

**Phonetics & Phonology: Introduction to Sound Systems**  
**CAS LX 301/MET 501/GRS LX 601 (Fall 2022)**  
MWF 9:05-9:55am, CAS B20

**Professor**

Amy Hutchinson (she/her)

**Drop in hours:** Monday 12:00-1:00pm,

**Office:** 621 Comm Ave., Room 113

Tuesday 10:30-11:30am,

**Email:** [ahut@bu.edu](mailto:ahut@bu.edu)

or by appointment

**Teaching Fellow**

Jackson Kellogg (he/him)

**Drop in hours:** Thursday 1:15pm-3:15pm,

**Email:** [jkellogg@bu.edu](mailto:jkellogg@bu.edu)

in-person (621 Comm Ave., #B02) or via [Zoom](#)

or by appointment

**Course description**

This course will introduce students to the study of the sounds of human languages (phonetics) as well as the organization of speech sounds within languages (phonology). Students will develop an advanced understanding of speech sounds in a variety of languages (including non-Indo-European and endangered languages) and will provide an introduction to the concepts of articulation, acoustics, and perception. Students will also be provided with an introduction to phonological concepts including phonemic analysis and common phonological processes. In addition to the theoretical aspects of speech science, students will gain hands-on experience and training in the transcription of speech using the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), computer-based speech analysis software, and experimental methods for collecting speech data. The course will conclude with a discussion of the relationship between speech and other areas of linguistic inquiry, including sociolinguistics and language acquisition.

**Course objectives**

This class is designed to fulfill the BU Hub areas of Scientific Inquiry II, Quantitative Reasoning I, and Critical Thinking.

In this course we will explore the following objectives:

1. To observe, describe, generalize, and abstract the properties of speech in human language (speech articulation, acoustics, and perception) from a scientific point of view
2. To learn linguistic tools and techniques that are relevant for analysis of speech sounds
3. To interpret phonetic data in order to draw conclusions about speech production and perception
4. To develop a capacity to frame and pursue questions relevant to the study of speech

**Prerequisites**

CAS LX 250 Introduction to Linguistics or equivalent, or instructor approval

### **Required course materials**

We will be using the Top Hat ([www.tophat.com](http://www.tophat.com)) classroom response system in class. You will be able to access Top Hat and submit answers to questions using Apple or Android smartphones, and laptop computers. You will receive an email from Top Hat asking you to create an account. Unfortunately, there is a (discounted, negotiated) \$26 charge for Top Hat. To mitigate this, I will not be requiring you to purchase a textbook. I recommend that you sign up for Top Hat the day before our first day of class. You will be entitled to a 7-day free trial AND a refund within 14 days of your activation. So, in the unlikely and unfortunate event that you decide to drop this course, you will be able to obtain a refund if you are still within this 21-day period. See <https://success.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Refund-Policy-and-Request-Form>

To prepare for your use of Top Hat, you are encouraged to visit the Quick Start Guide - <https://support.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Top-Hat-Overview-and-Getting-Started-Guide>. It provides a brief overview to get you up and running on the system. There is an orientation video here: <https://goo.gl/qsNk5E>. Should you require assistance with Top Hat at any time, please contact the Top Hat Support Team directly by email ([support@tophat.com](mailto:support@tophat.com)), the Contact Support button on their website, the in-app support button, or phone (1-888-663-5491). If you do not receive a satisfactory response from the support team, please let me know!

We will also be using Slack to facilitate in-class and out-of class discussion. You will also receive an invitation to join a Slack channel for our class. Slack is free. If you haven't used Slack before, consider checking out: <https://slack.com/help/articles/115004071768-What-is-Slack>. You may interact on Slack through a web browser, a computer app, or on your phone. Important announcements will come through Slack so make sure to check it frequently during the semester.

