

## Instructor



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Office: 2515 Lee Hall



Office hours: M W 10-11:30 (or by appointment)

## Course description

Students will be introduced to sound production mechanisms from an acoustic and articulatory perspective. The course will start by introducing students to the anatomy of the vocal tract, basics of articulation for sounds (consonants and vowels), and gesture coordination. Students will get an understanding of the physics of sound and acoustics, as well as understanding how sound is represented and analyzed visually. Students will be introduced to field work by carrying out research on an unknown language/variety to them. Emphasis will be put on how the native phonemic inventory may influence the acquisition of non-native phonetics.

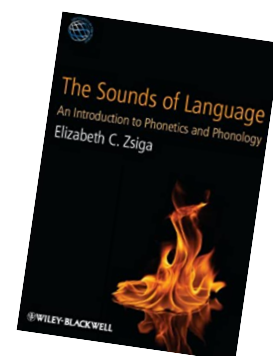
**Prerequisites:** EN/AN 4403 or consent of instructor.

## Required texts

**Textbook:** *The Sounds of Language: An Introduction to Phonetics and Phonology* (1<sup>st</sup> edition), 2013, Wiley-Blackwell. ISBN: 9781405191036.

You are welcome to use either a **hard copy** or an **electronic version** of the textbook.

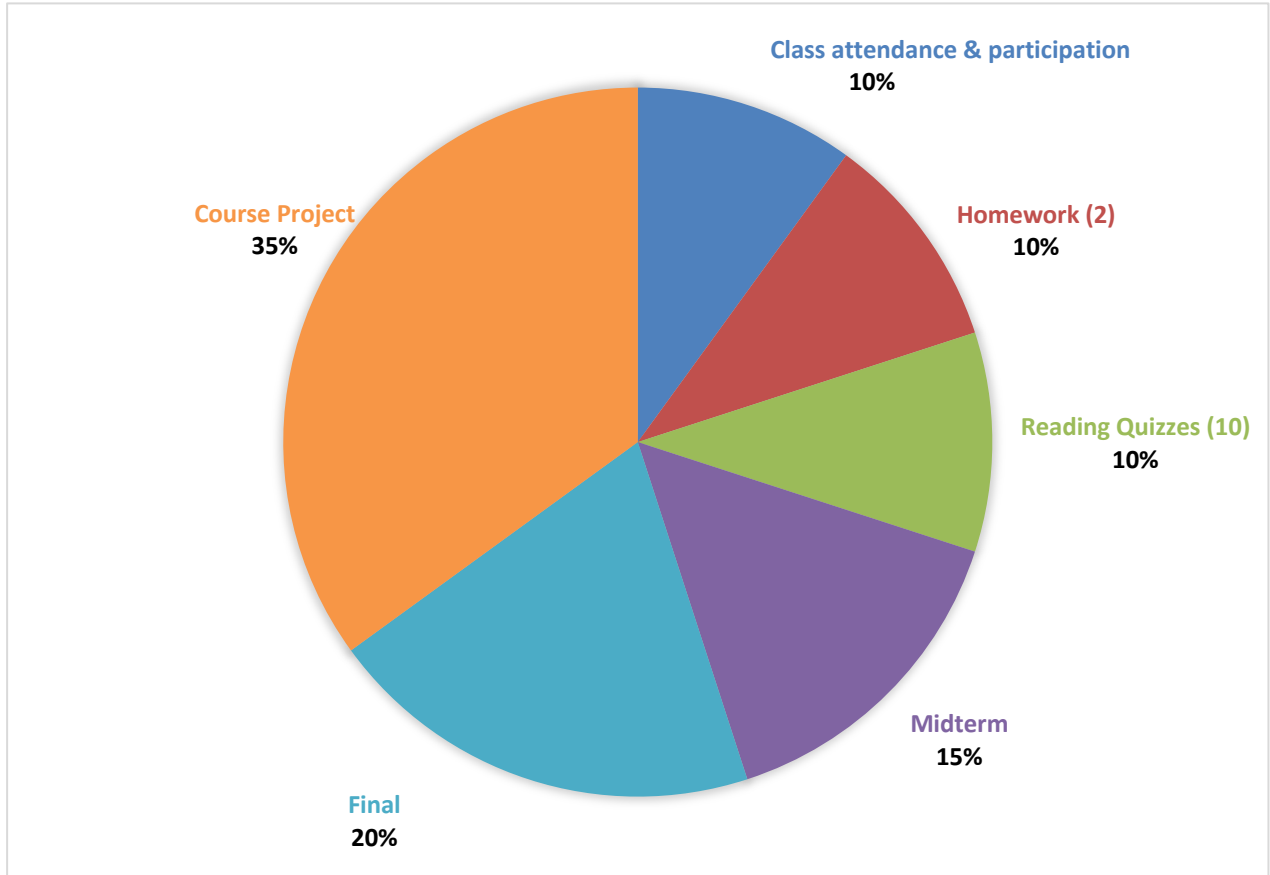
Please have your book available during class meetings, as we will use it frequently for reference and for practice exercises. The readings listed on the course schedule are to be done before class on the day they are listed.



