

## LING71400: Phonology II Fall 2020 SYLLABUS

Instructor: Professor Juliette Blevins  
Lectures: Tuesday, 2-4 pm, GC, room XXX  
Office Hours: Wed. 2-5, 7400.09, and by appointment  
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Course Description: This course continues the study of sound patterns presented in Phonology I, with an emphasis on explanation. Why do certain sound patterns recur again and again in the world's languages while others are extremely rare? What sound patterns are best explained in terms of articulatory properties of speech, and which are best viewed as a consequence of aspects of human speech perception? What phonological universals have been proposed and what is their current status? What sound patterns can be analyzed as emergent properties of linguistic systems? How do various theories explain sound patterns?

Requirements and grading: This is a graduate course with a pre-requisite of Phonology I. Students are expected to attend weekly lectures, to do required readings and assignments, and to participate in class discussion. In addition to required readings, assignments and regular attendance, registered students are expected to:

- Meet with me on or before week 7 (10/20) to discuss a short paper topic.
- Deliver a 15-20 minute in-class presentation on your paper topic (12/01, 12/08)
- Hand in a short paper, 5-10 pages, due on 12/14
- Write a one hour final in-class exam on 12/08

Attendance and participation will count as 10% of final grade. Each assignment will count as 10% (x3 = 30%). The short paper (including oral presentation) will count as 30%, and the final exam will count as 30%.

Course learning goals: The learning goals of this course contribute to the Graduate Center Institutional Learning Goals and the Linguistics Program Learning Goals. In short:

*Students in this course will gain specialized knowledge of phonology, and will develop oral and written communication skills appropriate to the sub-discipline of phonology, especially as practiced in the last several decades.*

General policies: Classroom behavior should be courteous and respectful. Cell phones and other hand-held devices should be turned off, and laptops should not be used for anything other than course-related work. Since attendance and participation contribute to assessment, I ask that you contact me with an explanation for any absence. Incompletes are generally *not available*, and will be considered only for serious health conditions or emergencies that result in unavoidable long-term absences.

If you have a disability or condition that requires special accommodations, please see me as soon as possible to discuss any specific needs. Please also contact the Office of Student Affairs, Room 7301, (212) 817-7400, [disabilityservices@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@gc.cuny.edu). Finally, academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. While group work is encouraged, you are expected to turn in your own work, and to properly acknowledge the contributions of others.

Course Outline and Schedule. Apart from week 1, readings should be done before each class meeting. Chapters listed as, e.g. CH 1, are from *Evolutionary Phonology*.

<u>Date</u>	<u>wk</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
09/01	1	What is Evolutionary Phonology?	CH 1; Blevins (2015)	
09/08	2	Explanation in phonology	CH 2, CH 3; Kager (1999) Ch 1	
09/15	3	Theories and subtheories: What is markedness?	Hayes & Steriade (2004) Kager (1999) Ch 2-3	#1 out
09/22	4	Laryngeal sound patterns: theory & explanation	CH 4 Lombardi (2001)	#1 due
09/29	[NO CLASS: GC CLASSES FOLLOW MONDAY SCHEDULE]			
10/06	5	More on laryngeal sound patterns: A theory of devoicing	Blevins (2006a,b) Kiparsky (2006)	#2 out
10/13	6	Place of articulation contrasts: Distribution and alternations	CH 5, Steriade (2001)	#2 due
10/20	7	Place contrasts (cont.) Other common sound patterns	CH 6; Myers 1997	#3 out
10/27	8	Consonant epenthesis	DeLacy (2006); Blevins (2008)	#3 due
11/03	9	Phonology of geminates	CH 7; Kawahara (2006)	
11/10	10	Rare sound patterns; exceptions to regularity	CH 8; Blevins (2004b)	
11/17	11	Synchronic phonology and productivity	Ch 9; Zuraw (2007)	
11/24	12	Synchronic phonology & the role of analogy	Ch 10; Blevins & Blevins (2009) Ernestus & Baayen (2003)	
12/01	13	Aquisition of phonology/presentations		
12/08	14	Presentations + <i>In-class final exam</i> (1 hour)		
12/14		Short paper due; hard copy in my office or mailbox by 5pm.		

Readings: Readings will be distributed electronically. A central reading is Blevins (2004a) *Evolutionary Phonology*. We will also read other EP work, and research that addresses similar problems from different perspectives.

- Blevins, J. 2004a. *Evolutionary Phonology: The emergence of sound patterns*. Cambridge: CUP.
- Blevins, J. 2004b. A Reconsideration of Yokuts vowels. *International Journal of American Linguistics* 70: 33-51.
- Blevins, J. 2006a. A Theoretical Synopsis of Evolutionary Phonology, *Theoretical Linguistics* 32, 117-66.
- Blevins, J. 2006b. Reply to commentaries, *Theoretical Linguistics* 32, 245-56.
- Blevins, J. 2008. Consonant epenthesis: natural and unnatural histories. In Jeff Good (ed.), *Language universals and language change*. Oxford: OUP. 79-107.
- Blevins, J. 2015. Evolutionary Phonology: A holistic approach to sound change typology. In, P. Honeybone and J. Salmons (eds.), *Handbook of Historical Phonology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 485-500.
- Blevins, J. & J. 2009. Introduction: Analogy in Grammar. In J. P. Blevins & J. Blevins (editors). 2009. *Analogy in grammar: Form and Acquisition*. Oxford: OUP.
- Ernestus, Mirjam & R. Harald Baayen. 2003. Predicting the unpredictable: Interpreting neutralized segments in Dutch. *Language* 79, 5-38
- DeLacy, Paul. 2006. *Markedness: Reduction and preservation in phonology*. Cambridge: CUP. (Chapter 3 only)
- Hayes, Bruce and Donca Steriade. 2004. Introduction: the phonetic bases of phonological markedness in Hayes, Kirchner, & Steriade (eds.), *Phonetically Based Phonology*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Kawahara, Shigeto. 2006. Mimetic gemination in Japanese: A challenge for Evolutionary Phonology. *Theoretical Linguistics* 32: 411-424.
- Lombardi, Linda. 2001. Why place and voice are different. In L Lombardi, ed., *Segmental phonology in Optimality Theory: Constraints and Representations*, Cambridge University Press, 2001.
- Kager, R. 1999. *Optimality Theory*. Cambridge University Press.
- Kiparsky, Paul. 2006. The amphichronic problem vs. Evolutionary Phonology. *Theoretical Linguistics* 32: 217-236.
- McCarthy, John J. 2007. "What is Optimality Theory?". Linguistics Department Faculty Publication Series. Paper 93. [http://scholarworks.umass.edu/linguist\\_faculty\\_pubs/93](http://scholarworks.umass.edu/linguist_faculty_pubs/93)
- Myers, Scott. 1997. OCP effects in Optimality Theory *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory* 15: 847-892
- Steriade, Donca. 2001. Directional asymmetries in place assimilation: a perceptual account. In *The Role of Speech Perception in Phonology*, E. Hume & K. Johnson (eds.), Academic Press.
- Zuraw, Kie. 2007. The role of phonetic knowledge in phonological patterning: Corpus and survey evidence from Tagalog infixation. *Language* 83.2.

Hayes (2009) *Introductory Phonology* and Kenstowicz (1994) *Phonology in Generative Grammar* (Blackwell), and Kenstowicz & Kisseberth (1979) *Generative Phonology* will be useful for their extensive references on the pre-OT generative phonology literature, as well as for data/problem sets, which may be the basis of your own research papers.