

## LING330 Phonetics

Winter 2025  
MAASS 217  
MWF 8:35-9:25

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Instructor office hours: Tuesdays 11:30 – 12:30 (in person) or by appointment (in person or zoom)

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### Overview:

In this course we will learn how to identify and transcribe speech sounds of the world's languages. We will explore how sounds are produced in the mouth. Finally, we will perform basic acoustic analysis using state of the art software.

### *Prerequisites:*

LING201 or permission of the instructor

### Learning Outcomes:

- Know terminology used in the phonetic description of speech
- Interpret transcriptions in the International Phonetic Alphabet
- Understand the articulatory and acoustic properties of speech sounds
- Analyze phonetic data from a variety of languages
- Generate and interpret waveforms and spectrograms

### Resources:

#### *Textbook:*

The textbook for this course is *A Course in Phonetics* by Peter Ladefoged & Keith Johnson (7th edition, 2015, Cengage, ISBN-13: 978-1285463407).

**NOTE: The bookstore was not able to order any new copies. You should be able to find used copies (it has been used for this course for several years). Two copies are available on reserve at the library. Older versions/online copies are acceptable.**

#### *Supplemental materials:*

<https://corpus.linguistics.berkeley.edu/acip/>

*Praat:*

<http://www.fon.hum.uva.nl/praat/>

*Tutoring:*

If you need additional help with course material, we encourage you to contact SLUM (slum.linguistics@mail.mcgill.ca), the undergraduate linguistics association. Tutors can help with the content of the course but do not help directly with assignments. Make sure that your tutor knows what is being covered in the course this term since the content can change from term to term.

*Email:*

Before sending an email, please make sure that your question cannot be answered by checking the syllabus or asking a friend. Issues related to course content should be generally brought to office hours. For other issues, your first point of contact should be your TA.

Make sure that your emails are sent from your McGill email address with 'LING 330' in the subject line. We will endeavor to respond to your email within two business days.

## Course Components:

*Homework (8%):*

You will be required to submit the completed homework to the TA at the beginning of conferences section on weeks where no lab is due. The homework submission serves as evidence of conference attendance and engagement. You may only submit the homework in person to your TA. Online submissions will not be accepted. Because the answers to the homework will be discussed in the conference, **no late submissions will be accepted**. It is your responsibility to make sure your homework is submitted correctly.

Each homework submission is worth 1% of the final grade. Homework submissions are graded for completion only and are intended for students to get some extra practice and course credit for low stakes. Collaboration with peers for the homework assignments is permitted, but each student must submit their own copy.

*Labs (30%):*

Labs may be done individually or in groups of two. A group should hand in a single lab report with the two group members' names and student numbers on it. All group members will receive the same grade for the lab.

Labs are to be submitted on Fridays by 11:59pm. In case of a late submission, 10% of the lab grade will be subtracted for each late day. **If you anticipate a delay preventing you from submitting on time, extensions to waive the late penalty should be made with the instructor ahead of time.** Without prior arrangement or official documentation, no extensions will be granted.

*Quizzes (32%):*

There will be 8 quizzes in this course intended to test knowledge and understanding of the material. Each quiz is worth 4% of the final grade. Quizzes are open-book and timed. Quizzes will take place on the day after their associated lecture, i.e. Thursdays. The quiz window will open at midnight and close on midnight of the following day (EST). You may start the quiz anytime during that window. Once started, you will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. **Collaboration with other students during quizzes is strictly prohibited.**

Late quiz submissions will not be accepted. In case you are unable to write a quiz, contact the instructor in advance to make the appropriate arrangements. Quizzes missed without prior arrangement will be excused only with official documentation.

*Final Exam (30%):*

The final exam will be held during the exam period: April 12<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The exam is administered by the Exam Office and its date and time will be revealed at a later date. According to Senate regulations, instructors are not permitted to make special arrangements for final exams.

Evaluation:

Your overall course grade is calculated as follows:

<i>component</i>	<i>weight</i>
Homework (x8)	8%
Quizzes (x8)	32%
Labs (x3)	30%
Final Exam	30%

Policies and Regulations:*Academic Integrity:*

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the code of student conduct and disciplinary procedures (see <https://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest> for more information).