### **Other materials**

Note: All of the readings for the course will be made available on Top Hat, but students are also encouraged to purchase these foundational texts if they are interested in exploring phonetics/phonology at a deeper level outside of the course

-*A Course in Phonetics*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition by Peter Ladefoged and Keith Johnson (ISBN: 978-1285463407)

-*Acoustic and Auditory Phonetics*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition by Keith Johnson (ISBN: 978-1405194662)

-*Introducing Phonology*, 1<sup>st</sup> edition by Bruce Hayes (ISBN: 978-1405184113)

-*Second Language Speech: Theory and Practice*, 1<sup>st</sup> edition by Laura Colantoni, Jeffrey Steele, and Paola Escudero (ISBN: 978-1107655751)

## **Grading**

### **Undergraduate**

Class participation	10%
Homework	40%
Midterm exam	25%
Final exam	25%

### **Graduate**

Class participation	10%
Homework	30%
Midterm exam	15%
Final exam	15%
Final project	30%

## **Class Requirements**

*Class participation:* Your in-class participation in both lecture and discussion sections will be assessed via responses to questions and discussion forums in Top Hat.

*Homework assignments:* Nine homework assignments will be assigned during the semester each of which will be weighted equally in your overall Homework grade. Homework assignments should be submitted directly to Top Hat in PDF format. Do not include your name or any identifying information in the PDF. To avoid grading biases, we will grade the assignments anonymously.

You may, if you wish, collaborate with your fellow students on homework assignments (but not on the take-home midterm or final exams). Collaboration may involve discussion and problem solving, but not writing. That is, you may discuss the problems together, but you must not write up the same document.

*Examinations:* There will be two take-home exams, which are meant to assess your comprehension of the material that you've come in contact with throughout the semester. The midterm exam will open on Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> after class and will be due by the end of the day (11:59pm) on Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Midterm review will take place prior to the exam in both the lecture and discussion sections and, while the midterm is able to be taken anytime between October 19-23, you will be allotted a full class period on October 21<sup>st</sup> to complete the exam.

The final exam will open on December 12<sup>th</sup> and will be due at the end of the regularly scheduled TBD exam time for this course (between December 15<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>). Final exam review will take place prior to the exam in both the lecture and discussion section.

*Final project:* Students enrolled in LX 501/601 must complete a final project. This year, you will take on the role of a descriptive linguist and write an [Illustration of the IPA](#) for a language that does not yet have a published illustration. Working with a native speaker of this language, and without consulting existing sources, you will create an original description of the sound pattern of the language you have chosen. Students **must** plan to meet with Professor Hutchinson during weeks 6 or 7 (office hours or scheduled appointment) and submit an initial project proposal in class on October 28. An early start is highly recommended and students are strongly advised to meet with Professor Hutchinson and/or the course teaching fellow

periodically throughout the semester to discuss project progress. This final project is obligatory for those enrolled in LX501/601 and optional for LX301. See me if you are interested.

### **Late work**

All work must be turned in on the day that it is due. Requests to turn in assignments through email must be approved by the professor. Late homework assignments will be accepted for half-credit up to two weeks after its original due date (not including homework assignment #9, which must be submitted by December 21<sup>st</sup> for half credit).

Makeup exams will only be given if the student has an excusable reason and permission from the professor (this does not include vacation/travel arrangements). The final paper must be submitted by the due date unless otherwise arranged by the instructor (no partial credit will be given).

### **Grading standards**

95-100	A	78-79.99	C+
90-94.99	A-	73-77.99	C
88-89.99	B+	70-72.99	C-
83-87.99	B	60-69.99	D
80-82.99	B-	<60	F

### **Communication**

All class announcements will be communicated via Slack (primarily) or Top Hat (secondarily). You are responsible for making sure that you are able to receive messages from both of these platforms. In addition, you are welcome and encouraged to visit our office hours and may make an appointment outside of the designated office hour times if they are not compatible with your schedule.

Please plan your communications carefully. We will not reply to messages or emails about any assignment after 5pm on the day that assignment is due. In general, we only plan to check Slack and email during 9-5 working hours. Please post to general forums so that if we cannot answer your query immediately, perhaps others can.

### **Academic Integrity and Support**

You are responsible for understanding and complying with the BU Academic Conduct Code in this course (to review the Academic Conduct Code, please see <http://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/academic-conduct-code/>).

Graduate students, take note of the GRS Academic Conduct Code:

<https://www.bu.edu/cas/current-students/ma-andms-students/academic-policies-and-conduct-code/>. It is assumed, unless you indicate otherwise, that your work in this course is your own.

