

LIN 310 Intonation: Melody in Language Syllabus

Princeton University, Fall 2019

Up to date as of November 9, 2019

Schedule

Tuesdays and Thursdays, at 11am–12:20pm
Green Hall, 0-S-9

Instructor

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Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, at 12–1pm (Green Hall, 1-S-16)

Course description

In this class, we will learn how linguistic melodies are structured and how they combine with strings of words to convey a variety of meanings. During the first part of the course, we will learn about the Autosegmental Metrical (AM) model of Intonational Phonology and how to measure and transcribe intonational tones and prosodic structure of English utterances using the ToBI (Tones and Break Indices) transcription system. During the second part of the course, we will learn how intonation interacts with other levels of language (syntax, semantics, pragmatics); we will also explore the social dimension of intonation and talk about how intonation is acquired by children. During the third part of the course we will focus on the intonational systems of languages other than English.

Prerequisites

LIN 201 or LIN 301, or permission of the instructor in the absence of either.

Readings

The readings for the course will include book chapters and papers and will be posted on the course website.

Grade composition and calculation

10% Participation. Participation grade will be based on: classroom participation (e.g., asking and answering questions, contributing thoughts), discussion outside of the classroom (e.g., during office hours or on the online discussion board), and group work during in-class exercises.

40% Homework. There will be 4 homework assignments throughout the course. The assignments range from practicing the transcription system and other tools we learn in class to writing up a short response to some of the readings. The homeworks should be submitted before class on the day that they are due. Late submissions will not be accepted unless an extension has been granted in advance.

20% Midterm. The midterm will be a take-home transcription and production exam.

30% Final project. The final project can involve, among other things: (i) writing up a short paper making a novel empirical observation within any intonation-related topic and discussing its theoretical implications; (ii) writing up a proposal for an intonation-related experiment laying out the research question, the hypotheses, and how you propose to test them; (iii) gathering, transcribing, and analyzing intonational data. **Final project proposals (10%)** will be due in late November. You must have your topic approved by me before submitting your proposal. **Final project write-ups (20%)** will be due at the end of the reading period, on Dean's Date. Late submissions will not be accepted, and no extensions will be granted. The students will also present their projects in class before they are due; these presentations will not be graded and should be viewed as an opportunity to get feedback both from me and from your peers. Group projects (by no more than three collaborators) might be allowed on a case by case basis.

Your letter grade for the class will be assigned on the following scale:

A+	>100%	B+	87–89%	C+	77–79%	D	60–69%
A	93–100%	B	83–86%	C	73–76%	F	0–59%
A–	90–92%	B–	80–82%	C–	70–72%		

Fractional grades will be rounded to the nearest integer, with the round-half-up rule in place (e.g., 92.4 will be rounded to 92 and 92.5 will be rounded to 93).

Policies and other remarks

Attendance policy. Attendance is not mandatory, and you are not required to contact the instructor if you need to miss a class. However, this course is very interactive, and you will do best

if you come to class every time and on time. Furthermore, if you hardly ever come to class, the participation component of your grade will suffer.

Extra credit. There may or may not be opportunities for extra credit. If extra credit is issued, it will be intended as an equal opportunity for everyone in the class to improve their grades, so it will not be issued to individual students upon request.

How to contact me. For short questions, send me an e-mail or talk to me right before or right after class. I will try my best to respond to your email within 24 hours; responses to emails on weekends should not be taken for granted. For more involved questions or discussions, please come to my office hours or make an appointment.

Homework collaboration policy. Collaboration on homework assignments is allowed and encouraged. However, each student is expected to turn in their own write-up and list the names of people they collaborated with.

Academic integrity. Academic integrity is taken very seriously, and any misconduct (e.g., plagiarism, cheating, or letting someone else cheat) will be reported. Students should review the University publication on academic integrity, which can be found at https://odoc.princeton.edu/sites/odoc/files/950045_AcademicIntegrity2018-19_FINAL_PDF.pdf. Should the University discipline committee determine that your work violates any portion of this policy, it will receive a grade of zero and may be reported to the deans. If you are unclear about whether something counts as honest/dishonest work, please ask me.

Copyright notice. All course materials are under copyright of their respective authors. That means that none of the materials posted on the course website can be redistributed without permission from the author(s). If you are unclear about the details behind the copyright policies, please ask me.

Schedule

The following is a preliminary schedule of the course. Changes to it will be announced in class.

Date	Topics	Mandatory readings	HW
9/12	Introduction	Ladd 2008, Ch. 1 & 2	
9/17	AM model of intonational phonology	Ladd 2008, Ch. 3	
9/19	ToBI: tones	Beckman and Ayers 1997, 1.2–2.1	
9/24	ToBI: tones	Beckman & Ayers 1997, 2.2–2.6	HW1 out
9/26	ToBI: tones	Beckman & Ayers 1997, 2.7–2.11	
10/1	ToBI: break indices	Beckman & Ayers 1997, 3	HW1 due, HW2 out

10/3	ToBI: review		
10/8	Prosody and syntactic disambiguation	Price et al. 1991	HW2 due, midterm out
10/10	Prosody/syntax in sign language	Sandler 2010	
10/15	Meaning of English intonation: overview	Pierrehumbert and Hirschberg 1990	
10/17	Buffer/midterm review		
10/22	Focus and focus sensitivity	Beaver & Clark 2008, Ch. 1 & 2	Midterm due
10/24	Instructor sick, no class		
10/29	Fall recess, no class		
10/31	Fall recess, no class		
11/5	Gestures and prosody	Esipova 2018	
11/7	Implicatures of tunes	Büring 1997	HW3 out
11/12	Intonation and social meaning	Mendoza-Denton 2011; Jeong 2017	
11/14	Acquisition of intonation	Kurumada and Clark 2016	HW3 due
11/19	Prosodic typology: French	Delais-Roussarie et al. 2015	
11/21	Prosodic typology: Korean	Jun 2005	
11/26	Prosodic typology: Bengali	Khan 2014	Final project proposal due
11/28	Thanksgiving recess, no class		
12/3	Prosodic typology: Mandarin	Peng et al. 2005	
12/5	Buffer/bonus topic (TBD)		HW4 out
12/10	Final project presentations		
12/12	Final project presentations		HW4 due
1/14	Dean's date		Final project write-up due