The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages
Second Term, 2021-22

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Course Title: LING5501 Topics in Chinese Phonetics and Phonology
Teaching Time and Venue: Thursday 2:30pm-5:15pm / HYS G05

Description

This course introduces general aspects of modern Chinese phonetics and phonology, including both segmental and prosodic characteristics. Students will be trained to compare and analyze sound patterns of standard Chinese and other Chinese dialects from different theoretical approaches. The final goal of the course is to provide students with a solid foundation for further phonological research.

Content, highlighting fundamental concepts

Topic	Contents/fundamental concepts
• IPA and pinyin	• Manner and places of articulation/phonetic transcription of sounds
• Consonants, vowels, and glides	• Consonants/vowels/glides
• Syllable structure	• Syllable structure/onset/rime/coda/phonotactic constraints on syllables
• Distinctive features	• Definitions of distinctive features/functions of distinctive features
• Segmental processes	• Segmental alternations/notations and formulation of phonological rules
• Tone and its nature	• Phonetic properties of tone/representation of tone/tone-bearing unit
• Tonal processes	• Tone sandhi rules/tone sandhi domains/interaction of tone and segment

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Learning outcomes

After completing this course, students will be able to:

- understand basic concepts of articulation of Chinese sounds;
- understand Chinese segmental and tonal phonology, such as phonemes, minimal pairs, and alternations;
- transcribe sounds of standard Chinese, as well as sounds from different dialects;
- identify sound patterns and draw generalizations from different language data;
- apply phonological concepts into data analysis.

Learning activities

Lectures (3 hrs/week)

Assignments (on average 1 hr/week)

Readings (3 hrs/week)

Assessment scheme

Task nature	Description	Weight
1. Participation*	Class participation: question answering & discussion of readings online and in class; the number of questions each student answers will be counted by TA	10%
2. Assignments**	4 written assignments (data analysis, mini-tasks, and short essay questions); submitted online; marked by TA	40%
3. Mid-term exams	2 close-book exams (1.5 hrs, marked by TA and the instructor)	30%
4. Oral presentation	Oral presentation (presentation + Q&A; marked by TA and the instructor)	20%

* Discussion questions will be posted online before each class.

** Late assignment submission will not be accepted except in case of true emergencies.

Grade Descriptors

Grade	Overall course
A	Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes. A thorough understanding of the subject demonstrated by consistently high marks of the assignments and exams. Outstanding ability to apply the phonetic/phonological concepts and analytical techniques introduced in the course to analyze language data from standard Chinese and different dialects. Ample evidence of familiarity with reading related to the course.
A-	Generally outstanding performance on most learning outcomes. A good understanding of the subject demonstrated by high marks of most assignments and exams. Generally outstanding ability to apply the phonetic/phonological concepts and analytical techniques introduced in the course to analyze language data from standard Chinese and different dialects. Evidence of familiarity with reading related to the course.
B	Satisfactory performance on most learning outcomes. An adequate understanding of the subject demonstrated by good marks of the assignments and exams. Strong ability to apply the phonetic/phonological concepts and analytical techniques introduced in the course to analyze language data from standard Chinese and different dialects. Evidence of a certain amount of reading related to the course.
C	Satisfactory performance on some learning outcomes. A basic understanding of the subject demonstrated by average marks of the assignments and exams. Sufficient ability to apply the phonetic/phonological concepts and analytical techniques introduced in the course to analyze language data from standard Chinese and different dialects. Evidence of basic reading related to the course.
D	Barely satisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes. A poor understanding of the subject demonstrated by poor marks of the assignments and exams. Insufficient ability of applying the phonetic/phonological concepts and analytical techniques introduced in the course to analyze language data from standard Chinese and different dialects. Evidence of very limited reading related to the course.
F	Unsatisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes. Very little understanding of the subject demonstrated by consistently poor marks of the assignments and exams. Lack the ability of applying the phonetic/phonological concepts and analytical techniques introduced in the course to analyze language data from standard Chinese and different dialects. No evidence of efforts in completing reading related to the course.

Learning resources for students

Textbook

Lin, Yen-Hwei. (2007). *The Sounds of Chinese*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Recommended readings

Chen, Matthew Y. (2000). *Tone Sandhi: Patterns across Chinese Dialects*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Duanmu, San. (2007). *The Phonology of Standard Chinese* (2nd edition). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Kenstowicz, Michael. (1994). *Phonology in Generative Grammar*. Cambridge, Mass. & Oxford: Blackwell.

王洪君.（2008）.《汉语非线性音系学》（增订版）. 北京：北京大学出版社.

* Supplementary readings will be ready for downloading from Blackboard.

Course schedule

Week	Date	Topics	Readings	Assignments
1	13/01	Introduction; phonetics vs. phonology; Pinyin and IPA	Lin (Ch. 1 & 6)	
2	20/01	Consonants	Lin (Ch. 2)	
3	27/01	Vowels and glides	Lin (Ch. 3)	
4	03/02	*Chinese Lunar New Year*	None	**#1 due by 2pm**
5	10/02	Syllable structure and phonotactic constraints	Lin (Ch. 5)	
6	17/02	**Mid-term Exam 1** Distinctive features and Mandarin segmental processes I	Lin (Ch. 7)	

7	24/02	Mandarin segmental processes II	Lin (Ch. 8)	
8	03/03	Introduction to tone, stress, and intonation	Lin (Ch. 4 & 10)	**#2 due by 2pm**
9	10/03	Tonal processes	Lin (Ch. 9)	
10	17/03	**Mid-term Exam 2** Special topic I: Prosodic phonology (1)	supplementary	
11	24/03	Special topic I: Prosodic phonology (2)	supplementary	
12	31/03	Special topic II: Autosegmental phonology	supplementary	**#3 due by 2pm**
13	07/04	Special topic III: Optimality theory	supplementary	
14	14/04	**Oral Presentations**	None	
15	21/04	**Oral Presentations**	None	**#4 due by 2pm**

Feedback for evaluation

Students are encouraged to give feedback or comments on course contents and teaching materials throughout the course, in addition to the midterm and final course evaluation. Students can contact either the instructor or TA directly. See contact details below.

Teacher's and TA's contact details

Professor/Lecturer/Instructor:	
Name:	Prof. YOU Shuxiang
Office Location:	G9, Leung Kau Kui Building
Telephone:	3943-7064
Email:	shuxiangyou@cuhk.edu.hk
Office Hour:	By appointment

Teaching Assistant/Tutor:	
Name:	Miss SHU Tong
Office Location:	G16, Leung Kau Kui Building
Telephone:	3943-7053
Email:	tongshu@link.cuhk.edu.hk

A facility for posting course announcements

Announcements will be posted on the course Blackboard website, and be emailed to students. Course materials will also be posted on the Blackboard website.

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 signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign on the declaration.

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide (https://veriguide1.cse.cuhk.edu.hk/cuhk/), the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.