

# Phonological Theory (LING 235/635)

Spring 2016

Instructor: Claire Moore-Cantwell

MW 11:35-12:50  
Rm. 321, 370 Temple St.

## General Info

INSTRUCTOR: Claire Moore-Cantwell

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OFFICE: Dow Hall, Rm. 301 (370 Temple St., in the Linguistics Dept.)

Spring semester classes run January 19 - April 29 (finals end May 11).

Course website: there is a CLASSES\*v2 website for this course.

## Description

*Phonological Theory* is the second semester course in phonology. The focus is on theory development: the process by which formal phonological models are evaluated and revised in order to meet empirical or conceptual goals. Our emphasis will be Optimality Theory (Prince and Smolensky 1993/2004), the major competitor to rule-based frameworks in the tradition of Chomsky and Halle (1968). We will survey the motivations for adopting OT, and become familiar with its formal architecture, its typological predictions, and some of the results it has achieved.

Apart from the mechanics of OT, the course will cover current issues in phonological theory, drawing on both experimental and formal research. When relevant, we will also read selections from the pre-OT literature. Lastly, the course will include a great deal of linguistic analysis — after all, the *point* of a formal theory is to help us better understand the phonological patterns we encounter in the real world.

## Requirements

### Prerequisites:

*Introduction to Phonological Analysis* (LING 232/632) or permission of the instructor.

**Textbook and other readings:**

The main textbook for the course will be:

[McCarthy \(2008\)](#):

*Doing Optimality Theory: Applying Theory to Data* (ISBN: 1405151358)

It is available in the Yale Bookstore and from online retailers, including Amazon.

We will be making extensive use of this book, and you should **buy it as soon as possible**. It will also serve as a useful reference guide in your future work.

Readings from [McCarthy \(2008\)](#) will be supplemented by other readings, handouts, etc. throughout the semester. Such materials will be made available on the `Classes*v2` website for the course.

**Coursework:**

- Reading and discussion: 10%

There will be a reading assignment for each meeting, which you should read carefully and thoughtfully beforehand. You are expected to come to class ready to discuss the assigned readings in detail. That means **you should prepare specific questions ahead of time**.

- Problem sets: 50%

There will be regular problem sets in this course. You are strongly encouraged to work together on these assignments; however, you must turn in your own, independent write-ups, and note who (if anyone) you collaborated with.

**Late HWs will not be accepted**, except under extreme circumstances.

HWs should be turned in via `CLASSES*v2` by 11:59pm on the day they are due. Please turn everything in in PDF format. Other formats, including DOC, DOCX, and RTF will not be accepted.

- Final paper: 40%

A major component of the course will be a term paper on some topic in theoretical phonology (15-20 pages for graduate students, 10-15 pages for undergrads). The process will be broken down into smaller milestones, with deadlines spread out over the semester. These milestones will culminate in a presentation of your paper to the class during the reading period.

The final paper is due **May 6th at 5pm** (preferably by email, in PDF format). Late papers will not be accepted, except by prior arrangement.

## Academic honesty

Yale does not tolerate plagiarism. People found to have plagiarized will be reported to the administration, with failure of the course, academic suspension, or even dismissal from the university as possible consequences.

If you're unclear about what constitutes plagiarism, or what the consequences are, check out <http://yalecollege.yale.edu/content/cheating-plagiarism-and-documentation>.

For advice on how (and why) to cite primary sources, see <http://writing.yalecollege.yale.edu/using-sources>.

## Disabilities

If you qualify for classroom accommodations because of a disability, please:

1. Get a Course Accommodation Request from the Resource Office on Disabilities (ROD).
2. Submit it to me in person outside of class (e.g. office hours) within the first two weeks of the semester.

Contact the ROD at (203) 432-2324 (voice), (203) 432-8250 (fax), (203) 432-8250 (TTY/TDD), or see <http://yalecollege.yale.edu/content/resource-office-disabilities> for more information.

