

LASC10088 Phonological Theory course handbook

Pavel Iosad

Welcome!

The topic of this course is the analysis of sound patterns across the world's languages. We will review the generative approach to phonology and the theoretical tools we need to analyse the phonological grammars of various languages. The course is largely data-driven: expect to be dealing with lots of data from new languages and unfamiliar types of patterns; but once you've learned how to do an analysis, they will all submit to your will.

The course assumes a familiarity with the basic phonological concepts as seen in LEL1 and LEL2A. Many of the concepts will also be familiar from LEL2D, but we will go into more depth on them (and at a slower speed!).

1 Practical information

- Who: Pavel Iosad ['jɔ:səd]
- DSB 3.08, pavel.iosad@ed.ac.uk
- Always welcome in for a chat (after about 1pm is usually easier), or email with questions and for appointments
- Classes: Tue, Wed, Fri 10:00–10:50, DHT 11.01
- Tuesday and Friday are lectures, Wednesday is a practical

2 Resources

All the relevant materials are posted on Learn, and there is a [Resource List](#) available as well. If there is anything missing or unclear, please ask.

Our main textbook is

[Odden, David. 2013. *Introducing phonology*. Cambridge: CUP. 2nd edition](#)

There are two copies on reserve in the library, but you are strongly encouraged to get a copy for yourselves. There are also some copies of the [first edition](#) and, importantly, [electronic access](#) to the first edition. The editions are *not* substantially different, but there is a difference in chapter numbering. The 2nd edition is our frame of reference, but the Resource List has links to the right chapters in the electronic first edition as well.

You may also want to consult the following two books:

- [Roca, Iggy and Wyn Johnson. 1999. *A course in phonology*. Oxford: Blackwell.](#) The book looks rather intimidating in size, but this comes at the expense of highly pedagogical explanation (it also covers more thematically than we will be able to cover in this course).

- [Kenstowicz, Michael. 1994. Phonology in generative grammar. Oxford: Blackwell.](#) This is a relatively advanced textbook which covers rather a lot of ground. You may want to consult selected chapters *after* you've worked through the week's material.

For work with features (week 7), the following book will also be handy:

- [Backley, Phillip. 2001. An introduction to Element Theory. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.](#)

There are also additional readings from the primary literature for many topics; these are linked through via the Resource List.

3 Assessment and feedback

The formal assessment for this course consists of two elements:

- A take-home exam, focused on data analysis (40%). This will be made available on the morning of Monday 27th October, with a submission deadline of noon, Thursday 30th October. There will be an opportunity to ask questions about this assignment in the Wednesday practical of that week.
- A final exam with a mix of questions and data analysis, taken in December (60%).

There will be three formative assessments throughout the semester, also focused on data analysis. These assignments are not obligatory and do not contribute to your mark, but you will receive feedback which should help you with the summative assessment. You are of course welcome to ask any other questions you might have.

You will also be expected to prepare for the weekly practical; this is not included in the formal assessment.

4 Weekly plan

Week	Topic	Obligatory reading	Optional reading	Assessment
1. Sep 15–19	Recap: what is phonology? Basic concepts: phonology, phonemes and allophones, rules	Odden, chs 1 & 2	Dresher (2011)	—
2. Sep 22–26	Feature theory: why features? Recap	Odden, ch. 3	Kenstowicz, ch. 1; Roca & Johnson, chs 1 & 3	—
3. Sep 29– Oct 3	The architecture of generative phonology: derivations, underlying representations, and rules	Odden, ch. 4	Roca & Johnson, ch. 2; Kenstowicz, ch. 2	Formative assessment
4. Oct 6–10	Interacting processes, analysis of complex data	Odden, chs 5 & 6	Kenstowicz, ch. 3; Bye (2011)	—

Week	Topic	Obligatory reading	Optional reading	Assessment
5. Oct 13–17	Typology of segmental processes	Odden, ch. 7	Rose & Walker (2011)	Formative assessment
6. Oct 20–24	Suprasegmental phonology: syllables, stress, tone	Odden, ch. 9.1 & 9.3	Roca & Johnson chs 9 & 10; Goldsmith (2011)	
7. Oct 27–31	Assignment week			Mid-term assignment
8. Nov 3–7	Approaches to features: feature geometry and privativity	Odden, ch. 9.2	Kenstowicz, ch. 9, Backley, ch. 1	—
9. Nov 10–14	Constraints in phonology: well-formedness and templatic effects	Uffmann (2011)	Kenstowicz, chs 9 & 11	Formative assessment
10. Nov 17–21	Explanation in phonology; answers to questions from students	Odden, ch. 8	Reiss (2007) ; Hyman (2011)	—

References

- Bye, Patrik. 2011. Derivations. In Nancy C. Kula, Bert Botma & Kuniya Nasukawa (eds.), *The Continuum companion to phonology*, 135–173. London: Continuum.
- Dresher, B. Elan. 2011. The phoneme. In Marc van Oostendorp, Colin J. Ewen, Elizabeth Hume & Keren Rice (eds.), *The Blackwell companion to phonology*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.
- Goldsmith, John. 2011. The syllable. In John Goldsmith, Jason Riggle & Alan Yu (eds.), *The handbook of phonological theory*, 2nd, 164–196. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Goldsmith, John, Jason Riggle & Alan Yu (eds.). 2nd. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Hyman, Larry M. 2011. Tone: is it different? In John Goldsmith, Jason Riggle & Alan Yu (eds.), *The handbook of phonological theory*, 2nd, 197–239. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Kula, Nancy C., Bert Botma & Kuniya Nasukawa (eds.). *The Continuum companion to phonology*. London: Continuum.
- Reiss, Charles. 2007. Modularity in the sound domain: implications for the purview of Universal Grammar. In Charles Reiss & Gillian Ramchand (eds.), *The Oxford handbook of linguistic interfaces*, 53–80. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Rose, Sharon & Rachel Walker. 2011. Harmony systems. In John Goldsmith, Jason Riggle & Alan Yu (eds.), *The handbook of phonological theory*, 2nd, 240–290. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Uffmann, Christian. 2011. Constraint-based phonology. In Nancy C. Kula, Bert Botma & Kuniya Nasukawa (eds.), *The Continuum companion to phonology*, 174–201. London: Continuum.