

LING 630: Phonetics 3

Fall 2020

McGill University

Time: MW 14:35–16:00

Location: Zoom link TBA on myCourses

Instructor: Dr. Francisco Torreira

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Office hours: W 15:00–17:00

Course description: This course will introduce students to graduate-level phonetics from an acoustic perspective. The course will discuss the following topics:

- Speech acoustics, incl. instrumental analysis with Praat and R
- Segmental phonetics: vowels and consonants
- Connected speech, incl. the issues of coarticulation and reduction
- Suprasegmental phonetics: stress, accent, tone, and intonation
- Phonetics in conversational turn-taking

The course will be delivered entirely online. All readings and course materials (i.e. quizzes, assignments) will be posted on myCourses.

Evaluation scheme

- *Quizzes (10%)*: Short quizzes will be posted on myCourses, typically following the end of each course topic (see schedule below). Quizzes must be completed within 24h of the announced dates.

- *Presentation (10%)*: Starting on week 7, each student will present a research paper related to the topic being discussed (see tentative schedule below). A list of papers and instructions will be posted on myCourses.

- *Assignments (40%)*: Two long-format written assignments will be posted on myCourses (see tentative deadlines below). Although students are encouraged to collaborate with each other when completing assignments, each student must write up and turn in a separate document.

- *Final paper (40%)*: Each student will write a final paper and submit it by the end of the semester. The paper should address a point of tension or uncertainty in the linguistic literature that could be investigated by means of acoustic phonetics. This proposal should include *at least* a clear presentation of the research question, a critical literature review, and a methods part. More details about the final paper will be posted in myCourses.

Tentative schedule

Week	Topic	Reading	Deadlines
1	Speech acoustics	Hayward (2014) ch. 2-3	
2	Speech production 1	Hayward (2014) ch. 4	
3	Speech production 2	Hayward (2014) ch. 8	
4	Vowels	Hayward (2014) ch. 6	
5	Consonants	Hayward (2014) ch. 7	Assignment 1*
6	Audition & Perception	Hayward (2014) ch. 5	
7	Stress and accent	Gussenhoven (2004) ch. 2	
8	Connected speech		
9	Coarticulation & Reduction		
10	Tone	Gussenhoven (2004) ch. 3	
11	Intonation	Gussenhoven (2004) ch. 4	Assignment 2*
12	The phonetics of turn-taking	Levinson & Torreira (2015)	
13		Catch-up	

* Exact deadlines will be posted on myCourses.

Bibliography

Hayward, K. (2014). *Experimental Phonetics: An Introduction*. Routledge.

Gussenhoven, C. (2004). *The Phonology of Tone and Intonation*. Cambridge University Press.

Levinson, S. C. and Torreira, F. (2015). Timing in turn-taking and its implications for processing models of language. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 6(731).