

# LING 331 Phonology I: Introduction to phonological theory and analysis

## Course description and objectives

Contemporary phonological theory. Aspects of Generative Phonology and basic concepts of Optimality Theory will be explored. Advantages and shortcomings of these theories will be discussed. Models integrating notions borrowed from cognitive sciences will be introduced at the end of the semester. This semester, we will survey the following areas of phonological theory:

- The fundamental principle of phonological analysis.
- Phonological units – Speech sounds, phonemes, features, and syllables.
- Phonological processes – Local processes (assimilation, dissimilation, deletion, epenthesis), long-distance processes (consonantal and vowel harmony and disharmony), stress, and tone.
- Interacting processes – Transparent application, under-application, over-application.
- Morphophonology – Word formation, reduplication.
- Theories of phonology – Ordered rewrite rules (Chomsky and Halle, 1968), Optimality Theory (Prince and Smolensky, 2004).

Prerequisite(s): LING 330, or permission of the instructor.

Lectures three hours a week.

Specific course objectives:

- Offer the student an opportunity to develop a phonological analysis through hands-on experience with data;

- Compare different types of analysis, including generative and Optimality Theory;
- Consider different types of data, including regular alternations, variation, acquisition and phonological change;
- Develop an analysis of a phonological problem;
- Acquire basic research and technical writing skills.

### **Instructor: Peter Milne**

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### **Teaching Assistant: Guilherme Garcia**

Office:

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### **Rooms and Times**

TRF (Tues, Thurs, Fri) 11 : 35 – 12 : 25 Leacock Building 109

### **Course materials**

Readings and papers that I periodically place on the course website.

### **Evaluation**

The final course grade will be based on the following components:

Homework assignments (8)	40%
Midterm exam	30%
Final exam	30%

## **Course rules and procedures**

### **Conferences**

Starting in Week 3, Friday sessions will be held as conferences run by a TA. To determine which conference you will attend, you must sign up on Minerva. Sign up will be available after the first class. Once you have signed up for one section, you cannot switch to another. An effort will be made to divide the students evenly between sections. This means that once a section has a certain number of students, no more students will be accepted into that section.

You are responsible for the material covered in conferences just as you are responsible for the material covered in lectures. If for some reason you cannot attend a conference or lecture, you should make sure that you get the relevant notes from a classmate.

### **Office hours and appointments**

TA office hours will be held regularly before assignments and midterms. Outside of office hours, students are encouraged to send content-related questions by e-mail to their TA. If you wish to meet with the TA or the professor outside of scheduled office hours, you can ask for individual appointments and generally these can be arranged.

### **Tutors**

If you feel that you need more individual attention, we encourage you to contact either the Student Tutorial Service (398-6011) or SLUM (the undergraduate linguistics student association: [slum.linguistics@mail.mcgill.ca](mailto:slum.linguistics@mail.mcgill.ca)). Of course, it is understood that tutors help with the content of the course but do not help directly with assignments. Make sure that your tutor knows what is being covered in the course this term since the content can change from term to term.

### **Email**

You can expect TAs and professors to respond to your e-mail questions and comments. However, please do not expect instant responses. We will try to respond quickly (though we will be more vigilant closer to assignment due dates and exam times). Students often find that the discussions on the MyCourses website helpful.

## Homework assignments

Assignments may be done alone or in groups. A group may contain a maximum of three students and all group members must be from the same conference. A group may hand in a **single assignment** with all group members' names and student numbers on it – all group members will receive the same grade for the assignment. You are **not required** to work in a group – you may hand in an assignment alone if you wish.

## Midterm exam

The midterm exam is scheduled for TBA. It will take place in TBD. A make-up midterm will be arranged only for students who have a conflict with the midterm as scheduled. To be eligible, students must be registered in a conflicting course with a higher priority than LING 331. (LING 331 is Priority #W, behind #1 X; #2 Y; #3 Z.) **Students who qualify must let me (Peter Milne) know in writing no later than Tuesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, one week after the add/drop deadline.**

## Rules regarding assignments, quizzes and exams

No make-up assignments, quizzes or midterm exam will be given to anyone who does not have a certified medical excuse. We must be notified within 24 hours of a missed assignment, quiz or midterm exam. You may leave messages at (514) 398-4222, even on weekends. According to Senate regulations, instructors are not permitted to make special arrangements for final exams. Please consult the Calendar, section 3.7, General University Information and Regulations. (See <http://www.mcgill.ca/student-records/exam/regulations> for more information on final and deferred exams.)

