

University of Florida at Gainesville  
Department of Linguistics  
4131 Turlington Hall

**LIN 3201**  
**Sounds of Human Language**

T 5-6th period (11:45-1:40) MAT 0107  
R 6<sup>th</sup> periods (12:50: 1:40) MAT 0107

**Professor: Ratree Wayland** Turlington 4131E  
E-mail: [ratree@ufl.edu](mailto:ratree@ufl.edu) Phone: (352) 294-7450  
Office Hours: T R (10:40-11:30), and by appointment

**Teaching Assistant:** Tristan Czarnecki-Verner  
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Office Hours: TBA

**Overview:**

Humans use a wide variety of sounds in producing language. This course enables the students to recognize the sounds of human languages, to understand how they are made, and to identify the physical properties that correspond to them. We study the patterning and function of sounds in languages of the world, doing in-class research on an unfamiliar language to apply the methods of analyzing a language's sound system.

**Prerequisite:** LIN 3010 (Introduction to Linguistics)

**Objectives:** On completion of this course, students should be able to:

- accurately transcribe speech from an unfamiliar language or dialect
- describe the articulatory processes involved in producing speech sounds
- perform a phonemic analysis on phonetic data
- recognize and label common phonological processes
- appreciate similarities among phonetic/phonological systems of languages

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>% of course grade</b>
Perception Exercises	8%
Attendance & Classroom Participation	10%
Drill sessions	10%
Home work (5)	20%
Quizzes (5)	20%
Fieldwork Project (1)	20%
Production Quiz (1)	6%
Perception Quiz (1)	6%

## Grading Scale

93.7–100% = A	90-93.6% = A-	86.7-89.9% = B+
83.7-86.6% = B	80.0-83.6% = B-	76.7-79.9% = C+
73.7-76.6% = C	70.0-73.6% = C-	66.7-69.9% = D+
63.7-66.6% = D	60.0-63.6% = D-	Below 60% = E

Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points can be found here. <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>.

**Late Policy:** No late transcriptions, homework, or quizzes unless you receive permission before the due date. Let us know as soon as you realize you will be unable to meet a deadline. Assignments are collected at the beginning of class on the date they are due.

### Details of Assessments

- **Perception Exercises (8%):** Due on Tuesdays. The assignments can be found in your course packet. After recording your answers while listening to the recordings for each exercise, compare your answers to the answer given and note any problems.
- **Attendance & Classroom Participation (10%):** In most classes, as time permits, 15-20 min will be spent on exercises given. They will either be individual or group oriented. Your attendance and participation in these exercises contributes 10% to your final grade. Therefore, regular class attendance is crucial to earning these 10%.

# of Missed Classes	Percentage earned
1	10%
2	9%
3	8%
4	7%
5	6%
6	5%
7	4%
8	3%
9	2%
10	1%
11	0%

- **Drill Sessions (10%):** Tristan will meet with small groups of students (5-6) each week for practice on the sounds covered in class; each drill session will be approximately 25 minutes and will take place in the Linguistics Conference Room (Room 4104) inside Turlington Hall. Drill sessions start week 3 (January 20th). You are required to attend one session per week; you are allowed to miss one session for the entire semester, but each additional absence will cost you 1% out of the 10% of your drill session grade. You may make up for a missed session by attending a different session during the same week if space permitted. These sessions will reinforce your ability to perceive and to produce the different sounds, and attendance will not only be reflected in your drill session grade, but also in your success in the perception and production quizzes and the final field work project. Because of the extra time commitment, formal class on Tuesdays will end 15-20 minutes early; we will cover no new material after that point. However, you are welcome to stay to ask questions or do practice quizzes or drills.

# of Missed Sessions	Percentage earned
1	10%
2	9%
3	8%
4	7%
5	6%
6	5%
7	4%
8	3%
9	2%
10	1%
11	0%

- **Homework (20%):** Homework assignments are due on Tuesdays, and each will be worth 4% of your grade. They will ask you to use the terms, methods, or information presented in class. You are free to work with fellow students on these assignments, but you should write up the answers on your own.
- **Quizzes (20%):** Quizzes take place in class on Thursdays, and each will be worth 4% of your grade. Each will involve transcription of sounds produced by myself followed by questions on the material covered during the preceding weeks. Each quiz will take around 30 minutes.
- **Fieldwork Project (20%):** In the last or one before last week of class, a native speaker of a language which no one in the class has studied will join us so that you can practice “field methods” on the language. You will interact with the speaker to determine the sound system (phones and phonemes) of his/her language, and you will write up the results for 4/25.
- **Production Quiz (6%):** Administered during the 4/2 week. Tristan will meet with each of you for 5 minutes and ask you to produce various sounds by reading from the IPA transcription.
- **Perception Quiz (6%):** Administered on the week of 4/9. You will be asked to identify or discriminate sounds I produce. This quiz will take approximately 10-15 minutes.

### Reading

#### Required:

Ratree Wayland. (2003). *Sounds of Human Language Manual* (Rat)

#### Recommended:

Catford, J.C. (1988). *A Practical Introduction to Phonetics*. (Cat)

Wayland, R. (2018). *Phonetics: A Practical Introduction* (Way)

### Course Outline

Lectures will follow the outline below. This outline is tentative and may be updated as we go.

Week	Date	Reading Assignment	Topic	Perception Exercises	HW & Quiz

1	Jan 7	Cat Ch. 1	Introduction		
	Jan 9	Rat pp. 1-9	Anatomy		
2	Jan 14	Cat Ch. 2, Way Ch.2	Airstream		
	Jan 16	Rat pp. 9-15, Way Ch.2	Airstream/voicing		
3	Jan 21	Rat pp.15-18	Articulation Place	1.Click/ejectives 2.Implosive/Ejectives	Drill sessions start
	Jan 23	Way, Ch. 1	Articulation Place		HW 1
4	Jan 28	Cat Ch. 4, Way, Ch.1	Articulation Manner	1.Hindi retroflex/dental 2.Korean plosives 3. Thai plosives	
	Jan 30	Rat pp.18-22	Manner		Quiz 1
5	Feb 4	Cat Ch. 5, Way, Ch. 2	vowels		HW2
	Feb 6	Rat pp.22-29			
6	Feb 11	Cat Ch. 6, Way, Ch.3		1. high vowels 2. low vowels	
	Feb 13	Rat 30-31	prosody		Quiz 2
7.	Feb 18	Cat Ch. 7, Way, Ch.3		1. Intonation 2. Stress 3.Mandarin tones	HW3
	Feb 20	Rat 31-34	prosody		
8.	Feb 25	Rat Ch. 5, Way, Ch. 3, 4	Speech transcription		
	Feb 27				Quiz3
9.	Mar 4	Spring Break	NO CLASS!		
	Mar 6				

10.	Mar 11	Cat Ch. 8, Way, Ch.5	phonemics		
	Mar 13				
11.	Mar 18	Cat Ch. 9, Way, Ch. 5	morphophonemics		HW4
	Mar 20	Rat 40-53			
12.	Mar 25	Handout	Field Methods		
	Mar 27				Quiz 4
13.	Apr 1		Field Methods	Production test	HW 5
	Apr 3	Handout			
14.	Apr 8		Field Methods	Perception test	
	Apr 10				Quiz 5
15.	Apr 15	Handouts	Field methods		
	Apr 17				
16.	Apr 22		Field method review		

**Accommodations for students with disabilities** Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drp/>. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

**Academic honesty** It is expected that all students will adhere to the University of Florida Honor Code and the academic honesty guidelines available at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/honestybrochure.php>.

**Feedback** Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.