



Phonetics (615:451:01)

Term: Fall 2021

Classtime: Mon.: asynchronous lecture (video uploaded on Canvas)

Thrs.: 9:00–10:20 (Q/A session, hands-on exercises)

Lecturer contact information

Prof. Mariapaola D'Imperio

mariapaola.dimperio@rutgers.edu

Office hours:

Thursday: 3 to 4pm

on zoom

Due to the complex nature of the course content and the frequent need for visual demonstration of answers, content questions will not (cannot) be addressed via e-mail. You can ask questions about course content in class or during office hours and study group time. If these times don't work for you, email me to make an appointment.

For other inquiries, feel free to email me. You can expect a reply within two working days (i.e. weekdays). Be sure to check the syllabus and look through the course Canvas site first—if the answer is in there, you'll have found it faster than waiting for an email from me!

Please use your Rutgers email address, to ensure that your message does not inadvertently get sent to spam.

Course description

This course is an introduction to the phonetics of the languages of the world. The aim is to provide the student with the practical skills and the conceptual framework to do further work in phonetics, especially as this involves the description and scientific explanation of language sound systems. It will give training in the production, perception, physiological and acoustic description, and IPA transcription of the speech sounds used in the languages of the world. Although the study of phonetics is essential for those going into linguistics, training in phonetics is also valuable in various other fields, such as language pathology, language education, and speech technologies.

Course learning goals

This class is oriented towards a basic understanding of the three branches of phonetics: articulatory, acoustic, and auditory. By the end of this course, you should:

- Be able to transcribe into IPA sounds that you hear, as well as produce sounds presented to you in IPA
- Understand the fundamentals of articulatory, acoustic, and auditory phonetics
- Be able to use phonetic software (Praat) to analyze basic acoustic properties of speech

Department learning goals

Students will reason about language; identify how incorrect or irrational assumptions and prejudices distort understanding of language; demonstrate knowledge about language in the world including a sophisticated understanding of linguistic and cultural variation, and evaluate popular views on the nature of human languages and their speakers.

Majors and Minors will also demonstrate technical mastery over the tools of linguistic analysis in syntax, phonology and semantics and apply linguistic theory in these areas. They will investigate linguistic data and analyze it; demonstrate strong problem-solving skills; extend their understanding of theoretical linguistics into other domains of linguistic research; apply the techniques of linguistics that they have learned in the core courses to new topics; and access current research in the field. Some students will investigate language in a broader context, where it can be systematically and rationally explored using their sophisticated understanding how language works.

Course Delivery:

This course is fully online and meets asynchronously and synchronously only on the second session (**Thursday session**). You can review lectures, videos, and other course activities at any time, but you are required to complete assignments by the posted deadlines. Your weekly activity and submissions will impact your course grade. For more information about course access or support, contact the Canvas Help Desk via email at help@canvas.rutgers.edu or call 877-361-1134. In addition to contacting the Canvas Help Desk please alert me as soon as possible if you run into any problems using Canvas.

A study group will be run by the learning assistant at a time/day that will be determined during the first week of classes, that will also supervise a forum in which you can ask questions to your class-mates and then get feedback from the LA and myself.

Course materials:

Readings

Book

Phonetics: Transcription, Production, Acoustics, and Perception (Henning Reetz and Allard Jongman, 2009) is the required textbook for this course. It is available in hardback, paperback, and as an e-book (I put a copy in 'Files' on Canvas).

I recommend during the readings before the Thursday synchronous class, since quizzes will be administered to gauge your understanding of the course material.

All other required readings will be available as PDFs on Canvas. If you would like a more technical book on acoustic and auditory phonetics, I recommend Acoustic and Auditory Phonetics (third edition, by Keith Johnson, 2012).

Course website

The course website is on Canvas (<http://canvas.rutgers.edu>): "PHONETICS 01 Fall21". Course materials (homeworks, readings, lecture slides, in-class exercises, etc.) will be available here, as well as the course schedule

and syllabus. I will post lecture slides and videos ****before classtime****. Homeworks will be posted at least a week in advance of the due date.

