

LING 210: Introduction to Speech Science

Winter 2021

McGill University

Time: M W 14:35-16:00

Location: Zoom link TBA on myCourses

Instructor: Dr. Francisco Torreira

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Office hours: T 15:00–17:00

Course description: This course will introduce students to a series of fundamental topics in speech science, including:

- Speech acoustics, incl. instrumental analysis with Praat
- Segmental and suprasegmental phonetics: vowels, consonants, stress, tone and intonation
- Psycholinguistic models of speech comprehension and speech production
- The phonetics and psycholinguistics of conversational speech
- Speech and the brain

Evaluation scheme

- *Assignments* (40%): There will be three assignments involving practical lab exercises.
- *Quizzes* (40%): There will be three online Quizzes. These will consist of short questions covering the content of the lectures.
- *Final project* (20%): Students will prepare a short final project consisting of a short class presentation and a 500-word ‘expert answer’ to a question of their choice. Students are encouraged to work in groups of up to three people.

Course Logistics

- The course will be entirely delivered online.
- The main portal for this course is the McGill myCourses website
- All course materials (e.g. lecture slides, conference handouts, supplementary readings) will be posted on myCourses as early as possible, and will remain available throughout the semester.
- All assignments and quizzes will be scheduled and posted on myCourses. In order to accommodate students in different time zones, online quizzes will stay open for 48 hours.
- All Zoom links will be posted on myCourses (see Overview section and relevant announcements).
- All lectures will be taught live via Zoom. Lectures will be recorded live, and posted on MyCourses. They will remain available throughout the semester.
- Instructor office hours will be held weekly online, and can be scheduled by appointment.
- Students should download and install the (free) speech analysis software [Praat](#).

Tentative schedule

Week	Dates	Topic	Assignments
1	Jan 11	Introduction & Speech acoustics	
	Jan 13		
2	Jan 18	Vowels & Consonants	Assignment 1 out
	Jan 20		
3	Jan 25	Prosody	
	Jan 27		
4	Feb 1	Quiz 1 (no lecture)	
	Feb 3		Assignment 1 due
5	Feb 8	Hearing	
	Feb 10		
6	Feb 15	Speech perception	Assignment 2 out
	Feb 17		
7	Feb 22	Speech comprehension	
	Feb 24		
8	Mar 1	No class (Reading week)	
	Mar 3		
9	Mar 8	Speech comprehension (cont'd)	Assignment 2 due
	Mar 10	Quiz 2 (no lecture)	
10	Mar 15	Speech production	
	Mar 17		Assignment 3 out
11	Mar 22	Conversational speech	
	Mar 24		
12	Mar 29	Speech and the brain	
	Mar 31		
13	Apr 5	No class (Easter Monday)	Assignment 3 due
	Apr 7	Quiz 3 (no lecture)	
14	Apr 12	Final presentations	
	Apr 14		

McGill Policy Statements

Course Work 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.

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 [<http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/>](www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/) for more information).

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