



LING 330 – Phonetics
Fall 2020 – MWF 9:35 a.m. – 10:25 a.m. EST, online

Instructor: **Natália Brambatti Guzzo**

Office hours: Wednesdays 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. EST, Thursdays 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. EST
or by appointment

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TA: **Connie Ting**

Office hours: TBA

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****For information about how the course will be delivered, see section 4 (Format).****

1. Course Description

This course provides an overview of the key concepts in Phonetics. This course comprises the following topics: (a) transcription, identification, and production of speech sounds; (b) introduction to the acoustic properties of speech sounds, acoustic analysis of speech, and auditory phonetics.

In this course we will:

- discuss articulatory and acoustic aspects of speech
- classify and transcribe speech sounds and prosodic patterns
- develop phonetic analyses with data from different languages

2. Prerequisite

LING 201 (Introduction to Linguistics), or permission of instructor.

3. Required textbook

[L-J] Ladefoged, P. and K. Johnson. 2015. *A course in phonetics*. 7th edition. Wadsworth. (the 6th edition from 2011 is fine too)

Supplemental readings will be recommended during the course of the semester.

4. Format

This course comprises lectures, analysis and discussion of data, assignments, and readings.

Lectures will be delivered synchronously via Zoom. They will be recorded, and the recordings will be uploaded to MyCourses (see below).

Slides, homework assignments and supplemental readings will be posted on MyCourses. Slides will be posted after class.

Friday sessions will be held as conferences run by the TA. Conferences start in week 3.

4.1 Zoom lectures and conferences

You will be provided with a new link for upcoming lectures and conferences every week. Lectures and conferences will be delivered synchronously, but they will be recorded and the recordings will be subsequently posted on MyCourses. Note that Zoom lectures may sometimes be shorter than the full class time — this is to give you some additional time to do the required readings and complete the assignments. Please note that, in case we encounter persistent connectivity problems, we may have to switch to alternative teaching methods.

4.2 Office hours

Office hours will happen via Zoom. You will be provided with a new link for office hours every week.

The instructor's office hours start in week 1. TA office hours start in week 4.

Meetings during office hours are private. Once you access the Zoom link for office hours, you will be directed to a waiting room. You will be let in the meeting once the instructor or TA are available. Meetings will follow the order in which students access the waiting room, so you may have to wait a few minutes there.

4.3 Instructor and TA availability

The instructor and the TA will be available to meet with students during the scheduled office hours. If you would like to meet with the instructor or the TA but are unable to attend office hours (for example, if you are in a different time zone), email the instructor or TA to schedule an appointment. In this case, please list a few options of days/times in your email.

The instructor and the TA will also be available to answer questions about the course by email. However, if your question is about the content of the course, we recommend that you post it in the Discussions on MyCourses (see section 5.4).

4.4 Conferences

Friday sessions are held as conferences. There are two conference sections for you to choose from. You must sign up on Minerva for one of the sections. Sign up will be available after the first class. Once you

have signed up for one section, you will not be allowed to switch to the other one.

Conferences start in week 3. For the first two weeks, Friday classes will be delivered by the instructor, at the regular class time.

4.5 Software

Some of the assignments and some of the class discussions will involve activities using Praat, a free software for speech analysis. We will cover the basics of Praat in different classes throughout the term. Click [here](#) to download Praat.

5. Evaluation

4 quizzes	20% (5% each)
4 homework assignments	40% (10% each)
Take-home exam	30%
Participation	10%

No opportunities for extra credit are anticipated.

5.1 Quizzes

Quizzes will be done on MyCourses. They will be timed, and only one attempt to complete them will be allowed. Once you open the quiz, you will have one hour to finish it. Quizzes will be posted on specific dates and must be completed within five days.

5.2 Homework assignments

HW assignments will consist of problem sets, data analysis, and (short) essay questions.

For the HW assignments, group work is ****highly**** encouraged. Groups should have a maximum of three students, but each student must turn in his/her own assignment.

Assignments must be submitted through MyCourses by the indicated time/date.

Notify the instructor in advance if for some reason you are not able to use MyCourses to turn in your assignments.

5.3 Take-home exam

The take-home exam will be posted as an assignment on MyCourses, and students will have 72 hours to complete it. The exam is open book, and it is not timed. The exam will focus on topics and problem sets (with data analysis) that draw from different parts of the course. A review of the contents that are relevant to the exam will be provided. **The take-home exam must reflect your individual work; group work will not be accepted.**

Date of the exam: TBA.

5.4 Participation

The participation grade will be assigned based on engagement in the course. Engagement can be demonstrated in two ways: via participation in synchronous lectures and/or via participation in the Discussions on MyCourses.

A full participation grade corresponds to a minimum of 20 interventions either in class or in the MyCourse Discussions throughout the entire course, with a maximum of 3 interventions per week. Interventions may be in the form of questions (in class or in the Discussions), replies to other students' questions (in the Discussions), and pertinent comments (in class or in the Discussions).

You are certainly encouraged to ask and answer as many questions as you wish, and to discuss any topics that you feel are relevant to the course. The maximum and minimum number of interventions are only a way to make sure that students engage in the course in a consistent manner throughout the term. Thus, for example, if you ask four questions in a week, only the first three will count towards your participation grade. For the participation grade, a week starts on Monday and ends on Sunday. **Regarding questions, only questions related to the content of the course count towards the participation grade.**

The Discussions section in MyCourses will be opened on the first day of classes. A new forum will be opened every week. Some of the questions posted in the Discussions will be addressed in class and/or in the conferences.

5.5 Late assignments

Late assignments or quizzes will not be accepted unless the student has a certified medical excuse (or another reasonable excuse with relevant documentation). Unjustified lateness in completing the HW assignments or quizzes will incur in a deduction of 10% of the HW/quiz grade per day. HW assignments or quizzes turned in four days after their due date (or later) will not be accepted.

6. McGill Policy Statements

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/ 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/fr/fairplay).

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.

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.

6.1 Useful links

[Office for Students with Disabilities](#)

[McGill Writing Centre](#)

[Student Wellness Hub](#)

[International Student Services](#)

[Office for Sexual Violence, Response, Support and Education](#)

7. Schedule (subject to change)

Note that our last class will be on a Thursday (Dec 3).

TA conferences start in week 3.

Week	Topic	Reading
1	Introduction	
2	Articulation and acoustics	L-J ch 1
3	Phonology and phonetic transcription	L-J ch 2
	English consonants	L-J ch 3
4	English vowels	L-J ch 4
5	English words and sentences	L-J ch 5
6	English words and sentences	L-J ch 5
7	Airstream mechanisms, phonation	L-J ch 6
8	Consonantal gestures	L-J ch 7
9	Acoustic phonetics	L-J ch 8
10	Acoustic phonetics	L-J ch 8
11	Vowels and vowel-like articulations	L-J ch 9
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12	Vowels and vowel-like articulations	L-J ch 9
13	Syllables and suprasegmental features	L-J ch 10
14	Syllables and suprasegmental features Review	L-J ch 10

8. Important dates (subject to change)

Quizzes are due on Fridays. Homework assignments are due on Mondays. All quizzes and homework assignments are due at 6:00 p.m. EST.

Assignment	Out	Due
Quiz 1	Sep 13	Sep 18
Homework assignment 1	Sep 21	Sep 28
Quiz 2	Oct 4	Oct 9
Homework assignment 2	Oct 14	Oct 19
Quiz 3	Oct 25	Oct 30
Homework assignment 3	Nov 2	Nov 9
Quiz 4	Nov 15	Nov 20
Homework assignment 4	Nov 23	Nov 30
Take-home exam	TBA	TBA