

**The Chinese University of Hong Kong**  
**Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages**  
**First Term, 2022-23**

<b>Course Title:</b> <i>LIN6902 Phonological Theory</i>
<b>Description:</b>  This course aims to introduce the development of phonological theories over the past half century and to provide a critical survey of the current issues in phonological research. Topics include segmental alternation, syllable structure, tone, stress, and prosodic effect in word formation. Students will gain a solid understanding of the characteristics of different phonological frameworks over the course of the development of phonological theory, and will learn how to analyze a variety of language data within different phonological frameworks.

**Content, highlighting fundamental concepts**

Topic	Contents/fundamental concepts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SPE model of Generative Phonology</li> <li>• Autosegmental Phonology</li> <li>• Optimality Theory</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distinctive features/ Underlying forms/abstractness / phonemic analysis</li> <li>• Nature of representations in SPE and OT</li> <li>• The conspiracy problem</li> <li>• Syllables/ stress/ tones</li> <li>• The moraic theory/ the metrical theory</li> <li>• Reduplication and opacity</li> </ul>

**Learning outcomes**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attain a good understanding of the fundamentals and major development of phonological theory in the half century</li> <li>• Equip students with the analytic skills for analyzing data and tackling phonological problems</li> <li>• Train students to identify and articulate empirical and theoretical issues in their readings</li> </ul>
---

**Learning activities**

Lecture (hr) in /out class		Interactive tutorial (hr) in /out class		Lab (hr) in /out class		Discussion of case (hr) in /out class		Field-trip (hr) in /out class		Projects (hr) in /out class		Web-based teaching (hr) in /out class		Other (hr) in /out class	
30		9				5	10								
M;O ;NA	M;O ;NA	M;O ;NA	M;O ;NA	M;O ;NA	M;O ;NA	M;O ;NA	M;O ;NA	M;O ;NA	M;O ;NA	M;O ;NA	M;O ;NA	M;O ;NA	M;O ;NA	M;O ;NA	M;O ;NA

M: Mandatory activity in the course  
 O: Optional activity  
 NA: Not applicable

### Assessment scheme

Task nature	Description	Weight
Individual assessment	Assignments *3	30%
Individual assessment	Midterm Exam	30%
Individual assessment	Presentation	15%
Individual assessment	Final Paper	25%

### Learning resources for students

Chomsky, Norm, and Morris Halle. 1968. *The Sound Pattern of English*. Cambridge: MIT Press.  
 Clements, George N. and Samuel Jay Keyser. 1983. *CV Phonology: A Generative Theory of the Syllable*. The MIT Press.  
 Halle, Morris, and Jean-Roger Vergnaud. 1990. *An Essay on Stress*. The MIT Press.  
 Goldsmith, John A. 1990. *Autosegmental and Metrical Phonology*. Blackwell Publishers.  
 Goldsmith, John A. ed. 1995. *The Handbook of Phonological Theory*. Blackwell Publishers.  
 Goldsmith, John A. ed. 1999. *Phonological Theory: The Essential Readings*. Blackwell Publishers.  
 Kager, Rene. 1999. *Optimality Theory*. Cambridge University Press Publishers.  
 Kenstowicz, Michael. 1994. *Phonology in Generative Grammar*. Cambridge, Mass. & Oxford: Blackwell.  
 Kenstowicz, Michael, and Charles Kisseberth. 1979. *Generative phonology: Description and theory*. Academic Press.  
 McCarthy, John J. 2002. *A Thematic Guide to Optimality Theory*. Cambridge University Press.  
 Odden, David. 2005. *Introducing Phonology*. Cambridge University Press.

### Feedback for evaluation

- ◆ Students are most welcome to meet with the teacher after classes to discuss their problems.
- ◆ Midterm course evaluation will be conducted to collect students' feedback for improving the teaching.

