

Phonology

01:615:315:02

Fall 2024

Last updated August 28, 2024

Class times:	Mon & Wed 2:00-3:20pm Scott Hall 216
Course website:	canvas.rutgers.edu (PHONOLOGY 01:615:315:02)
Instructor:	Adam Jardine
Email:	adam.jardine@rutgers.edu
Virtual office:	Link to Zoom office
Actual office:	1 Spring St , Rm 412 (Rutgers Computational Linguistics Lab)
Office hours:	Mon 10:30am (in person or on Zoom) Sign-up link

Prerequisites

Satisfactory completion of LING 201.

About this course

Phonology is the study of the knowledge native speakers have of how sounds function in their language. We will be exploring the range of sound patterns found in the world's languages, how phonological theory characterizes the knowledge that speakers have about the sound patterns of their language, and how phonologists analyze sound systems in languages.

The theoretical devices we will learn include underlying & surface representations, rules, rule ordering, features, constraints, and nonlinear representations. We will also cover basic empirical phenomena that have been discovered and analyzed by phonologists: local assimilation and dissimilation, epenthesis and deletion, vowel and consonant harmony, syllabification, stress, and tone.

Throughout, we will define and practice the basic principles of phonological analysis, and learn how phonological theory connects to the scientific study of language more broadly.

Course learning goals

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- determine contrastive and non-contrastive sounds in a language
- understand what speakers know about the sound patterns of their language
- understand and apply the basic principles of phonological analysis
- use the formalism of generative phonology, including distinctive features, rewrite rules, and rule ordering, to construct phonological grammars that capture phonological processes

Department learning goals met by this course:

- Students will reason about language scientifically; demonstrate knowledge of cross-linguistic variability and universal patterns in language; evaluate a range of views on the nature, origin, and/or structure of language; and identify what someone knows when they know a language.
- 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.

Readings

There is no required textbook for this course. All required readings will be posted as pdf files on Canvas, under the **Resources** heading, in the **Readings** folder.

For those who need extra help—or who are just interested in learning more about phonology—I recommend the following textbooks.

- Hayes, Bruce. 2009. *Introductory Phonology*. Wiley-Blackwell.
- Odden, David. 1995. *Introducing Phonology*. Cambridge University Press.
- Bale, Alan and Charles Reiss. 2018. *Phonology: A Formal Introduction*. MIT Press.

Evaluation and required work

You will be evaluated as outlined in Table 1 below. Some more details on each type of coursework follow.

Note that there will be no final exam.

Participation	10%
Homework	60%
<u>Final paper</u>	
Proposal	5%
Draft	10%
Final	15%

Table 1: Grading breakdown

Participation

You are expected to attend and participate in the class. The objectives of phonology sound simple, but in fact phonological analysis requires a great deal of abstract reasoning and analysis. If you do not attend class you will fall behind, so regular attendance is extremely important. I thus will expect that you won't miss class unless you have an exceptionally good reason (see also attendance policy below).

Homework

A great deal of your grade will consist of homework assignments. Homework will take two forms. The bulk of your homework grade will be **6 to 8 longer assignments**. These assignments will test your skills through phonological analysis of phonological data and will be graded in detail. These assignments will be assigned at least a week ahead of the due date.

I may also sporadically assign smaller homework assignments meant to reinforce basic skills or prepare for an in-class activity. These assignments will generally be checked for completion and will be worth 1-2 percentage points.

All assignments will be distributed and turned in via Canvas. The final grade percentage point value of each assignment will be made clear when it is assigned.

Final Paper

As a culminating project, you will write **a 1,500-word (around 6 pages, double-spaced) final paper**. The paper will be written about one of the following topics:

- An in-depth analysis of a set of related processes in an understudied, non-Indo-European language whose reference grammar you find in the Library or online.
- A 'fieldwork' project in which you find a description of a language variety (including a dialect) you or someone you know speaks and compare the written account to your own observations.
- An analysis of a particularly challenging data set.

We will talk more about the details of this assignment at the appropriate times throughout the semester. This project will be split into the following three parts.

Proposal

In the 9th week or so you will hand in a **one page proposal** giving me an idea what your final paper will be.

Rough Draft

A rough draft will be due a couple of weeks before the end of the semester. This does not have to be complete (**min. 1,000 words**) but I will want to see the bulk of your ideas. I will give you comments as soon as I can so you can revise your draft.

Final Draft

The final draft will be due at **4pm on December 16th** (or whatever the scheduled final exam date is). How you address my comments will be factored into the grade of the paper.

Extra Credit

There will be an extra credit opportunity for increasing your grade up to 2 percentage points by participating in experiments for researchers in the Linguistics Department. More details will be made available in the first few weeks of the semester.

Letter grades

At the end of the semester, your percentage will be converted into a letter grade according to the standard grading scheme, given below.

A	$\geq 90\%$
B+	85–89.9%
B	80–84.9%
C+	75–79.9%
C	70–74.9%
D	60–69.9%
F	$\leq 59.9\%$

Schedule

A schedule is given in Table 2. This schedule is **tentative** and subject to change; for updates, **check the schedule on Canvas**.