## Tentative course outline

Readings should be completed **before** the class date listed.

Abbreviations:

DOT = [McCarthy \(2008\)](#)

PS = [Prince and Smolensky \(1993/2004\)](#)

Week	Day	Date	Topic	Reading	Due
1	Wed	Jan. 20	Course overview; rule systems; output conditions		
	Fri	Jan. 22	Intro to OT	• DOT Ch. 1	
2	Mon	Jan. 25	OT analysis: 'Doing OT'	• DOT Ch. 2.1-2.5	
	Wed	Jan. 27	RoTB: phonotactics and the duplication problem	• DOT Ch. 2.6-2.8; 2.10 • <a href="#">McCarthy (2002:p.66-91)</a>	

Week	Day	Date	Topic	Reading	Due
3	Mon	Feb. 1	Heterogeneity of process in OT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pater (1999)</li> <li>• DOT Ch. 6.6</li> </ul>	
	Wed	Feb. 3	Economy effects; TEtU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PS p.23-28 and 33-38</li> <li>• McCarthy (2002:129-138)</li> <li>• McCarthy and Prince (1994:1-30)</li> </ul>	
4	Mon	Feb. 8	TEtU cont. Writing up analyses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pater (1997)</li> <li>• DOT Ch. 3.1, 3.3</li> </ul>	
	Wed	Feb. 10	Positional faithfulness Constraint families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some of Beckman (1998)</li> <li>• DOT Ch. 4.5-4.6</li> </ul>	[Meeting]
5	Mon	Feb. 15	Restricting CON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• McCarthy (2003)</li> <li>• Something by Jason Riggle</li> </ul>	
	Wed	Feb. 17	Stress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some of Hayes (1995)</li> <li>• PS p.38-71</li> </ul>	
6	Mon	Feb. 22	Constraint ranking vs. constraint weighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farris-Trimble (2010)</li> <li>• Some of Pater (to appear)</li> <li>• DOT Ch. 2.1 (again); 3.6</li> </ul>	
	Wed	Feb. 24	Computation and Learning	Tesar (1999) Jarosz (2013)	
7	Mon	Feb. 29	Token variation I	• Boersma and Hayes (2001)	
	Wed	Mar. 2	Token variation II: frequency biases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coetzee and Kawahara (to appear)</li> <li>• Some of Coetzee and Pater (2011)</li> </ul>	[Topic Proposal]
8	Mon	Mar. 7	Lexical variation I	• Inkelas and Zoll (2007)	
	Wed	Mar. 9	Lexical variation II	• Zuraw (2010)	
9-10		Mar. 12-27	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>		
11	Mon	Mar. 28	Opacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• McCarthy (1999) (§1 only)</li> <li>• Baković (2011)</li> <li>• Kawahara (2001)</li> </ul>	[Prospectus]
	Wed	Mar. 30	Cyclicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benua (2000) (selections)</li> <li>• Kiparsky (2000)</li> <li>• McCarthy (1999) (§8 only)</li> </ul>	

Week	Day	Date	Topic	Reading	Due
12	Mon	Apr. 4	Harmonic Serialism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elfner (to appear)</li> <li>• DOT Ch. 3.2,3.4-3.5</li> </ul>	
	Wed	Apr. 6	Prosody above the word I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nespor and Vogel (1986) (selections)</li> <li>• Selkirk (1995)</li> </ul>	
13	Mon	Apr. 11	Prosody above the word II	• Myrberg (2013)	
	Wed	Apr. 13	Acquisition	• Jesney and Tessier (2011)	
14	Mon	Apr. 18	Phonology in the lab	• Hayes et al. (2009)	
	Wed	Apr. 20	Functional pressures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hayes (1999)</li> <li>• DOT Ch. 4.7</li> </ul>	
15	Mon	Apr. 25	Presentations		
	Th	Apr. 27	Presentations		
	Tue	May 6	<b>Final paper due</b> (5pm, by email, in PDF format)		

## References

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