

# Phonetics

ENGL 228

PROFESSOR: Dr. Niamh Kelly /ni:v 'k<sup>h</sup>ɛli/

OFFICE: XXX

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OFFICE HOURS: M W 2.00-3.30 or by appt.

*Fall 2016; MWF 11.00-11.50*

This course is an introduction to the sounds of language. Students will learn to describe speech sounds in three domains: articulatory (how speech sounds are produced in the vocal tract), acoustic (physical features of sounds), and perceptual (how listeners process speech). We will explore how sounds differ across varieties of English and across the world's languages. We will learn how children acquire the sound system of their language and we will practise phonetic transcription and measuring of the speech signal.

## Course Requirements

### Course Readings:

Required text: Ladefoged & Johnson. *A Course in Phonetics*. 6th ed.

I will notify you by email if I post handouts that need to be downloaded for class.

### Class attendance and participation policy:

- Please arrive on time. No texting or phones ringing. Laptops are only to be used for taking notes or looking at class material no emailing, chatting, working on homework, etc.
- Please be respectful and attentive.
- Those who miss nine classes or more, no matter what the reason, will be dropped automatically from the course.
- Attendance is mandatory. If you are ill, please notify me of your absence before class, and document your absence (e.g., doctor's note).

### Assignments and Evaluation:

The grade for the course is made up as follows:

- Homework assignments: (5x5%) 25%
- Exams: (2x30%) 60%
- In-class labs: (3x5%) 15%

**Homework:** There will be five homework assignments in total, based on the materials in the lectures and the readings. Homework is due at the beginning of class on the relevant date. Only paper copies of homework are accepted.

**Exams:** There will be two exams. The first will be in week 6 and will examine all the material covered up to that point. The second will be in week 15 and will focus on what was covered since the first exam, however, this does not mean that it will not indirectly reference this material. No make-up exams will be given unless there is a reason such as illness, or death in the family, etc. You must provide documentation for any reason in order to arrange for a make-up.

**In-class labs:** We will work on three lab assignments in class. These will mostly be acoustic analyses of speech recordings. The labs will provide you with hands-on experience with analyzing speech data. You will hand in your lab reports on the specified due date. If you miss the lab class, you may not do it as a homework unless you have documentation of a reason for absence.

### Grading policy:

- A 90-100%
- B 80-89%
- C 70-79%
- D 60-69%
- F 0-59%

## Academic Integrity

All written work is to be done individually. Collaboration is not allowed on written work. You will be able to work together on some lab projects, but I will let you know when that is acceptable. In such cases, you must identify on the assignment the names of the people you worked with.

Should copying occur, both the student who copied and the student who gave the material will receive a zero for the assignment. Penalty for violation of this code can also be extended to include failure of the course and referral to the Student Affairs Committee for further disciplinary action.

## Documented Disability Statement

AUB strives to make learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic

barriers due to a disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please inform me immediately so that we can privately discuss options. In order to help establish reasonable accommodations and facilitate a smooth accommodations process, you are encouraged to contact the Accessible Education Office: [accessibility@aub.edu.lb](mailto:accessibility@aub.edu.lb); +961-1-350000, x3246; West Hall, 314.

### **Final Note**

The following schedule is tentative. If some topics take longer than planned, the schedule will be adjusted and I

will notify you in advance.

Please let me know if there is any issue that is preventing you from performing satisfactorily in this class - issues with other students, difficulty seeing the presentations, problems downloading materials, etc.

I look forward to working with you this semester!

TABLE I: *Tentative course schedule*

Week	Date	Topic	Readings	Work due
1	8.29	Introduction; Speech Production	Cpt 1	
2	9.5	Acoustics	Cpt 8	
3	9.12	Vowels	Cpt 4, 9	HW 1 (Mon.)
4	9.19	Consonants	Cpt 3, 7	HW 2 (Mon.)
5	9.26	In-class lab 1; Phonetic transcription	Cpt 2	Lab 1 write-up (Mon.)
6	10.3	Exam 1; Speaker Variation		HW 3 (Mon.)
7	10.10	Sounds around the world	Reading provided	
8	10.17	Suprasegmentals; In-class lab 2	Cpt 5, 10	
9	10.24	Phonology		Lab 2 write-up (Mon.)
10	10.31	In-class lab 3; Speech perception	Reading provided	HW 4 (Mon.)
11	11.7	Speech perception	Reading provided	Lab 3 write-up (Mon.)
12	11.14	Language Acquisition	Reading provided	
13	11.21	Sociophonetics	Reading provided	
14	11.28	Review		HW 5 (Mon.)
15	12.5	Exam 2		