### Course schedule (tentative)

Class/ week	Date	Topic	Requirements
1.	9-Sep	Introduction; Underlying forms	Hyman Ch.1; Hayes ch.5; Odden ch.4
2.	16-Sep	Introduction to rules and OT	Kager p.1-25
3.	23-Sep	Phonemic Analysis	K&K ch.2; Kager p.27-34
4.	30-Sep	Features	Hayes ch.4, Hyman ch.2
5.	7-Oct	Syllables	Kager ch.3; McCarthy Ch.3
6.	14-Oct	Stress and Metrical Theory	Hayes ch.14
7.	21-Oct	Midterm Exam	
8.	28-Oct	Stress in OT	Kager ch.4
9.	4-Nov	Nonlinear Phonology	Odden ch.9
10.	11-Nov	Rule Application and Long-distance Processes	K&K ch.8
11.	18-Nov	Interacting Processes	Kager ch 9
12.	25-Nov	Consultation	
13.	2-Dec	Presentation	

### Teachers' or TA's contact details

<b>Professor/Lecturer/Instructor:</b>	
Name:	Regine Lai
Office Location:	G12, Leung Kau Kui Building
Telephone:	39434711
Email:	<a href="mailto:ryklai@cuhk.edu.hk">ryklai@cuhk.edu.hk</a>
Teaching Venue:	Lee Shau Kee Building 212
Website:	Blackboard
Other information:	

### A facility for posting course announcements

Announcement, assignments, lecture slides and other course materials will be posted on Blackboard.
--

### Criteria for grading the final term paper:

	Grade A	Grade B	Grade C	Grade D	Grade F
<b>I. Setting up the context of the paper (30%)</b>	The description of the phonological phenomenon is clearly presented.	The description of the phonological phenomenon is clear, but some minor aspects are not addressed.	The description of the phonological phenomenon is mostly adequate, but some major points need elaborations.	The description of the phonological phenomenon is provided but major issues are not addressed properly.	The description of the phonological phenomenon is not provided.
<b>II. Analysis and discussion (60%)</b>	a. All necessary steps including argument presentation and analysis are conducted properly.	All necessary steps including argument presentation and analysis are conducted but some minor aspects are not addressed.	All necessary steps including argument presentation and analysis are conducted but one to two major issues are not addressed properly.	All necessary steps including argument presentation and analysis are done but major issues are not addressed properly.	The necessary steps are not included in the paper.
<b>III. Writing and organization (10%)</b>	a. Well-organized, with sections and paragraphs that regulate the flow of analysis-discussion smoothly.	Organized with sections and paragraphs that regulate the flow of analysis-discussion. Some transitions are not smooth but they do not hinder comprehension.	Organized with sections and paragraphs but the flow of analysis-discussion is abrupt in several places and comprehension is hindered.	Organized with sections and paragraphs but overall the flow of analysis-discussion is abrupt and comprehension is hindered.	Sections and paragraphs fail to regulate the flow of analysis - discussion.
	b. The paper is written fluently and the language is accurate and logical. Very few errors and if slips are found, the meaning is still clear.	The paper is written accurately and logically most of the time. Some systematic errors in complex sentences but still the intended meaning can be understood.	The paper contains errors in places where complex grammar and vocabulary are required. Meaning sometimes requires effort to be understood.	Frequent errors led to distraction and it requires much effort in understanding the message.	Errors are so frequent and distracting that the report is incomprehensible most of the time.

## Grade Descriptors

Grade	Overall Course
A	Consistently exhibits strong analytical skills and the ability to analyse phonological problems by means of the relevant theoretical frameworks and consistently shows original thinking.
A-	Frequently exhibits strong analytical skills and the ability to analyze phonological problems by means of the relevant theoretical frameworks and shows some original thinking.
B	Only occasionally exhibits strong analytical skills and the ability to analyse phonological problems by means of the relevant theoretical framework and shows some original thinking.
C	Only occasionally exhibits basic analytical skills and the ability to analyze phonological problems by means of the relevant theoretical framework, showing little evidence of original thinking.
D	Only occasionally exhibits basic analytical skills and the ability to analyze phonological problems by means of the relevant theoretical frameworks and lacks original thinking.
F	Unable to analyze phonological problems through the relevant theoretical frameworks.

## Academic honesty and plagiarism

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>. With each assignment, students will be required to submit a statement that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures.

--- End ---