turn it in early. If you can't turn it in on time in class, know that that grade will be dropped and move on with life. If you've already used your dropped assignment, you will take a zero on any subsequent late assignments if you can't turn them in during the class period in which it is due and have no doctor's note or university approved absence letter.
- **Homework must be typed (even in IPA),** but you may always hand-write diacritics, and drawings and the like may, of course, be hand-drawn. Although we prefer typed labs (where possible), labs may be hand-written.
- **Homework will not be accepted by email** without prior arrangements. Exceptions will be made for weather or illness (or where otherwise prudent) with documentation.

Term Project or Paper

Because we're just skimming the surface of Phonetics and Phonology, we're asking you to complete a project looking more deeply at something within either field that intrigues you or aligns with your own research interests. As such, you're encouraged to keep an eye out for anything that intrigues you during the course of the semester, as these are perfect subjects for a term paper.

- **You will be required to submit a term paper proposal on (or ideally before) October 26th,** which must be approved by the instructor. Projects without an approved proposal will not be accepted.
- You may work alone or in a group of no more than 4 people on the project. Groups will submit one paper (and one proposal) with all three names, and all members will receive the same grade.
- You are highly encouraged to pick a topic that fascinates you from the course and talk with me to hone it into a term project, but I've provided a list of starting ideas from each section of the class which you can use if nothing jumps out at you.
- Guidelines for the project and proposal along with some suggested ideas are already available on the course website (under "projects")
- **Term projects are due at the end of class on December 12th.** Late projects will be docked one letter grade per day late (so, an A-quality paper, turned in one day late, would receive a B).

Asking Questions/Office Hours

You are **highly** encouraged to come in to office hours to ask questions, ask for clarifications about assignments, to ask for more information on a subject that interests you, or even to just introduce yourself and talk about your work. In addition, if you'd like to discuss ideas for the final project, you're more than welcome to come in and discuss them at any point in the semester.

In addition, if you have a question about any aspect of the course's timing, function, or scheduling, you're always welcome to email me for a more rapid response. You can also ask course questions by email, but I reserve the right to refer you to office hours for more involved answers. Answers to any course-content questions asked by email will be sent to the whole class (so that everybody can benefit from it), but without any indication of who asked the original question.

Course content, homework, and lab questions can be directed to either myself or to Kate, but due to university policy, all grading, exam, project and course policy questions must be directed to me.

Participation and Attendance

Lecture attendance will not be taken. In some places, the lecture will cover material which is in the textbook readings (which are designed to reinforce and support the material covered in the lectures), but in other places, the lecture will be your sole source for information that will be on the exams, so it's in your best interest to attend whenever possible, and to review the slides and come office hours if you can't attend a session.

Lab attendance is required, and you will be taught skills there not covered in lecture but present on tests. You may miss one lab session without consequences, but after that, repeated failure to attend lab sessions will gravely injure your participation grade.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty (actions like cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior) will not be tolerated in this class. In cases of academic dishonesty, in addition to whatever non-academic sanctions may be imposed by the honor code, possible in-class academic sanctions can include anything from a zero on the assignment/test/project in question, to a blanket lowering of your final grade by X letters, to an assigned grade of "F" in the course. These sanctions are assigned at the sole discretion of the instructor, and as every case is unique, additional sanctions not listed above may apply.

Optional Production Exam

Generally, I don't offer extra credit to offset missed points in the class overall (although I frequently offer EC on assignments and tests). This semester, I've decided to make one major exception. Although I can't focus on it in this course due to time constraints, good command of Non-English IPA symbols and skill at stringing them together is a boon to both linguists and SLPs. As such, I'm offering all students a chance to work on this on their own and complete the LING 5030 (Graduate Phonetics class) Non-English production exam for extra credit.

You will be given a wordlist containing 50 difficult-to-pronounce Non-English words at the start of the semester, in the Handouts folder. To complete the exam, you will be asked to come to Will's office hours when you feel prepared and produce 10 of the words on that sheet, chosen randomly by dice roll. If you can produce 2 or 3 correctly, I'll add 0.5% to your final grade. If you can produce 4-6 of them accurately, you get 1% added to your final grade. If you produce 7 or 8 of them accurately, you get 2% added. If you produce 9 or 10 accurately, you get 3% added to your final grade. To avoid an end-of-semester rush, you must complete this by November 30th.

Once again, **this exam is completely optional**. It will be challenging, and I don't expect many of you to get the full 3%. However, even the preparation will vastly improve your phonetic skills, and will give you invaluable practice for your future work with language. In addition, even 1 or 2% can easily be the difference between a B- and a B, etc, so it's worth your time to at least give this a try.

Other Class Policies

- You're welcome to bring a laptop, tablet or smartphone to class for educational use, but please silence your cell phones and try to refrain from facebooking. All slides will be posted on the course website for student access, usually shortly before lecture.
- Please attend the lab session that you are registered for. We don't have enough computers for people to be able to attend sessions they're not registered for.

- We have been given a roster with your legal name as is on file with the University, but we will gladly honor your request to be addressed using an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please let us know early so we can make the changes in our records (and brains) as quickly as possible.
- Both Kate and I will try to learn your names as quickly as possible, but please, don't take it personally when I forget your name or mix you up with somebody else.
- Because so much of this class centers around the production of sounds, you are welcome to make odd noises to yourself during lectures or tests to get a feel for the articulations or check your own intuitions. We just ask that you do so quietly, and not string those sounds together into words and sentences shared with friends and neighbors during lectures.
- Any other special accommodations (religious holidays, CU sponsored events, athletic schedules, conflicts with exam dates, etc) should be brought to me in the first two weeks of class, ideally sooner. Because of the complexities of scheduling a large course, I cannot guarantee that such accommodations can be made at the last minute, so the sooner you can tell me, the better.

Important Dates

9/3: Labor Day, Class Cancelled

10/5: **Transcription Exam**

10/26: Final Project Proposals Due

11/2: **Acoustics Exam**

11/19-11/23: No Class - Fall break

12/12: **Final Projects Due**

Final Exam: Monday, December 17th, 4:30-7:00pm (in lecture classroom)

General University Policies

Policy on Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please give me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and <http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices>

If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, contact me so that we can work something out to let you get your work done without causing further medical conditions or injuries.

Observance of Religious Holidays and Absences from Classes and/or Exams

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty and instructors make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Should there be a conflict between a scheduled class or test and a religious holiday, please let me know at least two weeks in advance so that reasonable accommodations may be arranged. See full details at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

Policy on Classroom Behavior

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code

Policy on Discrimination and Harassment

The University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of sexual harassment or discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550.

Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>

Policy on Academic Integrity

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct can (and likely will) be reported to the Honor Code Council.

Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member or instructor and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html>