

## Speech and Communication Studies 410 American Phonetics

**Teacher:** Carolyn Chaney, Professor

**Office:** HUM 351

**Office Hours:** M 12:10 - 2, M & W 4:10 - 5

Extra Transcription Practice: W 12-1 in HUM 116

**Phone:** 338-1195 (ofc.), 338-1597 (speech ofc.).

**e-mail:** cchaney@sfsu.edu

### **Required Texts:**

Small, Larry H. Fundamentals of Phonetics: A practical guide for students (2nd Ed).  
Allyn & Bacon.

Speech 410 Reader, available from the bookstore (very cheap and worthwhile).

Phonetic Transcription CDs...to be checked out from me.

### **Optional:**

Edwards, Harold T. & Gregg, Alvin L. Applied Phonetics Workbook. Singular  
Publishing Group, 1997 (second edition). (I have some old ones available for loan).

Edwards, May Louise. Introduction to Applied Phonetics Laboratory Workbook.  
College Hill Press, 1986. (I have some available for loan).

**Resource:** International Phonetic Association: <http://www2.arts.gla.ac.uk/IPA/ipa.html>

**Course Objectives:** The purposes of this course are:

- 1) to enable you to write down the sounds of spoken American English, using the International Phonetic Alphabet (transcription phonetics), and
- 2) to provide you with knowledge of
  - a) the structure of the speech mechanism and processes of speech production (physiological phonetics), and
  - b) how phonetics, the study of speech sounds, fits into the scientific study of language (phonology).

### **Requirements:**

1) Lectures: Class lectures will deal with both the theoretical and practical aspects of the study of phonetics. Approximately one-half of class time will be spent in training your ear to hear differences among sounds and in transcription. The remainder will be devoted to lecture and discussion. Regular class attendance is recommended; you will be held responsible for all material covered during your absences. If you have to miss a class, first get the notes from another student, and then see me for further explanations if needed.

2) Practice in Auditory Discrimination and Phonetic Transcription: During the course you will develop skills in recognizing and differentiating speech sounds (phonological awareness) and in representing the speech sounds you hear in writing (phonetic transcription). We will practice these skills in class, but the in-class practice time is not sufficient for you to become proficient. For this reason you will be asked to listen and practice with recorded or live material for a minimum of one hour per week. All practice that you do outside class, with the exception of the required "sampler," is included in the

listening requirement; this includes practice in your workbook, practice with tapes, practice with me or peers, letters in phonetics to your dog, etc. Save all of your work to be turned in at the end of the semester, and do not let the dog eat it! The transcription requirement is described in more detail below.

3) Examinations and Quizzes:

a) Transcription: There will be 5 quizzes to evaluate your progress in reading and writing using the International Phonetic Alphabet. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped and the remainder averaged.

b) Phonetics Theory: Three examinations will cover the theoretical material. They will not be cumulative. The lowest of the three grades will be dropped from the grading. If you must miss an exam or quiz due to illness or emergency, please let me know in advance of your absence so that a make-up can be scheduled.

4) Extra Credit or Independent Study: Students may elect to do extra work for extra credit or as an independent study. It is important to discuss your plans with me before beginning such a project. The goal of such a project should be to apply knowledge of phonetics to your own special interest or field. Examples of projects:

Phonetic description of a child's speech, a dialect or foreign accent

A short term paper

A performance demonstrating phonetic features of a dialect

### Grading

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|--|-----|
| 1) Transcription Quiz Average (excluding lowest grade).....                              | 40% |
| 2) Theory Exam Average (excluding lowest grade).....                                     | 50% |
| 3) Transcription Requirement.....  | 10% |
| 5-9 hrs. = D    10-14 hrs. = C    15-19 hrs. = B    20+ hrs = A                          |     |
| 4) Extra credit project: equivalent to 10% of grade. Grade depends upon quality of work. |     |

**Accommodations:** If you are a disabled student requiring special accommodations, please bring me your DSS letter during the first 3 weeks and make an appointment to discuss appropriate accommodation.

### Practice in Auditory Discrimination and Phonetic Transcription

Previous experience has shown me that there is a significant relationship between the number of hours students spend in practice and their success in acquiring practical skills in phonetics; the more time you spend developing your skills, the more secure you'll be (and the better you'll do on your quizzes!). To get maximum benefit from your practice, sessions should be frequent and short (no longer than 30-45 minutes at once). Former students recommend maximum practice during weeks two through five of the course; this helps to overcome any early difficulty in learning the new symbols, and has the added benefit of helping you to finish the listening requirement well before the more hectic final weeks of the semester. Be sure to **save** all the transcription that you do outside (in a notebook) and mark your hours in a log.

You'll be starting with a CD (PC or Mac version) by Hoffman and Buckingham, and then listening to several sets of tapes and CDs, beginning with discriminating and transcribing simple words, and then transcribing more complex words, phrases and sentences. The exercises in the textbook by Small will give you a good start, and it has accompanying CDs (PC only) (which you can get from me or the library Media Access Center).

