



SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND LANGUAGES

1. Location of the Course			
FACULTY	Arts and Social Sciences		
SCHOOL	Humanities and Languages		
COURSE CODE	ARTS2694		
COURSE NAME	Phonology: Theory and Description		
SEMESTER	2	YEAR	2013

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3. Staff Contact Details			
Name	Dr Mengistu Amberber	Office	MB 241
Phone	9385 2299	Email	m.amberber@unsw.edu.au
Contact Time and Availability	Thursdays 2-3pm, or by appointment		

4. Course Details	
Credit Points	UOC6
Summary of the Course	This is an introductory course in phonology – the systematic study of the sound systems of languages. It will focus on techniques of phonological analysis. It examines phonological processes, natural classes of speech sounds and distinctive features, syllabification, and phonological rules and derivations.
Aims of the Course	1. This course will enable students to explore the nature of the sound system of language through the detailed investigation of data from a wide range of languages.
	2. The course aims to enable students to understand the underlying system of rules and principles that govern phonological systems.

Student Learning Outcomes	At the end of the course students should be able to:	
	1.	understand how phonological units are organised (including natural classes of speech sounds, distinctive features, and syllables);
	2.	describe basic phonological rules and derivations;
	3.	apply basic techniques of phonological analysis;
Graduate Attributes	Students will be encouraged to develop the following Graduate Attributes by undertaking the selected activities and engaging with the knowledge content. These attributes will be assessed within the prescribed assessment tasks.	
	1.	Understanding of the knowledge base of phonology as one of the major components of theoretical and descriptive linguistics;
	2.	Skills in critical analysis
	3.	The ability to engage in independent and reflective learning.

5. Course Timetable*			
Class Type/Number	Day	Time	Location
Lecture	Monday	1.00 - 2.00pm	Quad 1048
Tutorial	Monday	12.00 – 1:00pm	Quad 1048
* <i>Course timetables are subject to change without notice. Students are advised to check regularly for updates on the Online Timetable at: www.timetable.unsw.edu.au.</i>			

6. Rationale for the Inclusion of Content and Teaching Approach
This course is an integral component of the linguistics undergraduate curriculum. In order to understand the abstract knowledge that underlies the competence of the speaker, it is essential to understand how the sound system is organized.

7. Teaching Strategies
The teaching strategies involve lectures and tutorials. The tutorials are designed to foster individual problem solving skills as well as engagement in collaborative teamwork.

8. Assessment					
Assessment Task*	Length	Weight	Learning Outcomes Assessed	Graduate Attributes Assessed	Due Date
4 tutorial quizzes	20 mins each	20% (5% each)	1,2,3	1,2,3	On-going
Class test	90 mins	35%	1,2,3	1,2,3	Monday, 14 October
Take-home problem set**		45%	1,2,3	1,2,3	Monday, 4 November
*Please note that assessment tasks and schedule are subject to revision .					
** The take-home problem set is handed out in class one week prior to its due date .					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In addition to fulfilling the above assessment requirements, students are expected to attend at least 80% of their lectures and tutorials in order to pass 					

the course.

- All results are reviewed at the end of each semester and may be adjusted to ensure equitable marking across the School.
- Grades
The proportion of marks lying in each grading range is determined not by any formula or quota system, but by the way that students respond to assessment tasks and how well they meet the objectives of the course. Nevertheless, since higher grades imply performance that is well above average, the number of distinctions and high distinctions awarded in a typical course is relatively small. At the other extreme, on average 6.1% of students do not meet minimum standards, a little more (8.6%) in first year courses. For more information on the grading categories see

<https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/academiclife/assessment/GuideToUNSWGrades.html>

See under “13 Other Information” for more information on Submission of Assessment Tasks and Late Assignments.

9. Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is presenting someone else’s thoughts or work as your own. It can take many forms, from not having appropriate academic referencing to deliberate cheating.

In many cases plagiarism is the result of inexperience about academic conventions. The University has resources and information to assist you to avoid plagiarism.

The Learning Centre assists students with understanding academic integrity and how to not plagiarise. Information is available on their website:

<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism/>. They also hold workshops and can help students one-on-one.

If plagiarism is found in your work when you are in first year, your lecturer will offer you assistance to improve your academic skills. They may ask you to look at some online resources, attend the Learning Centre, or sometimes resubmit your work with the problem fixed. However more serious instances in first year, such as stealing another student’s work or paying someone to do your work, may be investigated under the Student Misconduct Procedures.

