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## LING 215: Sounds of Language

<b>Lectures</b>	Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:00-3:15pm Healy 103
<b>Recitation</b>	Fridays, 12:30-1:45pm Walsh 499
<b>Professor</b>	Jennifer Nycz jennifer.nycz@georgetown.edu Office hours: Tuesdays 3:30-5:00pm in Poulton 224 or by appointment.
<b>Teaching Assistant</b>	Amelia Becker ab3082@georgetown.edu Meetings by appointment.
<b>Prerequisites</b>	None. This course is required of all Linguistics majors.

**Course Overview.** This class is an introduction to *phonetics* and *phonology*, the areas of linguistics concerned with describing and explaining how speech sounds are made, used, heard, and mentally organized. By the end of the course, students will:

- understand the basic anatomy and physiology of the human vocal tract and be able to describe speech sounds in terms of place and manner of articulation, along with other descriptive variables (nasality, voicing, etc.);
- be familiar with the range of human phonetic capabilities and the phonological contrasts and processes common in the languages of the world;
- be proficient with a number of tools for data analysis, including IPA transcription, digital acoustic analysis, and phonological rules and constraints;
- have gained an understanding of the central questions of phonological and phonetic theory and the kinds of answers that have been proposed;
- be prepared to continue with more specialized study.

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**Textbook and Course website.** The required text for this course is *The Sounds of Language* by Elizabeth Zsiga. All handouts, homeworks, non-textbook readings, and other supplementary materials (videos, sounds files, links) will be posted to the course project site on Basecamp. Each student will be invited to join this site on the first day of class. This site should be your first stop for questions relating to course administration or content.

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**E-mail schedule.** I (Dr. Nycz) try to batch e-mail into just a few checks a day. On Tuesdays/Thursdays I'll typically check and respond to email around 10am, 1pm, and 4pm; on Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays, around noon and then again at 4pm.

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**Technology Policy:** Laptop use is permitted in class **only on the days listed in the syllabus**. Please leave tablets, phablets, phones, etc. in your bag.

## Requirements and Assessment

1. **Participation (10%).** Your attendance is required every day. Much of each class meeting will consist of discussion and hands-on data analysis, so you must come to class prepared to work in pairs or small groups on phonetic or phonological analysis. If you are shy or otherwise have difficulty participating in group discussions, come talk to me about it and we'll work out some strategies. You can also participate in the class by attending office hours or posting to the course website.
2. **Homework (40%).** HW assignments (12 total) will be given.
  - HW will be handed out every Thursday and due at the start of class the following Tuesday, except for the first day of class and the day of the first test. **Please submit hard copies.**
  - **Late HW, as a rule, is not accepted.** However, each student gets one 'bad day' exception: once during the semester, you may turn in a late HW with no penalty, no reason necessary, as long as we receive the late HW before it is handed back to the class on Thursday.
  - Collaboration on HW assignments is allowed and even encouraged, but each student must complete their own write-up and list the names of other students worked with.
3. **Phonetics Project (10%).** During the first half of the term you will create a 'phonetic profile' of a speaker of your choosing. Details of this project will be given during the first two weeks of class.
4. **Phonology Project (10%).** During the second half of the term you will construct a simple phonology problem from raw data and explain a solution to it. Details of this project will be given in October.
5. **Tests (30%)** Two tests will be given, each worth 15% of your grade. The first test, covering phonetics, will be given in class. The second test, covering phonology, will be given during the final exam period.

**Accommodations:** If you believe you have a disability that will affect your performance in this class, then you should contact the Academic Resource Center ([arc@georgetown.edu](mailto:arc@georgetown.edu)) for further information. The Center is located in the Leavey Center, Suite 335. The Academic Resource Center is the campus office responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students with disabilities and for determining reasonable accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and University policies.

**Excused absences:** In certain circumstances, absences may be excused. When absences are excused, students remain responsible for all assigned work, and should make arrangements with the professor to make up any work that they have missed.

- **Absence for religious observances:** Students must notify their professors in writing at the beginning of the semester of religious observances that conflict with classes. Students who cannot be accommodated should discuss the matter with a dean.
- **Absence for athletic travel:** Student-athletes must provide their professors with a travel letter at the beginning of the semester which highlights potential absences. Students who cannot be accommodated for some or all absences should discuss the matter with the relevant Academic Coordinator for Student-Athletes.
- **Absence for documented illness:** Students who miss multiple classes due to prolonged illness should seek medical care and provide documentation of such to the Dean's Office, which will communicate with the student's professors. A prolonged absence may necessitate the students withdrawal from the course or from the University for the semester.
- **At the discretion of the professor:** There may be cases where an absence is undocumented but is, nevertheless, excused by the professor (e.g., absence due to a death in the family). Students should initiate a conversation with their professors about the nature and duration of the absence, in advance of the absence whenever possible. Students who anticipate missing multiple classes should inform the Dean's Office.

