Phonological Theory · LING 321 · Fall 2022 · Reed College

Time & place: Tue/Thu 3:10–4:30PM, in Eliot 103
Instructor: Sameer ud Dowla Khan (they/he), skhan@reed.edu
Drop-in office hours: Mon 3:00–4:00PM and Wed 3:00–5:00PM in Eliot 101C
Distribution group: Group II
Learning goals: Evaluate data
Analyze languages, structures, and processes
Think in sophisticated ways about causation and human cognition

Course description and learning outcomes

This course explores many of the classic and current topics in the patterns and structures governing the sounds of the world's languages, and the theories and skills used to analyze them. We will briefly review the rule-based approach introduced in LING211, covering the psychological reality of the phoneme, productivity of patterns, and interactions with phonetics, morphology, and syntax. We will then progress to the more current constraint-based approach, following Optimality Theory, including analyses of stress patterns, syllable structure, lexical classes, infixation, truncation, and reduplication. We will repeatedly ask: what do speakers know about the wellformedness of a sound or sound sequence? What do they know about different classes of words? What do they know about how words are related? Are some processes more "natural" than others? By the end of the course, you will be able to:

- Analyze a data set from a real or fake language illustrating a systematic sound pattern
- Capture sound patterns formally using "SPE-style" rule notation and "OT-style" constraint interaction
- Describe the productivity of a rule based on evidence from speaker behavior and language properties
- Explain how morphological and syntactic structure are realized through phonology
- Interpret how current linguistic realities can reflect the accumulation of generations of historical change
- Describe in what ways phonological patterns are rooted in aspects of relative phonetic ease
- Argue for particular analyses of a sound pattern based on universal properties
- Weigh the strengths and weaknesses of rule-based and constraint-based analyses in different phenomena
- Discuss how complex experimental data published in journals can be explained using these approaches

Requirements and grading breakdown

Prerequisite: Introduction to Linguistic Analysis (LING 211)

Textbooks: Hayes, Bruce (2009). *Introductory Phonology*. **(required, on reserve)**
Kager, René (1999). *Optimality Theory*. **(required, on reserve & available online)**

Discussion (40%): Class discussion of the readings and in-class exercises are integral to the course and you will be graded on your ability to respond to questions. Each class will also include a 1-minute metacognitive identifying the most useful and the least clear aspects of the day's lesson.

Problem sets (60%): You will be given seven problem sets, of which your lowest score will be dropped. **These are complex**, and you must collaborate with each other, starting as soon as they are handed out.

Policies

Late work: Each student has two 24-hr extensions that they can apply to a single problem set (one 48-hr extension), or across two (24-hr extensions for each). No other extensions will be granted.

Misconduct: You are required to work together, but your submissions must reflect your own judgments, findings, and analyses. Varying from this can be considered academic misconduct.

Accommodations: If you need accommodations for this class, contact DAR at dar@reed.edu and meet with me in person or over Zoom to work out the details of your DAR letter.

Class schedule

PS: problem set due, R: reading due

Week	Day	Date	Lecture topic(s)	Due before class
1	Tue	30 Aug	Introduction, preview, review exercise	
	Thu	1 Sep	Contrast, allophony, phonemic analysis	R: Hayes §2, 3
2	Tue	6 Sep	Features, natural classes, assimilation	R: Hayes §4, 6
	Thu	8 Sep	Rule interaction, predictability, URs **[zoom]**	R: Hayes §7, 8
3	Tue	13 Sep	Psychological reality: productivity	R: Hayes §9
	Thu	15 Sep	Psychological reality: abstract & irregular patterns	R: Kernan & Blount 66, Mayol 07 PS1: Underlying representations
4	Tue	20 Sep	Boundaries	R: Hayes §10
	Thu	22 Sep	Non-local triggers **[zoom]**	R: Kaun 04
5	Tue	27 Sep	**NO CLASS:** Opening Night	
	Thu	29 Sep	Constraints and conspiracies **[zoom]**	R: Kisseberth 70 PS2: Psychological reality
6	Tue	4 Oct	Conspiracies across languages Markedness and faithfulness	R: Kager §1
	Thu	6 Oct	Introduction to Optimality Theory Metrical phonology: syllable structure	R: Kager §3
7	Tue	11 Oct	Factorial typology, the emergence of the unmarked (TETU)	R: Gnanadesikan 95, Kager §4
	Thu	13 Oct	Metrical phonology: stress by position	PS3: Syllable structure (Fri 3PM)
Break			**NO CLASS:** Fall Break	
8	Tue	25 Oct	Metrical phonology: stress by weight	
	Thu	27 Oct	Segmental phonology	R: Kager §2
9	Tue	1 Nov	Richness of the base (ROTB)	R: Hong 01
	Thu	3 Nov	Autosegmental phonology	PS4: Stress assignment R: Hyman 11
10	Tue	8 Nov	Prosodic morphology: infixation	R: Yu 02
	Thu	10 Nov	Prosodic morphology: truncation	R: Kager §5.1–5.5
11	Tue	15 Nov	Prosodic morphology: reduplication	R: Kager §5.6–5.7
	Thu	17 Nov	Lexical phonology: the cycle	PS5: Segmental phonology R: Kager §6
12	Tue	22 Nov	Lexical phonology: multiple grammars	
	Thu	24 Nov	**NO CLASS:** Thanksgiving Break	
13	Tue	29 Nov	Lexical phonology: paradigms	R: Benua 97
	Thu	1 Dec	Opacity	R: Kager §9 PS6: Infixation
14	Tue	6 Dec	Opacity (cont.) Course wrap-up	
	Thu	8 Dec	**NO CLASS:** Reading Week	
Finals	Tue	13 Dec	**NO CLASS:** Finals Week	PS7: Lexical phonology