

Tu, Th 11:35-12:55 (room 117, 1085 Penfield)

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Goals of Course:

This course is concerned with the basic units of phonological structure (feature, segment, syllable, foot, prosodic word), their grouping into constituents and the patterns that are explained in terms of such organization of units. The primary focus is on understanding the kind of evidence that is cited as support for the recognition of these units and their organization. To this end, considerable emphasis is placed on critically evaluating why one solution may be considered superior to another. For most topics, the course first introduces issues that have been central to the development of non-linear phonology; it then turns to Optimality Theory, a theory of grammar where the linguistic competence of a speaker is comprised of a (finite) set of hierarchically-ranked, violable constraints.

Evaluation:

Assignment 1	20%	Given out: Tues Sept 30th	Due: Thurs Oct 9th
Assignment 2	25%	Given out: Thurs Oct 16th	Due: Thurs Oct 30th
Assignment 3	30%	Given out: Thurs Nov 6th	Due: Thurs Nov 27th
Critical Review	25%		Due: Tues Dec 9th

Assignments:

- Each assignment will take the form of a problem set for which you are required to provide an analysis. Beyond providing an analysis, you must include some argumentation that justifies the analysis you have arrived at. The analysis should be written up in squib (short paper) format.
- Each assignment must be handed in by 5:00pm on the due date. Electronic submission (as pdf) is optimal.
- Collaboration on assignments is encouraged: you can discuss the assignment with other students enrolled in the course, but not with others (e.g. with more senior students in the department, on web-based fora, etc.). If you choose to collaborate, you must still write up your analysis on your own.

Critical Review:

- A list of papers for the critical review will be posted shortly on myCourses. You can also select a paper which is not on the list, as long as you check with me first. The critical review should be 7-10 pages long.
- *Goal:* The aim of the review is to provide a brief synthesis of the main points of the article and a critical evaluation of the issues discussed, with particular attention to the presentation of arguments and the nature of supporting evidence. You should try to influence the judgement of the reader as to whether or not the article contributes significantly to the development of theory and/or the illumination of data. The following are rough guidelines:
- *Content:*
 - (a) Give a brief summary of the issues which are addressed in the paper, pointing out whether the focus is on a theoretical problem, or a problem associated with the analysis of a particular body of data, or both. Try to indicate as clearly as possible what hypothesis or hypotheses the author is defending.
 - (b) Summarize the principal arguments and evidence presented in support of the position defended by the author. Provide some examples of relevant data.
 - (c) Most important part: Evaluate the strength of the evidence and arguments. Does the paper contribute either to the clarification or elaboration of a particular theoretical issue? Does it contribute to the explanation of some data? Are the conclusions justified? Are there any interesting predictions? Is the paper (the analysis) internally consistent? **Side note: For all papers that you read for this course, keep (c) in mind.**

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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.

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Course Topics and Readings:

Sept 2, 4, 9: OVERVIEW OF THE ISSUES

- Goldsmith, J. (1995) Phonological theory. In J. Goldsmith (ed.) *The handbook of phonological theory*. Oxford: Blackwell, pp. 1-23.
- Prince, A. (2007) The pursuit of theory. In P. de Lacy (ed.) *The Cambridge handbook of phonology*. Cambridge: CUP, pp. 33-60.
- Harris, J. (2007) Representation. In P. de Lacy (ed.) *The Cambridge handbook of phonology*, pp. 119-137.

Sept 11, 16, 23: FEATURES AND THE INTERNAL STRUCTURE OF SEGMENTS

- Hayes, B. (2009) *Introductory Phonology*. Wiley-Blackwell. Chapter 4: Features [remedial]
- McCarthy, J. (1988) Feature geometry and dependency: A review. *Phonetica* 43: 84-108.
- Clements, G.N. & E. Hume (1995) The internal organization of speech sounds. In J. Goldsmith (ed.) *The handbook of phonological theory*. Oxford: Blackwell, pp. 495-534.

No lecture Sept 18; we will make up this time later in the semester

Sept 25, 30, Oct 2: FEATURES AND PHONOLOGICAL PROCESSES IN OT

- Archangeli, D. (1997) Optimality Theory: An introduction to linguistics in the 1990s. In D. Archangeli & D.T. Langendoen (eds.) *Optimality Theory: An overview*. Oxford: Blackwell, pp. 1-32.
- Bakovič, E. (2007) Local assimilation and constraint interaction. In P. de Lacy (ed.) *The Cambridge handbook of phonology*, pp. 335-352.
- Itô, J., R.A. Mester & J. Padgett (1995) Licensing and underspecification in Optimality Theory. *LI* 26: 571-613.

Oct 7, 9, 14: HARMONY

- Rose, S. & R. Walker (2011) Harmony systems. In J. Goldsmith, J. Riggle & A. Yu (eds.) *The handbook of phonology theory* (2nd ed). Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, pp. 240-290.
- Beckman, J. (1997) Positional faithfulness, positional neutralisation and Shona vowel harmony. *Phonology* 14: 1-46.

Oct 16, 21, 23: SYLLABLE STRUCTURE AND LICENSING

- Blevins, J. (1995) The syllable in phonological theory. In J. Goldsmith (ed.) *The handbook of phonological theory*, pp. 206-244.
- Goad, H. (2011) The representation of sC clusters. In M. van Oostendorp, C. Ewen, E. Hume & K. Rice (eds.) *The Blackwell companion to phonology*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, pp. 898-923.
- Kaye, J.D. (1990) 'Coda' licensing. *Phonology* 7: 301-330.

Oct 28, 30: MORAIIC THEORY AND COMPENSATORY LENGTHENING

- Broselow, E. (1995) Skeletal positions and moras. In J. Goldsmith (ed.) *The handbook of phonological theory*. Oxford: Blackwell, pp. 175-205.
- Hayes, B. (1989) Compensatory lengthening in moraic phonology. *LI* 20: 253-306.

Nov 4, 6: SYLLABLE STRUCTURE IN OPTIMALITY THEORY

- Kager, R. (1999) *Optimality Theory*. Cambridge: CUP. Ch 3: Syllable structure and economy.

Nov 11, 13: TYPOLOGY OF STRESS SYSTEMS

- Gordon, M. (2011) Stress systems. In J. Goldsmith, J. Riggle & A. Yu (eds.) *The handbook of phonology theory* (2nd ed). Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, pp. 141-163.

Nov 18, 20: STRESS IN OPTIMALITY THEORY

- Kager, R. (1999) *Optimality Theory*. Cambridge: CUP. Ch 4: Metrical structure and parallelism.

Nov 25, 27, Dec 2: PROSODIC MORPHOLOGY: REDUPLICATION, INFIXATION, TRUNCATION

- McCarthy, J. & A. Prince (1995) Prosodic morphology. In J. Goldsmith (ed.) *The handbook of phonological theory*. Oxford: Blackwell, pp. 318-366.
- McCarthy, J. & A. Prince (1993) Generalized alignment. In G. Booij & J. van Marle (eds.) *Yearbook of Morphology 1993*. Dordrecht: Kluwer, pp. 79-153.
- Kager, R. (1999) *Optimality Theory*. Cambridge: CUP. Ch 5: Correspondence in reduplication.