Week	Dates	Topic	Notes
1	9/4	Introduction	
2	9/9, 9/11	Phonetics	
3	9/16, 9/18	Morphology, underlying forms	
4	9/23, 9/25	Phonemes and contrast	
5	9/30, 10/2	Rules, features, and natural classes	
6	10/7, 10/9	Rules, features, and natural classes	
7	10/14, 10/16	Rules, features, and natural classes	
8	10/21, 10/23	Writing phonological analyses	
9	10/28, 10/30	Interactions and ordering	Proposal due
10	11/4, 11/8	Interactions and ordering	
11	11/11, 11/13	Long-distance processes	
12	11/18, 11/20	Syllables	
13	11/25	Stress	No class Wednesday (Thanksgiving week)
14	12/2, 12/4	Tone	Paper rough draft due
15	12/9, 12/11	Review, future topics	
	12/16(?)	Final paper due	

Table 2: Tentative class schedule

Policy on late assignments

Any unexcused late work will **get an automatic 15%** reduction; work **more than 24 hours late will not be accepted for credit**.

Policy on attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes as long as they are in good health. However, **if** you have been told to quarantine or are showing symptoms of a transmittable disease, **please** stay home. Please use the University absence reporting website (sims.rutgers.edu) to indicate the date and reason for necessary absences (an email is automatically sent to me). This includes absences for religious observances, health issues, and university activities.

If you must miss class for a period longer than one week, please contact the Dean of Students for assistance in verifying the circumstances of the absence and discussing any necessary accommodations for completing your coursework.

If you have to miss a class for any reason, **please don't ask me what you missed.** Find out what happened in class from the course website or from a classmate, look the material over carefully, and only then come to me with any **specific** remaining questions you may have.

Mask policy

According to University policy, masks are optional in class. Of course, anyone who would still prefer to wear a mask is welcome to do so. Regardless, please fully respect each other's personal decisions regarding the matter. As always, you can check the [the University's COVID-19 information page](#) if you have any questions.

Academic integrity

It is unethical and unacceptable to pass off anyone else's work as your own. Given that most of the graded work is completed outside of class time, **I will be extremely sensitive to cheating.** Any work suspected to be completed in violation of the University's Academic Integrity Policy will **automatically be assigned a failing grade.**

Please review the Academic Integrity policy ([link](#)). All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs.

Use of external website resources such as Chegg.com or others to obtain solutions to homework assignments, quizzes, or exams is cheating and a violation of the University Academic Integrity policy. The same goes for using AI models such as ChatGPT. **(Don't bother trying to use ChatGPT! It does terribly on novel phonology problems.)** Cheating in the course may result in grade penalties, disciplinary sanctions or educational sanctions. Posting homework assignments, or exams, to external sites without the instructor's permission may be a violation of copyright and may constitute the facilitation of dishonesty, which may result in the same penalties as plain cheating.

All students will need to sign the Rutgers Honor Pledge on every major exam, assignment, or other assessment as follows: "On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination (assignment, paper, quiz, etc.)."

Policy on electronic devices

You are more than welcome to bring electronic devices to class. However, random web surfing, social media, texting, etc., are strictly prohibited during class.

Getting Help

It has been a rough couple of years, for all of us, but some have been affected more than others. It is important to acknowledge that events and circumstances outside of the classroom can impact our ability to be present and engaged at any given moment. If, at any point, you experience anything impacting your performance or ability to participate in this class, please reach out to me. Please also see the academic, health, and mental wellness resources on the syllabus as well as others searchable at <https://success.rutgers.edu/> for further support.

Contacting me

I am here to help! Please get in touch whenever you have questions or concerns. If you have short questions, I can answer them after class or during office hours. If you plan on visiting my office hours, please sign up for a slot [using this link](#) **at least 4 hours ahead of time.**

I generally respond to email fairly quickly. However, **do not wait to the last minute** to ask about anything time-sensitive (assignments, etc.). I have a busy schedule and I tend not to check my email after 9pm. That said, I will try my best to get back to you within 2 business days.

Do not email me through Canvas; please use my Rutgers email address. I do not check the Canvas email inbox regularly.

Technical Help

Please visit the [Rutgers Student Tech Guide](#) page for resources available to all students. If you do not have the appropriate technology for financial reasons, please email Dean of Students deanofstudents@echo.rutgers.edu for assistance. If you are facing other financial hardships, please visit the Office of Financial Aid at <https://financialaid.rutgers.edu/>.

For any issues you have with Canvas or other apps provided by Rutgers, contact the Office of Information Technology Help Desk at it.rutgers.edu/help-support/.

Disability Services

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 ([link to 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](#).

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

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. Call (848) 932-7884 or visit rhscaps.rutgers.edu.

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

The Office for 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 848-932-1181.

Scarlet Listeners

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space. Call 732-247-5555 or visit scarletlisteners.com.

Just In Case Web App

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. Visit codu.co/cee05e.

Intellectual Property Rights

Lectures and materials utilized in this course, including but not limited to videocasts, podcasts, visual presentations, assessments, and assignments, are protected by United States copyright laws as well as Rutgers University policy. As the instructor of this course, I possess sole copyright ownership. You are permitted to take notes for personal use or to provide to a classmate also currently enrolled in this course. Under no other circumstances is distribution of recorded or written materials associated with this course permitted to any internet site or similar information-sharing platform without my express written consent. Doing so is a violation of the university's Academic Integrity

Policy. Similarly, these copyright protections extend to original papers you produce for this course. In the event that I seek to share your work further, I will first obtain your written consent to do so.

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