Repeated plagiarism (even in first year), plagiarism after first year, or serious instances, may also be investigated under the Student Misconduct Procedures. The penalties under the procedures can include a reduction in marks, failing a course or for the most serious matters (like plagiarism in a honours thesis) even suspension from the university. The Student Misconduct Procedures are available here

<http://www.gs.unsw.edu.au/policy/documents/studentmisconductprocedures.pdf>

10. Course Schedule

	Date	Lecture Topic/Content	Lecture Content	Readings
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			Required
Week 1 29 July	Introduction; Phonetics	Introduction; Review of phonetics	Textbook, Ch 1
Week 2 5 August	Phonemic analysis I	Phonemic contrast; Phonological rules	Ch 2
Week 3 12 August	Phonemic analysis II	Phonetic similarity; phonemicization	Ch 3
Week 4 19 August	Phonological features	Feature representations	Ch 4
Week 5 26 August	Morphology	Morphological structure	Ch 5
Week 6 2 September	Phonological Alternation I	Alternation; neutralization	Ch 6
Week 7 9 September	Phonological Alternation II	Rule ordering	Ch 7
Week 8 16 September	Morphophonemics	Underlying representations	Ch 8
Week 9 23 September	Productivity	Major and Minor rules	Ch 9
***30 September – 6 October MID-SEMESTER BREAK			
Week 10 7 October No class (public holiday)			
Week 11 (14 October) In-class test			
Week 12 21 October	Morphology and Syntax	The interface between phonology/ morphology/syntax	Ch 10
*Please note that topics of lectures and tutorials <i>are subject to revision.</i>			

11. Expected Resources for Students

Textbook Details

Hayes, Bruce. 2009. *Introductory Phonology*. Wiley-Blackwell.

Additional Readings

Kenstowicz, M. 1994. *Phonology in generative grammar*. Blackwell.

Ladefoged, P. 1982. *A Course in Phonetics*. 2nd ed. Harcourt Brace. New York.

Some useful websites

UCLA phonetics lab:

<http://phonetics.ucla.edu>

An encyclopaedic reference work cataloguing all the world's 6,912 known living languages:

<http://www.ethnologue.com>

The World Atlas of Language Structure Online:

<http://wals.info/>

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12. Course Evaluation and Development

Courses are periodically reviewed and students' feedback is used to improve them. Feedback is gathered using various means including UNSW's Course and Teaching Evaluation and Improvement (CATEI) process.

13. Other Information

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Assignments which are submitted to the School Assignment Box must have a properly completed School Assessment Coversheet, with the declaration signed and dated by hand. It can be downloaded from <https://hal.arts.unsw.edu.au/students/courses/course-outlines/>. It is individual students' responsibility to make a backup copy of the assignment prior to submission and retain it.

Assignments must be submitted before 4:00pm on the due date. Assignments received after this time will be marked as having been received late.

Late Submission of Assignments

Late assignments will attract a penalty. Of the total mark, 3% will be deducted each day for the first week, with Saturday and Sunday counting as two days, and 10% each week thereafter.

The penalty may not apply where students are able to provide documentary evidence of illness or serious misadventure. Time pressure resulting from undertaking assignments for other courses does not constitute an acceptable excuse for lateness.

OHS

UNSW's Occupational Health and Safety Policy requires each person to work safely and responsibly, in order to avoid personal injury and to protect the safety of others. For all matters relating to Occupational Health, Safety and environment, see <http://www.ohs.unsw.edu.au/>

Attendance

Students are expected to be regular and punctual in attendance at all classes in the courses in which they are enrolled. Explanations of absences from classes or requests for permission to be absent from classes should be discussed with the teacher and where applicable accompanied by a medical certificate. If students attend less than 80% of their possible classes they may be refused final assessment.

Students who falsify their attendance or falsify attendance on behalf of another student will be dealt with under the student misconduct policy.

Class Clash

- a. The student must provide the Course Convenor with copies of lecture notes from those lectures missed on a regular basis as agreed by the Course Convenor and the student.
- b. If a student does indeed attend a lecture for which they had secured a permitted clash they will still submit lecture notes as evidence of attendance.
- c. **Failure to meet these requirements is regarded as unsatisfactory performance in the course and a failure to meet the Faculty's course attendance requirement. Accordingly, Course Convenors will fail students who do not meet this performance/attendance requirement.**
- d. Students must attend the clashed lecture on a specific date if that lecture contains

an assessment task for the course such as a quiz or test. Inability to meet this requirement would be grounds for a Course Convenor refusing the application. If the student misses the said lecture there is no obligation on the Course Convenor to schedule a make-up quiz or test and the student can receive zero for the assessment task. It should be noted that in many courses a failure to complete an assessment task can be grounds for course failure.

Special Consideration

In cases where illness or other circumstances produce repeated or sustained absence, students should apply for Special Consideration as soon as possible. Forms are available from Student Central on the ground floor of the Chancellery (opposite the Library) or online at the link below.

Applications on the grounds of illness must be filled in by a medical practitioner.

Further

information is available at:

<https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/atoz/SpecialConsideration.html>

Student Equity and Disabilities Unit

Students who have a disability that requires some adjustment in their learning and teaching environment are encouraged to discuss their study needs with the course convener prior to or at the commencement of the course, or with the Student Equity Officers (Disability) in the Student Equity and Disabilities Unit (9385 4734). Information for students with disabilities is available at: <http://www.studentequity.unsw.edu.au>

Issues to be discussed may include access to materials, signers or note-takers, the provision of services and additional examination and assessment arrangements. Early notification is essential to enable any necessary adjustments to be made.