A useful set of tapes uses the Faircloth & Faircloth word lists (my voice). The discrimination lessons (1-9) contain simple words to transcribe; the transcription lessons (1-20) contain simple and more difficult words to transcribe. The transcription lessons are also good for practicing stress. If you find these tapes either too difficult or too easy, let me know, and I will provide alternative material. Transcribe the words and use the answers in the reader to check your work.

Students differ in the length of time it takes to finish this basic transcription; remember you are graded for the hours spent, not the amount completed. Most students finished the lab books in 10-12 hours and desire more challenging practice. I encourage you to try your hand transcribing some live speech, or you can tape record the speech of a child or a speaker with an accent. I have some tapes. Or you can transcribe a friend, TV program, record album; be creative! I would like everyone to do at least 5 hours of practice outside the basic workbooks, tapes & CDs. Be creative and have fun!

You may do your listening work in the Media Access Center of the library or at home. Regardless of where you listen, you are responsible for recording and totaling your hours on a log sheet. You should do your written work in a notebook, which is to be turned in at the last class.

a) Language Lab: The lab duplicates tapes for a two week checkout. You simply go to the lab to request the tape you want and return it when finished. To request a tape, look up its number in the computer listing. Advantages to LL: Quality control over tapes, a method for scheduling yourself. Disadvantages: some copyrighted tapes not available for checkout, tapes may be kept for a limited time.

b) Media Access Center: Tell the attendant which tape you want (Ex. Faircloth discrimination Tape #1). If it is checked out, you may need to skip ahead a lesson. You may listen here or duplicate a tape for listening at home. Please note that most of the tapes and CDs are protected by copyright; you may dub only one or two tapes at a time, and you must be responsible for erasing your copy of the tape once you've finished that lesson or group of lessons. The tape duplicating machine will copy a tape in minutes, but you must use a new or previously erased tape. You can erase tapes before or after class with a handy gadget we have. The tape recorders available by the duplicating machine are of poor quality and may not reveal if your copy is adequate for transcription. Please try to keep the original tapes in good condition, and do not take them out of the library; your classmates are depending on your cooperation. Let me know if you discover problems with any tape, so that I can replace it. Same thing goes for CDs.

**SPEECH 410: AMERICAN PHONETICS                      Syllabus for Spring 2006**

<b>DATES</b>	<b>READING &amp; TOPICS</b>
1/30	Discussion of course objectives and requirements; International Phonetic Alphabet: goals and weaknesses; counting syllables and sounds. Homework: Text Reading: Small Ch. 1, 2 pp 7-24, 5
2/1, 6, 10	Consonants of American English Homework: Count the sounds (not letters) in your full name. Learn the consonants; Work on Sampler. Do exercises in Small, Ch. 5 that don't involve vowels. Read Small Ch. 4
2/10, 13, 15	Vowels of American English. More transcription practice. (We will do this every week, at least til mid-semester). Homework: Work on Sampler (due 2/20). Suggested transcription practice: Hoffman CD. Exercises in Small, Ch. 4 &5.
2/20*	*First transcription quiz covering all consonants, front & back vowels. Sampler due today. Homework: Small Ch. 3
2/22, 27	Intro. to articulatory phonetics; overview of speech mechanism; functions of vocal tract; film: Normal Speech Articulation. Homework: Review Ch. 5
3/1, 6	Articulatory features of consonants. Homework: Review Ch. 4
3/8*	*Second transcription quiz includes central vowels and diphthongs. Review.
3/13	Theory Exam I (Small chapters 1, 2 pp 7-24, 3, 4, 5) Homework: Small Ch. 2, pp.24-36 & Ch. 6 pp179-208.
3/15, 20	Articulation of vowels and diphthongs. Syllabic consonants & glottal stop.
3/22, 3/27 3/29, 4/10*	Suprasegmentals. Transcription; Physiological and linguistic correlates. Film: Deep Throat (just kidding). *Third transcription quiz includes vowel plus r and stress, intonation & juncture. Homework: Small 6, pp 169-179, 195-6
4/3, 5	SPRING BREAK
4/12	Coarticulation: production of sounds in context.
4/17	Theory Exam II. (Small Ch. 2, pp.24-36, Ch. 4, & Ch. 6 pp179-208.) Homework: Review small Ch. 2, also Ch. 7, pp 230-244, 249
4/19, 24	Phonological organization of speech sounds; Narrow transcription. Homework: Small Ch 8.
4/26, 5/1*, 3	Dialect and Foreign Accent. Film: American Tongues. *Fourth transcription quiz includes stress, intonation and juncture, limited narrow transcription. Homework: Small: Ch. 7, pp 209-230, 245-48
5/8, 10	Transcribing child speech; Distinctive features, phonological processes. Homework: papers in reader.
5/15	Phonology and Literacy..
5/17*	Fifth transcription quiz includes coarticulated speech, sound substitutions and omissions. Listening work, extra credit due. Review.
5/22	10:45 am Theory Exam III (Small chapters 2, 7 & 8, papers in reader). * Planned Transcription Quiz: date to be confirmed in class.