**Work found to be the product of academic dishonesty can receive no credit, and such misconduct must be reported to the university.** If you are experiencing difficulties in keeping up with the academic demands of this course, please consider contacting your academic

advisor (or CAS's Office of Academic Advising: 100 Bay State Rd., Room 401, casadv@bu.edu, 617-353-2400)

**Disclaimer**

This syllabus and course schedule are subject to change. All changes will automatically be updated on Top Hat and will be communicated via Slack and/or in class.

### Course schedule

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic(s)</b>	<b>Assignments</b> (due <i>before class</i> unless otherwise noted)
<b>Week 1</b>	Sept 7	-Introduction to the course	
	Sept 9	-Introduction to the study of speech	<b>Read</b> L&J Chapter 1
<b>Week 2</b>	Sept 12	-Articulatory and acoustic properties of speech	<b>Read</b> L&J Chapter 2
	Sept 14	-Phonetic transcription	
	Sept 16	-Introduction to phonology	<b>Read</b> L&J Chapter 3
<b>Week 3</b>	Sept 19	-The phonetics of English consonants	
	Sept 21		<b>Read</b> L&J Chapter 4
	Sept 23	-The phonetics of English vowels	<b>Submit</b> Assignment 1 (by 11:59pm)
<b>Week 4</b>	Sept 26	-Consonants across the world	<b>Read</b> L&J Chapters 6-7
	Sept 28		
	Sept 30		<b>Submit</b> Assignment 2 (by 11:59pm)
<b>Week 5</b>	Oct 3	-Acoustic phonetics	<b>Read</b> L&J Chapter 8
	Oct 5		
	Oct 7		<b>Submit</b> Assignment 3 (by 11:59pm)
<b>Week 6</b>	Oct 11 (BU Monday)	-Vowels across the world	<b>Read</b> L&J Chapter 9
	Oct 12		
	Oct 14		
<b>Week 7</b>	Oct 17	-Catch up (if needed)	

	Oct 19	-Midterm exam review	<b>Submit</b> Assignment 4 (by 11:59pm) <b>Midterm will open after class</b> (10:30am)
	Oct 21	<b>-No formal class</b> (reserved for midterm time)	
	<b>Submit</b> Midterm on Top Hat by 11:59pm on Sunday October 23		
<b>Week 8</b>	Oct 24	-Prosody and suprasegmental features	<b>Read</b> L&J Chapters 5 & 10
	Oct 26		
	Oct 28		<b>Submit</b> final project proposal (in class)
<b>Week 9</b>	Oct 31	-Basic audition and speech perception	<b>Read</b> Johnson Chapters 4 and 5
	Nov 2		
	Nov 4		<b>Submit</b> Assignment 5 (by 11:59pm)
<b>Week 10</b>	Nov 7	-Phonemic analysis	<b>Read</b> Hayes Chapter 2
	Nov 9		
	Nov 11		<b>Submit</b> Assignment 6 (by 11:59pm)
<b>Week 11</b>	Nov 14	-Distinctive features	<b>Read</b> Hayes Chapter 4
	Nov 16		
	Nov 18		<b>Submit</b> Assignment 7 (by 11:59pm)
<b>Week 12</b>	Nov 21	<b>No class</b> (Wellness day)	
	Nov 23	<b>No class</b> (Fall recess)	
	Nov 25		
<b>Week 13</b>	Nov 28	-Acquisition of L1 speech sounds	<b>Read</b> TBD
	Nov 30	-Acquisition of L2 speech sounds	<b>Read</b> TBD
	Dec 2		<b>Submit</b> Assignment 8 (by 11:59pm)
<b>Week 14</b>	Dec 5	-Sociophonetics	<b>Read</b> TBD

	Dec 7		
	Dec 9	-Course wrap-up -Final exam review	
<b>Week 15</b>	Dec 12	<b>No class</b>	<b>Submit</b> Assignment 9 (by 11:59pm)
	Dec 14		
	Dec 16		
<b>Finals week</b>		<b>Submit</b> Final exam (by Monday, December 19th) <b>Submit</b> Final project (by Wednesday, December 21st)	