Syllabus: Phonological Theory III

**Instructor:** Bruce Hayes  
2101G Campbell Hall  
bhayes@humnet.ucla.edu  
Mailbox in 3125 Campbell

**Office Hours:** Thurs., Friday 2-3

**Classroom:** Campbell 2101K

**Prerequisite:** Linguistics 201A or consent of the instructor. I will give consent if you’ve had at least Linguistics 200A or equivalent.

**Requirements:**

- Doing the readings
- Class participation
- **Assignments:** about 5 homeworks, some of them small. The bigger assignments will be due on Mondays. 35% of grade.
- A **term paper,** on any topic in phonology, due 6/15 (Friday of finals week). 55% of grade.  
  ➢ Interested in revising/extending earlier work? Possible, but please consult with first.
- Preliminary term paper **appointment** with me, graded credit/no credit, in which we talk about your term paper project. Due by end of 5th week, 5/4, 5% of your grade. (This formal appointment is obligatory, but of course other informal appointments are possible.)
- Give a **talk with audience of one** (me), on the topic of your term paper. Please bring a handout. This should take place before the middle of Finals Week, 6/13, but ideally earlier. 5% of your grade.¹

Collaborating on homeworks is encouraged, but you have to write up your own version.

**Description:** This is the third course of the UCLA graduate sequence in phonological theory. As such it is the most open-ended, directed to helping you find research topics as well as commanding the research literature. See List of Topics at end of syllabus for what I hope to cover. Lobbying re. topics is possible.

**Talking to me:** You are encouraged to come by with questions and discussion. These can include questions on the problem sets if you’ve already made a serious attack on them first. For short questions, I am often drop-in-on-able; for longer discussions, please make an appointment. Also, you are pretty sure to find me during my office hours (Thurs, Fri. 2-3, Campbell 2101G).

**Readings and other materials:** I will give a try to making the whole course public, at [www.linguistics.ucla.edu/people/hayes/ling219](http://www.linguistics.ucla.edu/people/hayes/ling219). If there are technical difficulties and I have to use a different site, I will notify you.

¹ If there is lots of support for a mini-conference I will do one. Let me know.
Rules and regulations

- Please communicate with me if you need to hand anything in late.
- Please hand in your course work in *hard copy*, not electronically. Ok to do this if you have to be out of town.
- Kindly use 12 point font for assignments and papers.

Tentative schedule of topics

We will meet each scheduled day; note that in Week 9, Memorial Day, May 28 is a holiday and has no class.

1. **Frameworks for constraint-based phonology**
   
   - Arguments that the framework should be stochastic: variation both in outputs and lexicon
   - Basics of frameworks: Stochastic OT, Noisy Harmonic Grammar, maxent
     - Depending on demand: nuts and bolts of maxent; why it does what it does
   - Applications:
     - Phonotactics: Hayes and Wilson (2008) but also on spreadsheets, making classical analysis more rigorous
   - The theory of knobs: Coetzee and Kawahara’s work
     - Three knobs: style, rate, frequency
   - A possible case study (if data available): syntax-phonology interfacing in maxent; why letting winners be harmonically bounded might be the key.

2. **Acquisition**
   
   - Basics: every tot has two phonologies (Lise Menn, Neilson Smith)
   - Learnability properties (bad and good) of various frameworks
   - Hidden structure and why it makes things hard
     - Gaja Jarosz’s new method
   - Learning to detect words in phrases (role of phonology at stem, word, phrase levels)
     - Goldwater, Feldman, current local work
     - Relating to experimental work by Sundara and colleagues
   - The struggle to learn both words and general patterns: Zuraw, Pater/Moore-Cantwell, Zymet

3. **The role of paradigm uniformity in phonology**
   
   - Classical work by Paul Kiparsky on language change
   - The modern interpretations in Output-Output Correspondence and Stratal OT.
   - Donca Steriade’s paper on phonetic paradigm uniformity
   - Experimental work: White, Jo, Do
   - Organizing the paradigm: Albright, Steriade

---

2 Note: there will be some unavoidable redundancy here, as this material was present in the 2016 201A but not the 2017 one.
4. **Syllable weight**
   - Theme: role of phonetics in phonology
   - Quick survey of what syllable weight is for
   - Three theorists covered:
     - Matt Gordon, syllable weight as “audible”, with the right system
     - Kevin Ryan, syllable weight as both gradient/phonetic and categorical
     - Donca Steriade: kill the syllable with a combo of phonetically-based phonotactics and interval theory

5. **Generative phonetics (grammar all the way to production/from perception)**
   - An ancestor, now formalizable in maxent: the “window model” of Keating (1990)
   - Outright maxent: Lefkowitz, Braver, Flemming and Cho
   - Boersma’s bidirectional system

6. **Phonology and lexical crud**
   - Origins of lexical crud and unnatural rules in diachrony
   - Allomorphy and listed forms
     - Typological survey: work of Mary Paster
   - Morphologized phonology
     - competing frameworks