LSCI 119/219: Phonological Models

Spring 2024

Lecture time: MW 1pm–2:20pm
Lecture location: SBSG 1321
Website: https://canvas.eee.uci.edu/courses/67351

Instructor: Connor Mayer
Student hour time: F 1pm–2pm
Student hour location: SSPB 2211
Instructor e-mail: cjmayer@uci.edu

Course Description

This course will present an overview of some of the major trends in phonological theory from the 1960s to the present day. The goals of this course are to:

- allow you to understand and evaluate current and past literature in phonology
- prepare you to do your own research in phonology
- focus on theory comparison to better understand (a) why and how previous scholars proposed changes to phonological theory; and (b) to be better placed to propose your own!

The two broad formalisms the course will focus on are rule-based phonology (Chomsky & Halle 1968) and constraint-based phonology (Prince & Smolensky 1993/2004).

Course Format

Lectures and student hours for this class will primarily be held in person. We may have occasional Zoom meetings as necessary.

Attendance at lectures will not be graded. However, you are *strongly* encouraged to attend lectures at the scheduled times so you can ask questions. If you are unable to attend lectures due to illness or other extenuating circumstances, you can access recordings of the lectures on Canvas. Lectures will be recorded live, and the recordings may not be optimal quality.

Prerequisites

Students should have taken LSCI 3 and LSCI 10, or equivalent. Familiarity with the International Phonetic Alphabet is assumed.

Course Materials

Readings

You do not need to purchase any textbooks for this course. All materials (assignments, notes, readings) will be distributed through the course website on Canvas. We will use **Perusall** to collaborative annotate each reading. You can access Perusall via the Canvas site. Annotations should be done by 11:59 pm on Sunday evening so I can review them before class on Monday. Annotations allow you to highlight areas that you found interesting or challenging, and to respond to your classmates.

Requirements and grading

There are two grading options available for students. Graduate students are required to take the homework-and-squib option, while undergraduates can choose either one.

Homework only

Component	Proportion of grade
Weekly reading annotations	10%
Nine homework exercises	90%

Homework and squib

Component	Proportion of grade
Weekly reading annotations	10%
Nine homework exercises	60%
Final squib	30%

Annotations

Your consistent participation in weekly reading annotations on Perusall will be worth 10% of your final grade. You are required to make at least one *substantial* annotation to each week's reading. This could be a question, a comment, a criticism, a response to one of your classmates' annotations, etc.

Problem sets

The course grade will be calculated based on nine equally-weighted homework exercises. These will provide you with data and ask you to provide a (brief!) analysis using the frameworks we will cover in class.

Students are permitted (encouraged, even!) to collaborate on homework exercises, but **you must hand in your own assignment that is reflective of your own understanding**: no direct copies or jointly authored assignments are allowed. If you do collaborate, please list at the top of your assignment all of the people you've collaborated with.

Exercises can be turned up to 7 days late. 10% of your score will be deducted for each 24 hours of lateness (rounded up). For example, if an assignment is worth 100 points, you turn it in two days late, and earn an 80 before lateness is taken into account, your score will be $(1 - 0.2) * 80 = 64$.

Final squib

The final squib (a term for a short paper) will be due at the end of exam week. This squib will focus on comparing analyses of some phonological phenomenon by two different theories. I will provide more detail later in the course.

Grading policies

Letter grades are calculated from numeric grades as follows:

Numeric grade	Letter grade
$\geq 90\%$	A
$\geq 80\%$	B
$\geq 70\%$	C
$\geq 60\%$	D
$< 60\%$	F

Grades will only be changed for clerical or arithmetic errors. The exception to this is that I reserve the right to scale final grades if I think it is necessary. I will only scale grades up: that is, your final grade can only *improve* as the result of scaling.

Getting help

- The first place you should seek help is using the discussion board on Canvas. If you have a question, it's likely that someone else has the same question. Posting on the discussion board allows everyone to see the answer. I also strongly encourage you to try to answer your peers' questions on the discussion board. This gives you valuable practice engaging with the course material, utilizing online resources, and synthesizing information, all of which will serve you well down the road.
- The second place you should come for help is my student hours. Please feel free to drop by as frequently as you like, even if you don't have any specific questions and you just want to work on an exercise or chat.

- If neither the discussion board or student hours are viable, you can email me with questions or concerns. I will reply to you within 24 hours.
- In certain circumstances I may be willing to arrange a meeting with you outside of normal class times and student hours. For the sake of my schedule (and yours!), please consider this a last resort, and do your best to seek help using the resources in the previous three points.

Academic integrity

All students are expected to adhere to the UCI Academic Dishonesty Policies (for more information, please visit https://aisc.uci.edu/students/academic-integrity/index.php).

Disability

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to apply with Disability Service Center at UCI. For more information, please visit http://disability.uci.edu/.

Course Schedule

Week	*Dates*	*Topic*	*Readings* (Annotations due Sunday by 11:59 pm)	*Problem sets* (Due Friday by 11:59 pm)
1	9/30 – 10/4	Introduction, course overview Basics of the SPE framework	K&K ch. 2 K&K ch. 3, pp. 45–62	HW1
2	10/7 – 10/11	Expansion conventions in SPE Extrinsic rule ordering in SPE	K&K Ch. 5, pp. 154–165 K&K Ch. 9, pp. 331–339	HW2
3	10/14 – 10/18	Conspiracies and duplication Rules + constraint theories	Kisseberth (1970) K&K Ch. 10, pp. 424–436	HW3
4	10/21 – 10/25	Classic OT	Kager Ch. 1, pp. 1–32	HW4
5	10/28 – 11/1	Classic OT, cont'd	Kager Ch. 1, pp 32–48	HW5
6	11/4 – 11/8	More on conspiracies	Kager Ch. 2	HW6
7	11/11 – 11/15	Opacity	K&K ch. 8, pp. 318–327 Kager Ch. 9, pp. 372–377	HW7 *No class Nov 11th*
8	11/18 – 11/22	Multiple application	K&K Ch. 8, pp. 318–327	HW8
9	11/25 – 11/29	Strata and cycles	K&K Ch. 10, pp. 406–425 Kager Ch. 6 pp. 277–293 Kager Ch. 9 pp. 381–385	
10	12/2 – 12/6	Modeling variation in SPE & OT	Coetzee & Pater (2013)	HW9
11	12/9 – 12/13	Exam week		**Squib** due Friday Dec 13th

Acknowledgments

Much of the course material here comes from Kie Zuraw's LING 200A at UCLA.