Any problem with grading on an assignment/quiz/exam must be reported within one week of when the assignment, quiz, or exam was returned. No answer to any graded assignment, quiz or exam question will be re-assessed unless the answer was originally written in ink and it has not been written over.

We recommend that you always keep a copy of your finished assignment in case the assignment is accidentally lost.

## Academic integrity

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the code of student conduct and disciplinary procedures (see [www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/](http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/) for more information).

L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site [www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/](http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/) ).

### **Right to submit in French**

In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

Conformément à la Charte des droits de l'étudiant de l'Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté (sauf dans le cas des cours dont l'un des objets est la maîtrise d'une langue).

### **Copyright: Instructor-generated course materials**

Instructor-generated course materials (e.g., slides, handouts, conference materials, assignments, quizzes, exam questions, answer keys, etc.) are protected by law and may not be copied or distributed in any form or in any medium without explicit permission of the instructor. Note that infringements of copyright can be subject to follow up by the University under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.

## Course Content

	Topic	Reading(s)	Homework
00	What is Phonology?	Hyman (1975, Ch.1)	
01	Why Phonology Exists	Hayes (2009, Ch.5) Odden (2005, Ch.4, sec. 2–3)	1 (Russian)
02	Underlying Forms	Odden (2005, Ch.4, sec. 6)	
03	Intro to Rules	Kenstowicz and Kisseberth (1979, pp 45–55)	2 (Makonde)
04	Intro to OT	Kager (1999, pp 1–25)	
05	More on OT and Rules		3 (English)
06	Phonemic Analysis	Kenstowicz and Kisseberth (1979, Ch. 2) Kager (1999, sec. 1.5–1.6) Hyman (1975, Ch. 3)	
07	Contrast Analysis		4 (Georgian)
08	Features	Hyman (1975, Ch. 2) Hayes (2009, Ch. 4)	
09	Features in SPE and OT		
10	Contrastive Features	Dresher (2009, Ch. 2)	
11	Syllables	Goldsmith (1999)	
12	Syllables in OT	Kager (1999, Ch. 3)	5 (Tibetan)
13	Comparative Tableaux	Kenstowicz and Kisseberth (1979, Ch. 3) McCarthy (2008, Ch. 3)	
14	Local Processes		
15	Rule Application		6 (Karak)
16	Tone		
17	Stress		
18	Interacting Processes	Baković (2011)	7 (Votic)
19	Interacting Processes in OT		
20	Handling Opacity in OT	Kager (1999, Ch. 9, sec. 9.1–9.2)	8 (Indonesian)
21	Phonetics in Phonology		

## References

- Baković, E. (2011). Opacity and ordering. In Goldsmith, J. A., Riggle, J., and Yu, A. C., editors, *The Blackwell Handbook of Phonological Theory*, chapter 2, pages 40–68. Blackwell Publishing.
- Chomsky, N. and Halle, M. (1968). *The Sound Pattern of English*. Harper & Row, New York.

- Dresher, E. (2009). *The Contrastive Hierarchy in Phonology*. Cambridge University Press.
- Goldsmith, J. A. (1999). The syllable. In Goldsmith, J. A., Riggle, J., and Yu, A. C., editors, *The Handbook of Phonological Theory*, chapter 6, pages 165–196. Blackwell Publishing.
- Hayes, B. (2009). *Introductory Phonology*. Wiley-Blackwell.
- Hyman, L. (1975). *Phonology: Theory and Analysis*. Holt, Rinehart and Winston.
- Kager, R. (1999). *Optimality Theory*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, MA.
- Kenstowicz, M. and Kisseberth, C. (1979). *Generative phonology: Description and theory*. Academic Press, New York.
- McCarthy, J. J. (2008). *Doing Optimality Theory. Applying Theory to Data*. Blackwell, Malden, MA and Oxford.
- Odden, D. (2005). *Introducing Phonology*. Cambridge University Press.
- Prince, A. and Smolensky, P. (2004). *Optimality Theory: Constraint Interaction in Generative Grammar*. Blackwell Publishing.