

Syllabus: Phonological Theory III

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Prerequisite: Linguistics 201A or consent of the instructor. I will give consent if you've had at least Linguistics 200A or equivalent.

Requirements:

- Doing the readings
- Class participation
- **Assignments:** about 5 homeworks, some of them small. The bigger assignments will be due on Mondays. 35% of grade.
- A **term paper**, on any topic in phonology, due 6/15 (Friday of finals week). 55% of grade.
 - Interested in revising/extending earlier work? Possible, but please consult with first.
- Preliminary term paper **appointment** with me, graded credit/no credit, in which we talk about your term paper project. Due by end of 5th week, 5/4, 5% of your grade. (This formal appointment is obligatory, but of course other informal appointments are possible.)
- Give a **talk with audience of one** (me), on the topic of your term paper. Please bring a handout. This should take place before the middle of Finals Week, 6/13, but ideally earlier. 5% of your grade.¹

Collaborating on homeworks is encouraged, but you have to write up your own version.

Description: This is the third course of the UCLA graduate sequence in phonological theory. As such it is the most open-ended, directed to helping you find research topics as well as commanding the research literature. See List of Topics at end of syllabus for what I hope to cover. Lobbying re. topics is possible.

Talking to me: You are encouraged to come by with questions and discussion. These can include questions on the problem sets if you've already made a serious attack on them first. For short questions, I am often drop-in-on-able; for longer discussions, please make an appointment. Also, you are pretty sure to find me during my office hours (Thurs, Fri. 2-3, Campbell 2101G).

Readings and other materials: I will give a try to making the whole course public, at www.linguistics.ucla.edu/people/hayes/ling219. If there are technical difficulties and I have to use a different site, I will notify you.

¹ If there is lots of support for a mini-conference I will do one. Let me know.

Rules and regulations

- Please communicate with me if you need to hand anything in late.
- Please hand in your course work in *hard copy*, not electronically. Ok to do this if you have to be out of town.
- Kindly use **12 point font** for assignments and papers.

Tentative schedule of topics

We will meet each scheduled day; note that in Week 9, Memorial Day, May 28 is a holiday and has no class.

1. Frameworks for constraint-based phonology²

- Arguments that the framework should be stochastic: variation both in outputs and lexicon
- Basics of **frameworks**: Stochastic OT, Noisy Harmonic Grammar, maxent
 - Depending on demand: nuts and bolts of maxent; why it does what it does
- Applications:
 - Phonotactics: Hayes and Wilson (2008) but also on spreadsheets, making classical analysis more rigorous
 - The failure of Observed/Expected: Wilson and Obdeyn (2009)
- The theory of **knobs**: Coetzee and Kawahara's work
 - Three knobs: style, rate, frequency
- A possible case study (if data available): syntax-phonology interfacing in maxent; why letting winners be harmonically bounded might be the key.

2. Acquisition

- Basics: every tot has two phonologies (Lise Menn, Neilson Smith)
- Learnability properties (bad and good) of various frameworks
- Hidden structure and why it makes things hard
 - Gaja Jarosz's new method
- Learning to detect words in phrases (role of phonology at stem, word, phrase levels)
 - Goldwater, Feldman, current local work
 - Relating to experimental work by Sundara and colleagues
- The struggle to learn both words and general patterns: Zuraw, Pater/Moore-Cantwell, Zymet

3. The role of paradigm uniformity in phonology

- Classical work by Paul Kiparsky on language change
- The modern interpretations in Output-Output Correspondence and Stratal OT.
- Donca Steriade's paper on phonetic paradigm uniformity
- Experimental work: White, Jo, Do
- Organizing the paradigm: Albright, Steriade

² Note: there will be some unavoidable redundancy here, as this material was present in the 2016 201A but not the 2017 one.

4. Syllable weight

- Theme: role of phonetics in phonology
- Quick survey of what syllable weight is for
- Three theorists covered:
 - Matt Gordon, syllable weight as “audible”, with the right system
 - Kevin Ryan, syllable weight as both gradient/phonetic and categorical
 - Donca Steriade: kill the syllable with a combo of phonetically-based phonotactics and interval theory

5. Generative phonetics (grammar all the way to production/from perception)

- Big classical papers: Pierrehumbert and Liberman (1984), Pierrehumbert and Beckman (1988).
- An ancestor, now formalizable in maxent: the “window model” of Keating (1990)
- Harmonic grammar in generative phonetics: Flemming (2000)
- Outright maxent: Lefkowitz, Braver, Flemming and Cho
- Boersma’s bidirectional system

6. Phonology and lexical crud

- Origins of lexical crud and unnatural rules in diachrony
- Allomorphy and listed forms
 - Typological survey: work of Mary Paster
- Morphologized phonology
 - competing frameworks