

PLIN P305: Advanced Phonological Theory B – Syllabus

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1 Aims

- To familiarise students with some important areas in the study of segmental phonology, and in particular the role of phonetics in phonological modelling
- To provide students with the ability to explore the primary literature in the relevant areas
- To encourage participants to develop their own analyses of phonological data

2 Class times and venues

Lecture: Wednesday 10 am, Foster Court Room 218; Backups tbc. Office hours: by arrangement

3 Assessment

Exercises handed out in class; term paper (due March 23)

4 Topics (subject to minor changes)

4.1 Basics of non-linear segmental representation (weeks 1-2)

Review of the basic tenets of Feature Geometry, based around the model of Clements & Hume (1995). The nature of phonological features, feature class behaviour, privative vs. binary features, assimilation as spreading, neutralisation/lenition as delinking, phonetic interpretation.

Reading Clements & Hume (1995). Suggestions for further reading: Clements (1985); McCarthy (1988); Halle (1995); Padgett (2001)

4.2 The phonology and phonetics of assimilation (weeks 3-5)

Phonological analysis of full and partial (nasal) place assimilation; acoustic cues to place contrast and their role in explaining place assimilation patterns; assimilation of nasals, stops vs. fricatives; the direction of assimilation and the exceptional behaviour of apicals; the phonetic manifestation of voicing contrast; modelling voicing assimilation.

Reading Ohala (1990); Iverson & Salmons (1995); Chapters 6/7 of Johnson (1997). Suggestions for further reading: Jun (2004); Myers (2002); Jansen (to appear)

4.3 Vowel features and vowel harmony (weeks 6-7)

Basic vowel acoustics; the relation between consonantal and vocalic representation: 'two-mouth' versus unified theories; 'rectangular' height and color (= backness + rounding) vs. 'triangular' (vocalic prime) models of vowel space: the typology and analysis of color harmony.

Reading Chapter 5 of Johnson (1997); Odden (1991). Suggestions for further reading: Chapter 9 of Ladefoged & Maddieson (1996); section 3.3 of Harris (1994) Lindau (1978); Clements (1991); Busá & Ohala (1999).

4.4 Inventories (week 8-10)

Obtaining generalisations about inventories from UPSID and similar sources; theories that model the shape of inventories: quantal theory, dispersion, enhancement, feature economy.

Reading (Parts of) Lindblom (1986); Stevens (1989); de Boer (2000). Suggestions for further reading: Lindblom & Maddieson (1988); Stevens & Keyser (1989); Clements (2003)

5 General background reading

Ladefoged & Maddieson (1996); Johnson (1997); Ladefoged (2001, 2003) are good starting points for phonetic topics; Kenstowicz (1994), chapters 4 and 9, is good for feature geometry and advanced generative phonology more generally.

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