*Right to submit in French:*

In accord with McGill University's Charter of Student Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French written work that is to be graded. This does not apply to courses in which acquiring proficiency in a language is one of the objectives.

*Copyright:*

© Instructor-generated course materials (e.g., slides, handouts, conference materials, assignments, quizzes, exam questions, answer keys, etc.) are protected by law and may not be copied or distributed in any form or in any medium without explicit permission of the instructor. Note that infringements of copyright can be subject to follow up by the University under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.

Course Schedule:

<i>week</i>	<i>day</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>session</i>	<i>topic</i>	<i>read</i>	<i>submit</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>M</b>	2024-01-06	lecture 1	Introduction		
	<b>W</b>	2024-01-08	lecture 2	Articulation & Acoustics I	1	
	<b>F</b>	2024-01-10	lecture 3	Articulation & Acoustics II	1	
<b>2</b>	<b>M</b>	2024-01-13	lecture 4	Articulation & Acoustics III	1	
	<b>W</b>	2024-01-15	lecture 5	Phonology & Phonetic Transcription I	2	
	<b>F</b>	2024-01-17	lecture 6	Phonology & Phonetic Transcription II	2	Q1
<b>3</b>	<b>M</b>	2024-01-20	lecture 7	English Consonants I	3	
	<b>W</b>	2024-01-22	lecture 8	English Consonants II	3	
	<b>F</b>	2024-01-24	conference 1	Praat		HW1
<b>4</b>	<b>M</b>	2024-01-27	lecture 9	English Vowels I	4	
	<b>W</b>	2024-01-29	lecture 10	English Vowels II	4	Q2
	<b>F</b>	2024-01-31	conference 2	Transcription I		HW2
<b>5</b>	<b>M</b>	2024-02-03	lecture 11	English Utterances I	5	
	<b>W</b>	2024-02-05	lecture 12	English Utterances II	5	
	<b>F</b>	2024-02-07	conference 3	Transcription II		HW3
<b>6</b>	<b>M</b>	2024-02-10	lecture 13	Statistical Methods	TBA	
	<b>W</b>	2024-02-12	lecture 14	Airstream Mechanics I	6	Q3
	<b>F</b>	2024-02-14	conference 4	Duration		HW4
<b>7</b>	<b>M</b>	2024-02-17	lecture 15	Airstream Mechanics II	6	
	<b>W</b>	2024-02-19	lecture 16	Airstream Mechanics III	6	
	<b>F</b>	2024-02-21	conference 5	Variation		LAB1
<b>8</b>	<b>M</b>	2024-02-24	lecture 17	Non-English Consonants I	7	
	<b>W</b>	2024-02-26	lecture 18	Non-English Consonants II	7	Q4
	<b>F</b>	2024-02-28	conference 6	Ejectives		HW5
<b>SPRING BREAK</b>						
<b>9</b>	<b>M</b>	2024-03-10	lecture 19	Acoustic Phonetics I	8	
	<b>W</b>	2024-03-12	lecture 20	Acoustic Phonetics II	8	Q5
	<b>F</b>	2024-03-14	conference 7	Waves		HW6
<b>10</b>	<b>M</b>	2024-03-17	lecture 21	Acoustic Phonetics III	8	
	<b>W</b>	2024-03-19	lecture 22	Acoustic Phonetics IV	8	
	<b>F</b>	2024-03-21	conference 8	VOT		HW7
<b>11</b>	<b>M</b>	2024-03-24	lecture 23	Non-English Vowels I	9	
	<b>W</b>	2024-03-26	lecture 24	Non-English Vowels II	9	Q6
	<b>F</b>	2024-03-28	conference 9	Spectrogram Reading		LAB2
<b>12</b>	<b>M</b>	2024-03-31	lecture 25	Suprasegmentals I	10	
	<b>W</b>	2024-04-02	lecture 26	Suprasegmentals II	10	Q7
	<b>F</b>	2024-04-04	conference 10	Pairwise Variability Index		HW8
<b>13</b>	<b>M</b>	2024-04-07	lecture 27	Sign Languages	TBA	
	<b>W</b>	2024-04-09	lecture 28	Final Review		Q8
	<b>F</b>	2024-04-11	conference 11	Sign Language Parameters		LAB3