## Grading scale

90.0 – 100	A	4.0
80.0 – 89.9	B	3.0
70.0 – 79.9	C	2.0
60.0 – 69.9	D	1.0
0.00 – 59.9	F	0

## Grading breakdown



## Class attendance & participation (10%)

Class attendance and participation will start counting after Week 3 of class. This section is a face-to-face instructional class. Per Academic Operating Policy 12.09 (see <https://www.policies.msstate.edu/sites/www.policies.msstate.edu/files/1209.pdf>), students are expected to attend all class meetings in person. Should a student expect a university-excused absence from a class, the student should contact the course instructor of record to inform them of the absence and the reason for it. If you arrive later than 10 minutes (unless it is justified) you will be marked as absent.

You will be able to obtain **5 points per day**. The following rubric will be employed to evaluate your class participation:

### **5 points (if ALL of the following are true)**

- Arrives for class on time.
- Participates actively both in group work and in whole-class discussions.
- Demonstrates a thorough understanding of the assigned readings.

### **3 point (if ANY of the following is true)**

- Arrives no more than 10 minutes late for class.
- Has a passive attitude when working in groups (other group members do most of the work).
- Is only partially familiar with the key concepts in the assigned readings.
- Participation is mostly limited to personal experiences or anecdotes.

### **0 points (if ANY of the following is true)**

- Arrives more than 10 minutes late for class.
- Works on assignments for other classes or is otherwise distracted on activities not related to the class, such as texting.
- Does not demonstrate any familiarity with the assigned readings.
- Does not volunteer or contribute to the class discussion.

## Homework (10%)

There will be **two** written homework assignments assigned over the course of the semester (each one corresponding to a different area within linguistics). Details of the assignments will be announced in class and posted in Canvas.

Assignments will be turned in electronically as a **PDF** document through **Canvas**. Homework will be due **Sunday at 11:55 PM** after the unit is over. Specific deadlines are listed on the course calendar. Please do not send homework via email.

Assignments will be graded on a **ten-point scale**. Late homework will be accepted until the beginning of the next class meeting and will be marked down one point (i.e., one letter grade). I

consider homework an opportunity to figure things out and to practice, so grading on homework is quite lenient. *10*: perfect; *9.5*: very good; *9*: complete, but with some errors; *8 or lower*: some major problems and/or incomplete. These grades are not parallel to what the same work would earn on a test.

You may discuss your homework with others to help each other figure out the problems, but you must list the names of the people you worked with at the top of your homework paper. Failure to acknowledge collaboration on homework counts as academic dishonesty and leaves you open to the penalties associated with violation of the MSU honor code. In assignments that require you to come up with original examples, all students should have their own examples.

### Reading quizzes (10%)

A total of **eight quizzes** will be distributed in class. They will cover the material from the assigned reading(s) for that day. Quizzes will be **non-cumulative**. I think of quizzes as warm-ups for the exams. Quizzes will be done **during the first 10 minutes of class**. Make-up quizzes will be given only in the case of a medical or family emergency or if I have preapproved an absence from class.

### Midterm (15%)

The midterm will have two components: written and oral, and will take place during two different days. The written exam will cover the materials we have explored in class and it will count for 9% of the grade. The oral exam will consist of a three-minute interview where each student will be asked to read nonce words that are transcribed using IPA, it will count for 6% of the grade. The oral exam will take place in the Linguistics Research Laboratory. Students will be provided a list of words beforehand. More details will be provided in class.