Everybody that is enrolled in this course should automatically have access. If you have technical problems with Canvas, please contact the Canvas help desk.

Software

You must download and install Praat on your computer (Windows, Mac, or Linux). See <http://www.fon.hum.uva.nl/praat/> for details and download.

Course requirements and grading

The requirements detailed below are designed to help you accomplish the learning outcomes of the course, most importantly focusing on developing your phonetics “toolbox.” The final grade will be calculated with the following weights:

- Attendance and participation (Quizzes, etc.): 15%
- Homework: 40%
- Exams: 45%

Required text:

Henning Reetz & Allard Jongman, *Phonetics: Transcription, Production, Acoustics and Perception*, Blackwell Textbooks in Linguistics

The e-textbook version is acceptable. I'll put a copy on CANVAS.

Attendance, Participation, and Student Responsibility Policies:

Attendance. Students are expected to participate in weekly session 2 (Thursday session), group studies, and class engagement will be assessed through frequent quizzes.

Absence should be reported at (self-reporting) : <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/>

Please take note of the availability periods on the attached schedule and plan accordingly. Except for documented cases of illness or religious observance, no credit will be awarded for late work.

Student Responsibility. Each student is responsible for monitoring his/her grades and checking the accuracy of the grades throughout the semester. *It is the student's responsibility to contact both of the instructors via email within one week of the posted grade, to inform instructors of any discrepancy.* Additionally, course information on the Canvas website will be updated frequently. It is your responsibility to stay up to date on course material.

Over the course of the semester, there will be several in-class exercises and quizzes to gauge your understanding of the material. They will take place during the second session of the week. These will figure in your participation grade, and cannot be made up unless you have an authenticated absence as detailed above.

Accommodations for Special Needs: Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://webapps.rutgers.edu/student-ods/forms/registration>.

Homework

There will be five homework assignments throughout the semester; the lowest one will be dropped, so four assignments will be counted towards your final grade. Each assignment will have equal weight (each is worth 8% of your final grade). Please allow yourself adequate time to complete the assignments, as most of them cannot be completed quickly. Homework will cover the concepts introduced in the previous week(s). Assignments will be made available on the Canvas course website.

You may work with others from the class on homework assignments—if you do so, please put the names of the people you worked with on the top of your assignment. Failing to do so will result in a penalty of 10% on the homework grade for each person. Everybody has to do their own write-up!

Assignments are due at 5:00 pm on the day they are due. You will have to hand them electronically via the Canvas website (the Assignments module). The assignment file must be a PDF: from a Word document (or LaTeX), directly writing on the assignment PDF with a tablet-typing device or computer. I will not accept pictures of assignments!

There is a 10% penalty for every day late an assignment is submitted; after 3 days (72 hours) or after the graded assignment has been returned to the rest of the class, late work will no longer be accepted and the student will receive a zero for that assignment. This policy will only be waived under the following extenuating circumstances:

- Serious illness: you will be asked to provide proof of illness (usually a doctor's note).
- Religious observance: it is your responsibility to contact your instructor early in the semester if conflicts are going to occur.

Exams

There will be three exams in this class, comprising a total of 45% of your overall grade. The first exam is worth 10%. The second is a midterm and is worth 15%. There is also a cumulative final (date TBA),

which will be a timed exam, and is worth 20%. Exams may include multiple-choice, matching, fill-in-the-blank, diagram-labeling and short answer questions.

If you miss an in-class exam or other exercise you will be assigned a score of zero, except under extenuating circumstances:

- Serious illness: you will be asked to provide proof of illness (usually a doctor's note).
- Religious observance: it is your responsibility to contact your instructor early in the semester if conflicts are going to occur.

Extra credit

NO EXTRA CREDIT WILL BE GIVEN FOR THIS CLASS

University policies

General policies

The instructor respects and upholds University policies and regulations pertaining to the observance of religious holidays; assistance available to the physically handicapped, visually and/or hearing-impaired student; plagiarism; sexual harassment; and racial or ethnic discrimination. All students are encouraged to become familiar with the respective University regulations and are encouraged any questions or concerns to the attention of the instructor.

