LINGUISTICS 380 - ACOUSTIC AND PERCEPTUAL PHONETICS

Fall 2020

I would like to start by acknowledging that I am preparing and delivering this course from the unceded territories of the Lekwungen and SENĆOŦEN speaking peoples. I am grateful to live in such a beautiful place! I would encourage you all to take a moment to find out whose territories you are currently living on, and to learn a bit about the language traditionally spoken in these territories. Maybe you can even focus on this language for your final paper for this course!

These are challenging times for all of us, and teaching and learning online in the middle of an ongoing pandemic will be a continuous adjustment for us all. Please know that I will do my very best to support you in your work. We are all in this together 😊

CLASS TIMES

LING 380 will be offered online as a hybrid course this fall, with synchronous as well as asynchronous components. Timing of synchronous meetings will be finalized at the beginning of term, in consultation with students. I anticipate having, per week:

- One full-class meeting: Tuesday 9:30-10:20am
- One small group meeting: Friday 9:30-11:20am (end time will be flexible)

Instructor: Sonya Bird
E-mail: sbird@uvic.ca
Phone: 250-721-7434
Office: Clearihue D351 (though I will likely be working from home quite a bit this term)
Office hours: TBD (Zoom)

TAs: Tess Nolan (tess.k.nolan@gmail.com) and Mona Sawan (sawan2@uwalumni.com)

ABOUT ME

I am a phonetician, and most of my own research has been in acoustic phonetics. I work primarily with Indigenous language communities in BC, in particular (right now) the Hul’q’umi’num’-speaking community here on Southern Vancouver Island. My current research focuses on supporting adult second language learners of Hul’q’umi’num’ in their pronunciation work, by documenting and analyzing the pronunciation challenges they face and exploring tools and strategies for overcoming these strategies.
COURSE DESCRIPTION

Linguistics 380 focuses on acoustic and perceptual phonetics, in other words on the acoustic properties of speech and on how we perceive and make sense of these properties, specifically (in this course) in our transcription work. In this class, you will hone your acoustic and auditory analysis skills by transcribing and analyzing speech from a variety of languages. Linguistics 380 complements Linguistics 381 (Articulatory Phonetics); together, these classes form the foundation for Linguistics 486, in which you have the chance to conduct your own original phonetic research.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Transcribe speech from familiar and unfamiliar languages using the IPA.
2. Analyze the acoustic features of speech using standard speech analysis software (Praat).
3. Classify speech sounds in terms of their acoustic properties, and identify the ways in which they differ across speakers, dialects, and languages.
4. Conduct original research on the sound system of a given language, and write up this research in the form of formal Phonetics report.

PRE-REQUISITES: Ling 200 or equivalent

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT/SOFTWARE:

1) Computer (preferably not a Chromebook – these don’t allow for joining Zoom break out rooms)
2) Decent quality headphones and microphone (for recording yourself)
3) Praat (free speech analysis software): http://www.praat.org
4) IPA fonts: http://www.langsci.ucl.ac.uk/ipa/ipafonts.html
   http://www.sil.org/computing/fonts/encore-ipa.html (recommended: SIL Doulos)

REQUIRED READING:


BRIGHTSPACE SITE: https://bright.uvic.ca/d2l/home/53273

This course has an accompanying website in Brightspace, UVic’s new Learning Management System. Brightspace will be used to post weekly class materials and discussion forums; you will also use it for submitting your coursework.

USEFUL WEBSITES

UVic multimedia IPA chart: http://web.uvic.ca/ling/data/IPAlab/IPAlab.htm
Downloadable IPA charts: http://www.langsci.ucl.ac.uk/ipa/ipachart.html
**EVALUATION:**

- Weekly discussion posts (participation) 10%
- Weekly transcription 20%
- Weekly labs 30%
- Final project (FP) drafts 30%
  - Part 1: Consonants
  - Part 2: Vowels
  - Part 3: Suprasegments
- Final project final 10%

**WEEKLY DISCUSSION POSTS (LEARNING OUTCOME 3)**

Weekly discussion forums will be used to probe understanding of key concepts in acoustic and perceptual phonetics. You are expected to contribute to these, posting questions and responses to others’ questions.

**WEEKLY TRANSCRIPTION (LEARNING OUTCOME 1)**

One of the goals of the course is for you to become comfortable with phonetic transcription. To this end, you will do transcription every week, starting with English then moving on to other (unfamiliar) languages. You will do the transcriptions in two parts: first on your own, and then in groups so you can compare and refine your transcriptions. Details about when and how to submit each part will be provided with the first transcription exercise.

**WEEKLY LABS (LEARNING OUTCOMES 2 AND 3)**

The goal of the weekly labs is twofold: 1) to allow you to use visual analysis (of spectrograms in particular) to help in your transcription work (qualitative analysis); 2) to allow you to get hands-on experience measuring the acoustic properties of speech (quantitative analysis). The labs will be coordinated with the transcriptions, so that each week you will be focusing your lab and transcription work on a single set of sounds.

**FINAL PROJECT DRAFTS (LEARNING OUTCOMES 2, 3 AND 4)**

The goal of the final project drafts (Parts 1,2,3) is to explore the acoustic properties of speech sounds (Part 1: consonants, Part 2: vowels, Part 3: suprasegmentals) in a particular language of interest, and understanding how these measurements relate to how the sounds are produced and perceived. You will be required to submit a written report for each Part (1, 2, 3) of the final project, which will be graded partly on the accuracy of your measurements and partly on your interpretation of these measurements.