### Final (20%)

The final exam will be cumulative. It will consist of multiple-choice, yes/no type, short answer, and paragraph long answers. No make-up tests will be given unless there are compelling circumstances to warrant it. In this case, you must notify me in advance of the test time, or as soon as humanly possible thereafter.

### Course Project (35%)

There will a course project each student will have to conduct and it will be divided into **3 steps/stages**. This project will be about the phonetic characteristics of a language students do not have knowledge of. Students will have to choose a language and talk to a language consultant that will provide them with the necessary information to conduct the project. Students will conduct a rigorous acoustic description of the phonetic and consonantal system of that language.

More details will be provided in class. Below are each of the components of the project:

- **Step 1:** Words, Recordings, Background (10%)
- **Step 2:** Vowels' and consonants' acoustic descriptions (20%)
- **Step 3:** 10' Oral Presentation (5%)

## **University policies**

**The University Syllabus can be found here:** <https://www.provost.msstate.edu/faculty-student-resources/university-syllabus>

Check that to learn about Disability Resource Center, Student Honor Code, Title IX, Safety, Resources, Technical Support, etc.

### **Communication**

If you experience difficulty in this course for any reason, please let me know! I understand we are all human, and that there could be something going on in your life that interferes with your performance in class. If there is anything I can do to facilitate access to class content, do not hesitate to reach out.

If during class something is not clear, asking any questions you might have. If you are not the extrovert type of student to do that, don't hesitate to come to office hours to go over class material, prepare for tests, or work on homework; I personally enjoy working with students one on one. No appointment is needed during office hours. However, if you have classes at those times, just send me an email and set up an appointment to meet at another time, either face to face or on Webex.

## Course schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Readings DUE	Assignments DUE
1	W 1/18	<b>Course Introduction:</b> Phonetics, the Vocal Tract, Fieldwork and the Course Project (CP)	Ch. 1	
2	M 1/23	Basics of articulation	Ch. 2	Quiz Ch. 2
	W 1/25	Introduction to <i>Praat</i> (software)		Bring laptop
3	M 1/30	The International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)		Choose CP lang.
	W 2/1	Pulmonic consonants	Ch. 3	Quiz Ch. 3
4	M 2/6	Non-pulmonic consonants		
	W 2/8	Segmental vocalic features	Ch. 4	Quiz Ch. 4
	*S 2/12	--	--	HW 1
5	M 2/13	Suprasegmental vocalic features		
	W 2/15	IPA practice		
	S* 2/19	Co-articulation and allophonic variation	Ch. 5 Knight Ch. 12 Knight Ch. 13	Quiz Ch. 5
6	M 2/20	Parametric diagrams I		
	W 2/22	Parametric diagrams II		CP Milestone 1
7	M 2/27	Research techniques to analyze articulation	Kochetov	
	W 3/1	Review for Midterm		Bring Questions
8	M 3/6	<b>Written Midterm</b>		
	W 3/8	<b>Oral Midterm</b>		In Lab
9	M 3/13 W 3/15	<b>Spring Break: NO CLASS</b>		
10	M 3/20	The physics of sound	Ch. 6	Quiz Ch. 6
	W 3/22	Spectral properties of sounds 1	Ch. 7	Quiz Ch. 7
11	M 3/27	Spectral properties of sounds 2		
	W 3/29	Speech analysis 1	Ch. 8	Quiz Ch. 8
	*S 4/2			HW 2
12	M 4/3	Speech analysis 2		
	M 4/5	Acoustic vs. Articulatory Phonetics Link		
	*S 4/9			CP Milestone 2
13	M 4/10	<b>Holliday: NO CLASS</b>		
14	W 4/12	Speech perception 1	Ch. 9	Quiz Ch. 9
	M 4/17	Speech perception 2		
15	W 4/19	Oral Presentations (7)		(CP Milestone 3)
	M 4/24	Oral Presentations (7)		(CP Milestone 3)
	W 4/26	Oral Presentations (7)		(CP Milestone 3)
16	M 5/1	Review for Final		
	W 5/3	<b>Reading Day: NO CLASS</b>		
17	*TBA	<b>FINAL</b>		