GRADING SCALE: (Source: Rutgers standard undergraduate grade scale)

Grade	Range
A	90-100
B+	85-89
B	80-84
C+	75-79
C	70-74
D	60-69
F	Below 60

Students with disabilities

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>.

If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

Contact information for Disability Services:

Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus 54 Joyce
Kilmer Avenue
Piscataway, NJ, 08854
Phone: (848)-445-6800
Website: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

Academic Integrity Policy:

Cheating: You are expected to be familiar with and abide by [Rutgers University's Academic Integrity Policy](#). Any collaboration with other students or non-allowed materials to answer questions in reading quizzes or the exams is a violation of Rutgers' Academic Integrity Policy.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the use of another person's words, ideas, or results without giving that person appropriate credit. To avoid plagiarism, every direct quotation must be identified by quotation marks or appropriate indentation and both direct quotation and paraphrasing must be cited properly according to the accepted format for the particular discipline or as required by the instructor in a course. Some common examples of plagiarism are:

- Copying word for word (i.e. quoting directly) from an oral, printed, or electronic source without proper attribution.
- Paraphrasing without proper attribution, i.e., presenting in one's own words another person's written words or ideas as if they were one's own.
- Submitting a purchased or downloaded term paper or other materials to satisfy a course requirement.
- Incorporating into one's work graphs, drawings, photographs, diagrams, tables, spreadsheets, computer programs, or other nontextual material from other sources without proper attribution.¹

Students caught cheating or committing plagiarism will be penalized, as per Rutgers policy. All students in this course must agree to the following Honor Policy:

By my honor, I agree that I will complete all exams without helping or receiving help from others, and without referring to my notes, textbook, or other resources.

Statement as a responsible employee

Rutgers faculty are committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. Rutgers has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The University strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the University. Please be aware that, with the exception of those designated as confidential resources such as advocates, counselors, clergy and healthcare providers as listed in Appendix A to Policy 10.3.12, all Rutgers employees are required to report information about such

discrimination and harassment to the University. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the University's Title IX Coordinator. If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can find a list of resources in Appendix A to University Policy 10.3.12. For more information about your options at Rutgers, please visit endsexualviolence.rutgers.edu.

Student-Wellness Services:

Just In Case Web App

<http://codu.co/cee05e>

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

<http://health.rutgers.edu/medical-counseling-services/counseling/>

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / <http://vpva.rutgers.edu/> Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-9321181.

Disability Services

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

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Report a Concern: <http://health.rutgers.edu/do-something-to-help/>

Course overview

This schedule is tentative and subject to change, but hopefully it helps you get your bearings. Updates to specific dates will be posted on Canvas.

Week 1–2: Introduction to course and phonetics

- Syllabus, intro to course
- Articulatory phonetics: Consonants, Manner and Place of Articulation
- Articulatory Phonetics: Vowels
- Transcription of English sounds
- Readings: Chapters 1,2
- Assignment 1 due: Sept. 16

Weeks 2–4: Transcription, IPA

- - Structure and use of IPA for non-English sounds, starting from English IPA
- - Sound production from description, IPA
- - Readings: Chapters 3,4
- Assignment 2 due: Sept. 30
- *Exam 1 (transcription exam) – Oct. 11

Week 5: Physiology

- - Airstream mechanisms
- -Voicing
- - Physiology
- - Readings: Chapters 5,6
- Assignment 3 due: Oct. 21

Weeks 6 - 10: Acoustics

- - Basics of sound
- - Acoustic analysis
- - Praat
- - Readings: Chapters 7 - 10; Johnson chapters 1 - 3(recommended)
- Assignment 4: Nov. 4
- *Exam 2 (midterm): Nov. 18

Week 11 - 12: Audition and perception

- - Anatomical basis of audition and influences on perception
- - Categorical perception; perceptual illusions

- - Readings: Chapters 12,13
- Assignment 5: Nov. 24

Week 13: Pitch and prosody

- -Tone and intonation; pitch tracking
- - Correlates of stress
- - Readings: Chapter 11

Weeks 14 - 15: Catch up, advanced topics

- - TBD
 - Final Exam: Dec. 21 – 8 to 11am
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