1 Overview

This course examines the organization of sound in language and the implicit knowledge speakers have of this organization. We look at data from a range of the world’s languages and learn the methods and types of evidence that linguists have used to describe and explain phonological systems. The course is divided into three roughly even sections:

1. DERIVATIONAL PHONOLOGY
2. CONSTRAINT-BASED PHONOLOGY
3. TOPICS IN PHONOLOGICAL THEORY

We begin with a descriptive approach, writing derivational rules which depict phonological phenomena as processes (insertion, deletion, alternation,. . . ). This portion of the course emphasizes the hands-on practice necessary to hone your skills recognizing and expressing phonological principles and their outcomes. We then turn to Optimality Theory (OT), a more contemporary approach that explains phonological structure not as the product of a series of rules, but as the satisfaction of competing constraints and priorities. We conclude by exploring a range of topics within and beyond OT, reading, discussing and critiquing original research in the field.

By the end of the course, you will:

• Be familiar with a variety of phonological phenomena and how to formally describe them.
• Be introduced to the central concepts of phonology and key developments in recent decades.
• Be equipped to explore recent phonological literature on your own.

2 Course Requirements

2.1 Prerequisites
LING 211 INTRODUCTION TO LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS

2.2 Textbooks, Required Readings

There are two required textbooks that we will use extensively.

• Zsiga, Elizabeth. The Sounds of Language: an Introduction to Phonetics & Phonology.
• Kager, Rene. Optimality Theory.

Additional readings will be available as .PDF files via Moodle.
2.3 Participation and Discussion

Please do it.

2.4 Problem Sets

During the first half of the course, regularly tackling problem sets will be essential for both practice and feedback. Expect to be assigned a problem set for each week early on. Work must be typed and printed and can be submitted via e-mail or as hardcopy.

After the Fall Break, assignments will primarily be written work allowing students to pursue their individual interests within a specified framework.

2.5 Original Phonology Problem

At the end of the first month, you will be asked to develop a short problem set of your own using real language data (must fit on single page). Think of it as doing a problem set in reverse. This exercise offers a chance to work with similar data but in a creative fashion and with a language of your choosing. Further details are provided on a separate handout.

2.6 Response Paper and Lecture

Select one starred (*) article from the course schedule and (1) present a short lecture concerning the article on the appropriate date and (2) write a short review (2 pages) summarizing and critiquing that work. You are welcome to find and review another article if you choose – but please check with me first. The response paper will be due on the final day of classes. Further details will be provided on a separate handout.

2.7 OT Squib

Write a short paper (4-8 pages) providing an Optimality Theoretic analysis of data of your choice. You will be allowed to submit the squib anytime after the Fall Break, though you may receive a request to “Revise and resubmit”. You may submit repeatedly until the semester ends. Or you could just submit once at the end of term. It is your choice.

2.8 Quizzes and Exams

There are none.

2.9 Grade Composition

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>% of Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem Sets &amp; Original Problem</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response Paper</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Squib</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
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3 Honor Principle and other policies/notes

All Reed students must abide by the Honor Principle. Plagiarism, cheating, or any form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be reported immediately.

Collaborating. You are strongly encouraged to discuss any part of any assignment with me or your classmates, but your submitted work must be your own. I.e., one submission per student in their own words.

Late and missed work will receive considerably diminished grades if received before the next class session. If you are later than that, I will happily provide feedback but no grade will be assigned.

Moodle will be used extensively for distribution of readings and other course materials.
## 4 Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mondays</th>
<th>Wednesdays</th>
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| **8/31**         | Agenda, Review                                                             | 9/2 | Phonological rules – Phonotactics and Alternations  
|                  |                                                                             |     | Read: Zsiga Ch. 10 (pp198-216), also Chs.1,2,3,4 |
| **9/7**          | **Labor Day** - no class                                                   | 9/9 | Formalism: Distinctive features, natural classes, and writing rules  
|                  |                                                                             |     | Read: Zsiga Ch. 11,12,13 (pp 221-299)  
|                  |                                                                             |     | **Problem Set #1 due** |
| **9/14**         | Rule-ordering  
|                  | Read: re-read, catch-up Zsiga readings                                   | 9/16| Productivity, Abstraction  
|                  |                                                                             |     | Read: Hayes Ch. 9, 10 (via Moodle)  
|                  |                                                                             |     | **Problem Set #2 due** |
| **9/21**         | Lexical Phonology  
|                  | Read: Cole (1995), Hayes Ch. 12                                          | 9/23| Derivational rules wrap-up, Yawelmani  
|                  |                                                                             |     | Read: Kisseberth (1970)  
| **9/28**         | Optimal Theory Introduction  
|                  | Read: Zsiga Ch. 14 (pp.304-324); Kager Ch. 1 (pp.1-48)                   | 9/30| Optimality Theory: Segmental Phenomena  
|                  |                                                                             |     | Read: Kager Ch. 2 (pp.52-88)  
|                  |                                                                             |     | **Problem Set #3 due** |
| **10/5**         | Syllables  
|                  | Read: Zsiga Ch. 15 (pp.330-350)                                          | 10/7| Syllable Structure in OT  
|                  |                                                                             |     | Read: Kager Ch. 3 (pp.91-140)  
|                  |                                                                             |     | **Original Problem Set due** |
| **10/12**        | Metrical Phonology: Stress, Typology  
|                  | Read: Zsiga Ch. 16 (pp.353-370)                                          | 10/14| Metrical Phonology: Analyses  
|                  |                                                                             |     | Read: Kager Ch. 4 (pp.142-190)  
|                  |                                                                             |     | **Problem Set #4 due** |
|                  | **FALL BREAK**                                                             | 10/26| Autosegmental Phonology: Tone  
|                  |                                                                             |     | Read: Zsiga Ch. 17 (pp.375-399), Hyman (2011)  
|                  |                                                                             | 10/28| Autosegmental Phonology: Analyses  
|                  |                                                                             |     | Read: *Yip (2000)  
|                  |                                                                             |     | **Problem Set #5 due** |
| **11/2**         | Lexical Phonology in OT  
|                  | Read: Kager Ch. 6 (pp.257-293)                                           | 11/4| Lexical Phonology in OT  
|                  |                                                                             |     | Read: *Benua (1997), *Itô & Mester (1999);  
|                  |                                                                             |     | **Problem Set #6 due** |
| **11/9**         | Residual Issues in OT: Contextual Markedness and Opacity  
|                  |                                                                             |     | **Problem Set #6 due** |
| **11/16**        | Articulatory Phonology  
|                  |                                                                             |     | **Problem Set #6 due** |
| **11/30**        | Probabilistic Phonology: Episodic memory and Exemplars  
|                  |                                                                             |     | Sound Change and its social context  
| **12/7**         | Read: Zsiga Ch. 18 (pp.401-422)                                           | 12/7 | Read: *Hay & Sudbury (2005), *Foulkes & Docherty (2006)  
|                  |                                                                             |     | **Response paper and final version of Squib due** |