**Ethics:** Members of the Georgetown University academic community are bound by the Georgetown University Honor Code. Please review the Honor Code, and if you have any questions about how it applies to work in this class, see Dr. Nycz or Amelia.

### Course Schedule

**Note:** Any changes to the schedule, readings, or weekly office hours will be posted to Basecamp.

<i>Phonetics</i>	<b>Thursday, Sept. 1<sup>st</sup></b> Seeing speech	
<b>Tuesday, Sept. 6<sup>th</sup></b> The vocal tract, Speech sound sources ➤ Z. Chapter 1	<b>Thursday, Sept. 8<sup>th</sup></b> Consonants with a pop: Plosives ➤ Z. 2.1–2.3.3	<b>Friday, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup></b> Recitation BRING LAPTOPS
<b>Tuesday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup></b> Consonants with a hiss: Fricatives ➤ Z.3.1-3.2.1, 3.2.3 BRING LAPTOPS	<b>Thursday, Sept. 15<sup>th</sup></b> Clicks, ejectives, Implosives ➤ Z. 3.3 BRING LAPTOPS	<b>Friday, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup></b> Recitation BRING LAPTOPS
<b>Tuesday, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup></b> The ‘singable’ consonants: Sonorants ➤ Z 3.2.2 BRING LAPTOPS	<b>Thursday, Sept. 22<sup>th</sup></b> Vowel articulation ➤ Z. 4.1-4.3	<b>Friday, Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup></b> Recitation BRING LAPTOPS
<b>Tuesday, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup></b> More vowel articulation; transcription ➤ Z. 4.4-4.7	<b>Thursday, Sept. 29<sup>th</sup></b> Sound waves & resonance ➤ Z. 6	<b>Friday, Sept. 30<sup>th</sup></b> Recitation BRING LAPTOPS
<b>Tuesday, Oct. 4<sup>th</sup></b> Vowel acoustics ➤ Z. 7 BRING LAPTOPS	<b>Thursday, Oct. 6<sup>th</sup></b> More vowel acoustics BRING LAPTOPS	<b>Friday, Oct. 7<sup>th</sup></b> Recitation BRING LAPTOPS
<b>Tuesday, Oct. 11<sup>th</sup></b> Vowel shifts & dialect variation ➤ Readings on Basecamp	<b>Thursday, Oct. 13<sup>th</sup></b> Voice quality ➤ Readings on Basecamp	<b>Friday, Oct. 14<sup>th</sup></b> Recitation BRING LAPTOPS
<b>Tuesday, Oct. 18<sup>th</sup></b> Speech perception ➤ Z. 9	<b>Thursday, Oct. 20<sup>th</sup></b> TEST 1: PHONETICS	

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*Phonology*

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<b>Tuesday, Oct. 25<sup>th</sup></b> Phonemes and allophones ➤ Z. 10.1–10.3 PHONETICS PROJECT DUE	<b>Thursday, Oct. 27<sup>th</sup></b> Phonotactics and alternations ➤ Z. 11.1–11.2	<b>Friday, Oct. 28<sup>th</sup></b> Recitation
<b>Tuesday, Nov. 1<sup>st</sup></b> Phonological processes ➤ Z. 11.3.1–11.3.10	<b>Thursday, Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup></b> Features and Rules ➤ Z. 12, 13.1–13.3	<b>Friday, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup></b> Recitation
<b>Tuesday, Nov. 8<sup>th</sup></b> Rule ordering ➤ Reading on Basecamp	<b>Thursday, Nov. 10<sup>th</sup></b> Rule ordering continued	<b>Friday, Nov. 11<sup>th</sup></b> Recitation
<b>Tuesday, Nov. 15<sup>th</sup></b> Constraint-based Phonology ➤ Z. 14	<b>Thursday, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup></b> Constraints continued	<b>Friday, Nov. 18<sup>th</sup></b> Recitation
<b>Tuesday, Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup></b> Syllables and prosodic domains ➤ Z. 15	THANKSGIVING BREAK	
<b>Tuesday, Nov. 29<sup>th</sup></b> Stress ➤ Z. 16	<b>Thursday, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup></b> Stress continued	<b>Friday, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup></b> Recitation
<b>Tuesday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup></b> Course wrap-up!	<b>WEDNESDAY, DEC. 7<sup>th</sup></b> PHONOLOGY PROJECT DUE Bring to Dr. Nycz's mailbox	

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FINAL TEST: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15 12:30-2:30PM

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