Linguistics 200A: Phonological Theory I — Fall 2008

SYLLABUS

Time	TR 9:00-10:50 AM	**Professor**	Kie Zuraw [ˈkʰaɪ ˈzɝˌɔ]
Place	Bunche 1265	**Office**	Campbell 3122A
ID number	653-009-200	**Mailbox**	In Campbell 3125
		Phone	310-710-0401
		Office hours	Thursdays, 2:00-3:50
		E-mail	kie@ucla.edu
Web page	www.linguistics.ucla.edu/people/zuraw , under 'Teaching'		

Presumed background

- distinctive features
- natural classes
- phonemes & allophones
- alternations
- underlying representations
- rules & rule ordering

Description

This is the first of two courses in the graduate phonology sequence (200A-201). This quarter we look at the relationship between constraints and processes, comparing SPE[1], OT[2], and theories in between. The focus throughout is on theory comparison: what kinds of constraint-process interactions exist, and what kind of theory can capture them?

We will also spend some time on representational issues (autosegmentalism and metrical stress theory) which are not always relevant to the theory comparison but will be needed to read the literature.

Course goals

The 200A-201 course sequence is intended to provide you with the background necessary for (i) understanding and evaluating current and past literature in phonology, and (ii) carrying out your own research in phonology. The course sequence is also an opportunity to explore your own interests (more in 201 than in 200A) and gain exposure to the views and work of UCLA faculty and students (including each other). You will also be able to understand (nearly?) all the jokes on the Facebook group LOLPhonology.

Requirements	**% of grade**
• Readings with study questions	10%
• Participation in class discussion (note that this implies attendance)	10%
• Homework assignments (about 7)	50%
• Individual project	30%

Readings

- Kenstowicz & Kisseberth's *Generative Phonology* ("K&K"), available in Ackerman Union textbook store (1979, San Diego: Academic Press)
- Various articles will be made available on CCLE page—log in to http://ccle.ucla.edu/. All other materials are on my own web page.

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[1] Chomsky, Noam and Morris Halle (1968). *The Sound Pattern of English*. New York: Harper & Row.

[2] Prince, Alan and Paul Smolensky (1993 [2002]). *Optimality Theory: Constraint interaction in generative grammar*. Technical Report CU-CS-696-93, Department of Computer Science, University of Colorado at Boulder, and Technical Report TR-2, Rutgers Center for Cognitive Science, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ. [ROA 537-0802]

A short set of study questions (to turn in) will accompany most readings. This is to keep everyone up to date, which will lead to better class discussions, and to help you focus on the key points of each reading (as well as to give me an idea of how the readings are going over).

Homework assignments

Each assignment will give you a set of data and require you to state the generalizations present in the data set and provide a detailed analysis, written up in prose form. Assignments will be posted on my web page a week before they're due.

Collaboration

Please collaborate on readings and assignments, but write up your assignments separately. Meeting with your classmates regularly to discuss course material is strongly recommended. First-years: I recommend that you set up one evening a week to meet and work on 200A and one evening a week for 200B. Others: I recommend that you join them.

Individual project

See separate document on course web page.

Course web page

The course web page will be on my own page (see above), under 'Teaching'. I'll post handouts, data files, links, and other materials there. But again, log in to http://ccle.ucla.edu/ for certain readings.

Workload

You should expect to spend on average 13 hours a week outside of class on readings and assignments for this course (including the individual project). The reading load varies from week to week, so you may want to read ahead in the slower weeks.

Explanation of grades

Senate regulations say:

> "The work of all graduate students shall be reported in terms of the following grades: A (superior achievement), B (satisfactorily demonstrated potentiality for professional achievement in the field of study), C (passed the course but did not do work indicative of potentiality for professional achievement in the field of study), F (fail) […] The grades A, B, and S [not applicable to this course] denote satisfactory progress toward a degree."

Maybe someday I'll switch to the above scale, but at least for this course, I will continue to follow the common practice, according to which grades mean the following:

A+: performance exceeds expectations [for a 1st-year graduate student in linguistics]
A: performance meets expectations
A-: performance is below expectations
B(+/-): performance is well below expectations
C(+/-): (rare) performance is seriously unsatisfactory , yet (somehow) merits a passing grade
F: fail

The same scale will be applied to all students, whether they are 1st-year graduate students in linguistics or not.

Course outline (subject to adjustment)

Week	*Date*	*Topic*	*Readings*	*Individual project*
0	Sept 25	Introduction, course overview Basics of the SPE framework	K&K ch. 1,2	
1	Sept 30	More SPE: expansion conventions	K&K ch. 3, pp. 45-62 only K&K ch. 9, pp. 331-339 only (rest of ch. 9 is good reference)	
	Oct 2	More SPE: extrinsic rule ordering	K&K ch. 5	
2	Oct 7	Why constraints? The duplication and conspiracy problems	K&K ch. 10, pp. 424-436 only Kisseberth 1970	
	Oct 9	Rule+constraint theories	Sommerstein 1974	
3	Oct 14	Classic OT	Prince & Smolensky 1993/2004 excerpt (long!)	
	Oct 16			
4	Oct 21	Process application: multiple targets, directionality, iterativity	K&K ch. 8 Anderson 1984, ch. 9	
	Oct 23			
5	Oct 28	The cycle	K&K ch. 10, pp. 407-424	bibliographic exercise due
	Oct 30	Lexical Phonology and Morphology	Kiparsky 2000	
6	Nov 4	Process interaction: opaque and transparent orderings, intrinsic ordering	Anderson 1984, ch. 10	
	Nov 6			
7	*Nov 11*	*Veteran's Day holiday—no class*		
	Nov 13	Autosegmental representations	Goldsmith 1990, ch. 1	primary vs. secondary source report due
8	Nov 18	Autosegmental representations, cont'd		
	Nov 20	Metrical stress theory: the grid	Kager 1996	
9	Nov 25	Metrical stress theory: feet	Hayes 1985, ch. 7	abstract due
	Nov 27	*Thanksgiving holiday—no class*		
10	Dec 2	Metrical stress theory: weight effects		
	Dec 4	Synthesis and prospect (I hope)		
finals week	TBD	oral presentations		
	Friday			paper due in my mailbox by 5 PM