

LING531 Phonology 2

Winter 2025
PE1085 002
TR 1:35-2:55

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Instructor office hours: Tuesday, 12:30-1:30

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Overview:

The course is concerned with phonological opacity. We will introduce and formalize the concept of opacity and discuss it through the lens of popular phonological theories, such as Generative Phonology, Optimality Theory, and Autosegmental Phonology. We will also explore other avenues where the issue of opacity is of note, such as opacity in sound change, the testing of the learnability of opacity in an experimental setting, and the relationship between opacity and phonological contrast.

Prerequisites:

LING331 or permission of the instructor

Learning Outcomes:

- Understand the theoretical underpinnings of phonological opacity
- Analyze phonological data in a variety of theoretical frameworks
- Solve phonological problems from a variety of languages
- Communicate your understanding of the material in written and spoken form
- Conduct independent research in phonology and familiarize yourself with the appropriate literature

Course Components:

Assignments (60%):

You will be required to submit your analysis for 6 datasets throughout the course. The assignments are meant as an opportunity for you to test and demonstrate your problem-solving skills and understanding of course content. Each assignment is worth 10% of your final grade.

Assignments are to be submitted on Fridays by 11:59pm. In case of a late submission, 10% of the assignment grade will be subtracted for each late day. If you anticipate a delay preventing you from submitting on time, **extensions to waive the late penalty should be made with the instructor ahead of time**. Without prior arrangement or official documentation, no extensions will be granted.

Reading Responses (10%):

In preparation for lectures with a required reading, you will be expected to do the reading ahead of time and post your answer to a discussion prompt on *myCourses*. The reading responses are each worth 1% of your grade and are graded for completion only. The reading list, with corresponding dates, will be made available on *myCourses*.

Final Paper and Presentation (30%):

The final paper for the course is due on the last day of class, April 11th 2024. The topic of the paper is up to the student. Students have the choice of:

- a) Analyzing an instance of opacity in a language of their choosing using one of the frameworks discussed in class
- b) Responding critically to a relevant academic paper
- c) Formally exploring another aspect of phonological theory

The paper is expected to be 10-20 pages in length (double spaced). **Without prior arrangement, no extension for the final paper will be granted.**

In the final two lectures of the semester, you will be required to give a short presentation about your paper topic to the class. The paper is worth 25% of your final grade, while the presentation is worth 5%. Students are strongly encouraged to consult with the instructor about their topic before getting to work.

Evaluation:

Your overall course grade is calculated as follows:

<i>component</i>	<i>weight</i>
Assignments (x6)	60%
Reading responses (x10)	10%
Final Paper	25%
Presentation	5%

Policies and Regulations:*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 <https://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest> for more information).

Right to submit in French:

In accord with McGill University's Charter of Student Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French written work that is to be graded. This does not apply to courses in which acquiring proficiency in a language is one of the objectives.

Copyright:

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Course Schedule:

<i>week</i>	<i>day</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>lecture</i>	<i>topic</i>	<i>submission</i>
1	T	2024-01-07	1	Introductions	
	R	2024-01-08	2	Rules	reading
2	T	2024-01-14	3	Features	reading
	R	2024-01-16	4	Interactions	
3	T	2024-01-21	5	Opacity I	reading
	R	2024-01-23	6	Opacity II	reading
4	T	2024-01-28	7	Duke of York	reading
	R	2024-01-30	8	Sound Change I	A1
5	T	2024-02-04	9	Sound Change II	
	R	2024-02-06	10	Contrast	A2
6	T	2024-02-11	11	OT I	reading
	R	2024-02-13	12	OT II	
7	T	2024-02-18	13	OT & Opacity	
	R	2024-02-20	14	Laboratory Phonology	A3
8	T	2024-02-25	15	Harmonic Serialism I	reading
	R	2024-02-27	16	Harmonic Serialism II	
SPRING BREAK					
9	T	2024-03-11	17	Stratal OT I	reading
	R	2024-03-13	18	Stratal OT II	A4
10	T	2024-03-18	19	Candidate Chains	reading
	R	2024-03-20	20	Autosegmental Phonology	reading
11	T	2024-03-25	21	Autosegmental Phonology & Opacity	
	R	2024-03-27	22	Prosody	A5
12	T	2024-04-01	23	Morphophonology	
	R	2024-04-03	24	Wrapping Up	A6
13	T	2024-03-08	25	Presentations I	
	R	2024-03-10	26	Presentations II	paper