Advanced Phonological Theory (Ling 211A)
Spring 2016
TuTh 11:00am–12:30pm
Dwinelle 1303

Professor    Brian Smith
Office hours Regular office hours: Monday 11am-12pm, Wednesday 1pm–2pm
in addition to individual opt-out office hours
E-mail       bwsmith@berkeley.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers a fast-paced introduction to phonology, with a focus on cross-linguistic typology and theory development: the process by which formal phonological models are evaluated and revised in order to meet empirical or conceptual goals. The main topic is Optimality Theory (OT: Prince and Smolensky 1993/2004), the major successor to rule-based frameworks in the tradition of Chomsky and Halle (1968). We will survey the motivations for adopting OT, and become familiar with its formal architecture, its typological predictions, and some of the results it has achieved. We will conclude with a discussion of some of OT’s shortcomings and other current issues in phonology, such as opacity, variation, and weighted constraints. After this course, students will be able to converse knowledgeably about contemporary issues in phonology, understand talks at conferences, read the phonological literature, and engage in theory development and comparison.

TEXTBOOK AND HANDOUTS

There is a bCourses site where you can access the readings, class handouts, assignments, extra readings, etc.

There is an optional textbook, worth owning for your private bookshelf: Doing Optimality Theory by John J. McCarthy. All readings will be posted online, including readings from Doing OT.

Many of the readings come from Goldsmith et al.’s (2011) Handbook of Phonological Theory or De Lacy’s (2007) Handbook of Phonology. Both of these are great resources for nearly any topic in phonology. The latter is especially good for Optimality Theoretic analyses of different phonological phenomena.
**Requirements**

1. Six problem sets – about one every other week. You are encouraged to work together. E-mail solutions to Brian by the due date. Even if we fall behind schedule, I will stick to the due dates on the syllabus.

2. Weekly readings – read these carefully before class. For every required reading, you should bring written questions or comments to our class meeting (two total). Engaged discussion is part of your grade.

3. Attendance and regular participation in class discussion of problem sets and readings.

   **Paper topic:** take a pre-OT rule-based analysis or grammatical description and reanalyze the data in Optimality Theory.

5. Opt-out office hours — I’ll schedule individual office hours with each of you. These meetings will be up to 30 minutes long and occur at the same time every week. If you don’t wish to meet a particular week, let me know ahead of time. These office hours will provide you with extra opportunities to discuss the readings, homework assignments, and your research project, along with anything else you might be interested in.

Traditional wisdom: budget 8 hours/week for readings, review, and homework, for each graduate course you take. Talk to me if you’re spending more time. (10+ hours per week is probably too much for the homework and readings in this course.)

**Important dates for Spring 2018**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/26</td>
<td>Deadline for dropping a class without fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/2</td>
<td>Deadline for adding a class without fees</td>
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<td>2/16</td>
<td>Final deadline for add/drop</td>
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<td>2/19 (Mon)</td>
<td>President’s Day — no classes</td>
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<td>3/26–3/30</td>
<td>Spring recess — no classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/27</td>
<td>Last day of formal instruction</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/30–5/4</td>
<td>Reading/review/recitation week</td>
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<td>5/11</td>
<td>Spring semester ends, final paper due</td>
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We may deviate from the schedule below, and I’ll announce changes in class. The due dates for homework will not change, and you should always prepare question(s)/comment(s) for any readings assigned.

**WEEK 1: FEATURES AND PHONEMIC ANALYSIS**

**Tues 1/16:** Hayes Textbook, Chapters 11–12  
**Thurs 1/18:** Mielke (2011)


**WEEK 2: CONSPIRACIES AND THE CONCEPTUAL CRISIS**

**Tues 1/23:** Kisseberth (1970)  
**Thurs 1/25:** McCarthy (2008): Doing OT 1.1–1.2  
**HW #1** due on Thursday


**WEEK 3: THE STRUCTURE OF OT: RANKING ARGUMENTS AND LEARNING ALGORITHMS**

**Tues 1/30:** Doing OT Ch. 1  
**Thurs 2/1:** Doing OT Ch 2.1–2.8

**WEEK 4: SYLLABLES**

**Tues 2/6:** Zec (2007)  
**HW #2** due on Thursday

WEEK 5: CONTRAST AND FAITHFULNESS


WEEK 6: JUSTIFYING CONSTRAINTS

Tues 2/20: Doing OT, Chapter 4
HW #3 due Thursday


WEEK 7: STRESS, PART 1

Tues 2/27: Gordon (2011)
HW #3 due Thursday


WEEK 8: STRESS, PART 2

Tues 3/6: Smith (2008)
HW #4 due Thursday

WEEK 9: PROSODIC MORPHOLOGY, PART 1

**Tues 3/13:** McCarthy (1981)
**Thurs 3/15:** McCarthy & Prince (1999: 10–51)


WEEK 10: PROSODIC MORPHOLOGY, PART 2

**Tues 3/20:** Inkelas (2014), Chapter 4
**HW #5 due Thursday**


WEEK 11: CYCLIC EFFECTS, OUTPUT-OUTPUT FAITHFULNESS, AND LEXICAL PHONOLOGY

**Tues 4/3:** Benua (1995)
**Thurs 4/5:** Bermúdez-Otero (2016)


WEEK 12: OPACITY

**Tues 4/10:** Baković (2011)
**Thurs 4/12:** McCarthy (2002), Chapter 3
**HW #6 due Thursday**


WEEK 13: MORPHOLOGICALLY-CONDITIONED PHONOLOGY

**Tues 4/17:** Inkelas (2011)
**Thurs 4/19:** Smith (2011)


WEEK 14: VARIATION AND CONSTRAINT WEIGHTING

**Tues 4/24:** Coetzee & Pater (2011)
**Thurs 4/26:** Pater (2016)


**Final paper due on 5/11**