

Seminar in Phonology, Spring 2019:  
Logic, Computation, and Unbounded Processes

Syllabus

## 1 Course information

**Course #:** 16:615:525  
**Time & place:** Wed 9:50am–12:50pm, 18 Seminary Pl Rm 108  
**Website:** On Sakai  
**Instructor:** Adam Jardine (Rm 205A)  
**E-mail:** [adam.jardine@rutgers.edu](mailto:adam.jardine@rutgers.edu)  
**Office hours:** Wed 3-4pm and by appointment

## 2 Overview and goals

The theme of this year's phonology seminar is **logic, computation, representation, and unbounded processes**. It will be taught as a hybrid lecture/seminar course. The first month or so I will lead the class, giving you the perspective, motivations, and technical background for the computational view of phonological processes. Theories of phonology based on computational properties provide restrictive hypotheses that make clear typological predictions that also connect to learning

Specifically, we will be using **least-fixed point logics** to model iterative and unbounded processes in phonology. It appears that these logics capture the iterative nature of unbounded phonological processes, but it is yet unclear what is their typological coverage and how they connect to other computational characterizations of phonology.

The remainder of the course will be student-led, focusing on a research project of each student's choice, culminating in a final paper of original research.

## 3 Textbook

There is no textbook for this course. Reading material for the course will comprise journal articles and book/dissertation chapters, which will be posted on the course website.

## 4 Coursework

Graded work for this course will consist of in-class presentations as well as a final paper (broken into three parts). Early on in the class **there will be a few small homework assignments**, but rather than turned in for a grade these will be used as preparation for in-class discussion.

### 4.1 Attendance and participation

As a graduate seminar, participation in class is a crucial part of the course. You will be expected to come to class prepared to actively discuss any homework or assigned reading. If you absolutely have to miss a class, **please contact me beforehand**.

### 4.2 Class presentations

Following the introduction to the formal concepts in the first few weeks, we decide on a rotating schedule of **student-led workshop sessions**. Each student will be in charge of leading at least two class sessions, with the purpose of furthering their research in a topic of their interest. Early workshop sessions can focus on a paper from the literature on a topic their interest; later sessions can focus on working through a particular analysis or problem together as a class.

**You are responsible for meeting with me beforehand about your presentation topic.**

As per the previous section, **everyone is expected to participate** in these discussions, not just the student leading the class. Please come prepared, having read the relevant material critically with the above questions in mind.

### 4.3 Final paper

The bulk of your grade will come from a final research project. The paper can either be of an **empirical** nature—i.e., an analysis of a phenomenon or class of phenomena using the formalisms discovered in the class—or of a **formal** nature—i.e., understanding the properties of least-fixed point characterizations and their connections to existing computational classes that have been shown to be relevant to phonology.

The final research project will be broken down into the following four parts.

### 4.3.1 Proposal I

Please submit a brief document to me outlining **three ideas** you are interested in working on. For each idea, write a short paragraph explaining what the topic is, why you are interested in it, and what you think might result from pursuing it. Please submit a **hard copy** of your first proposal by **March 6**.

### 4.3.2 Proposal II

Please submit a document of 250–500 words explaining the topic you have chosen for your final paper. Please submit a **hard copy** of your second proposal by **March 27**.

### 4.3.3 Presentation

The last few weeks of the course will be reserved for presentations of your final papers. These will be **20-minute presentations** followed by a 10-minute question and answer period. This is standard for conference talks, and so will also serve as practice for presenting your work.

### 4.3.4 Final draft

Please turn in a **hard copy** of your final paper by **May 8**.

## 5 Policies

### 5.1 Grading

Participation:	20%
Paper presentations:	30%
Proposal I:	5%
Proposal II:	5%
Final presentation:	10%
Final paper:	30%

### 5.2 Academic integrity

This class will be conducted in accordance with University policy on academic integrity. Please refer to <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>.