**FINAL PROJECT (LEARNING OUTCOME 4)**

The goal of the final project is to allow you to pull together what you learn in the course to your own research project: an original acoustic study of some set of speech sounds, in a language of your choice. It is also an opportunity to develop your writing skills, by revising and resubmitting your work, based on my feedback of previous drafts.
GRADING

All instructors at UVic must use a standard grading system in assessing student performance – see the UVic Calendar ([http://web.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/info/regulations/grading.html](http://web.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/info/regulations/grading.html)). Final percentage scores will be rounded to the nearest whole number and assigned a grade according to the scheme provided in the Calendar.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<td>90 - 100%</td>
<td>9 (A+)</td>
<td>6 (B+)</td>
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<tr>
<td>85 - 89%</td>
<td>8 (A)</td>
<td>5 (B)</td>
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<tr>
<td>80 - 84%</td>
<td>7 (A-)</td>
<td>4 (B-)</td>
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<tr>
<td>77 - 79%</td>
<td>7 (A-)</td>
<td>4 (B-)</td>
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<tr>
<td>73 - 76%</td>
<td>5 (B)</td>
<td>3 (C+)</td>
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<tr>
<td>70 - 72%</td>
<td>4 (B-)</td>
<td>3 (C+)</td>
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<td>65 - 69%</td>
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LATE WORK: These are challenging times for all of us. Please do your best to keep up with your coursework. If this is not possible, don’t hesitate to be in touch so we figure out a plan together.

POLICY ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

The general UVic policy on Academic Integrity can be found on UVic Calendar website ([https://www.uvic.ca/current-students/home/academics/academic-integrity/index.php](https://www.uvic.ca/current-students/home/academics/academic-integrity/index.php)). In a nutshell, unless instructed otherwise, all work must be your own.

COOPERATION/COLLABORATION ON COURSE WORK

You are encouraged to consult with each other on your transcriptions, your lab work, and even your final projects; indeed, collaborating in this kind of work can be very beneficial to everyone involved. If you do consult with each other, you are required to:

- Acknowledge by name the people who have contributed to your work (this is often done in a footnote).
- Complete your write-ups on your own – that is, you may not hand in any collective write-ups, either for the lab assignments or for the final project.
- Understand the work you hand in well enough to discuss it with me, in class or one-on-one.
**LINGUISTICS 380 - TENTATIVE WEEKLY SCHEDULE AND TIMETABLE**

*Note: this is a tentative schedule, it may change as we all adapt to online course delivery.*

- **Monday**: independent reading and learning
  - Go to Brightspaces to get materials for the week
  - Submit discussion posts (based on reading) in preparation for Tuesday’s class
- **Tuesday**: whole group Zoom meeting to go over the week’s ready and discuss the tasks for the week (transcription and lab)
- **Wednesday and Thursday**: independent transcription and lab work
  - Thursday: submit transcriptions – version 1
- **Friday**: small group (Zoom break-out rooms) transcription and lab work
  - Friday: submit transcriptions – version 2 + lab report

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading/exercises</th>
<th>Group transcription/lab work</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>week 1 (Sep 9)</td>
<td>Introduction + Review from LING 200</td>
<td>L&amp;J Chapters 1-2</td>
<td>Getting to know to Praat</td>
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<td>week 2 (Sep 14)</td>
<td><em>English phonetics</em> Consonants and vowels</td>
<td>L&amp;J Chapters 3-4</td>
<td>Transcription practice: Names</td>
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<td>week 3 (Sep 21)</td>
<td><em>English phonetics</em> Words and sentences (Accents of English)</td>
<td>L&amp;J Chapter 5</td>
<td>Transcription practice: Introductions</td>
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<td>week 4 (Sep 28)</td>
<td><em>General phonetics</em> Airstream mechanisms</td>
<td>L&amp;J Chapter 6</td>
<td>Voicing contrasts</td>
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<td>week 5 (Oct 5)</td>
<td><em>General phonetics</em> Consonants</td>
<td>L&amp;J Chapter 7</td>
<td>Salish consonants</td>
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<td>week 6 (Oct 13)</td>
<td><em>General phonetics</em> Acoustic models</td>
<td>L&amp;J Chapter 8</td>
<td>FP Part 1: Preparation</td>
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<td>week 7 (Oct 19)</td>
<td><em>General phonetics</em> Vowels</td>
<td>L&amp;J Chapter 9</td>
<td>Swedish vowels</td>
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<td>week 8 (Oct 26)</td>
<td>Review + catch-up</td>
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<td>FP Part 2: Preparation</td>
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<td>week 9 (Nov 2)</td>
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**READING WEEK**

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<th>Reading/exercises</th>
<th>Group transcription/lab work</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 10 (Nov 16)</td>
<td><em>General phonetics</em> Syllables and suprasegmental features</td>
<td>L&amp;J Chapter 10</td>
<td>FP Part 2 due: Vowels</td>
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<td>Week 11 (Nov 23)</td>
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<td>Skwxwu7mesh intonation</td>
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<td>Week 12 (Nov 30)</td>
<td>Acoustic and perceptual phonetics across populations</td>
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<td>FP Part 3: Preparation</td>
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<td>Week 13 (Dec 7)</td>
<td>Recap</td>
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<td>FP Part 3 due: Suprasegmentals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 14</td>
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<td>Final paper due</td>
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