

- **Course overview**
- **What is linguistics?**  
**What is phonetics?**

# 0. Today's plan

This is **LING/ANTH 520, Linguistic Phonetics**

- Course information
- Who is this course for?
- What is linguistics?

What is phonetics?

# 1. Course information

## Welcome!

- I am **Jen Smith** [ [my web site](#) ]
  - Please call me Jen or Dr. Smith or Prof. Smith (“Ms. Smith” is not my professional title)

# 1. Course information

- **Textbooks:**

- **V&C:** P. Ladefoged & S. Disner, *Vowels & Consonants*, 3rd edition
- **AAP:** K. Johnson, *Acoustic & Auditory Phonetics*, 3rd edition

# 1. Course information

- **Course web site:**

<https://users.castle.unc.edu/~jlsmith/ling520.html>

- Check the “**Daily syllabus**” page after every class to find out about new readings and assignments
  - Today’s entry has the “**Course info and policies**” handout — ***download and keep in a safe place***

*Remember to REFRESH your web browser  
to get the latest version of a web page*

# 1. Course information

## Some key course policies

- See the “[Course info and policies](#)” handout
  - Grading information
  - Exam dates

...and more

## 2. Who is this course for?

- Required for **first-year MA students** in linguistics
  - Prerequisite for Phonological Theory I (LING 523)
  - *Useful for:* phonetics, phonology, historical linguistics, sociolinguistics, documentation
- Fulfills a “core course” for **BA LING majors**
  - *Relates to:* phonology, experimental linguistics, sociolinguistics, speech & hearing science
- Fulfills an elective for the **Data Science minor**
  - *Useful for:* experiment design, data analysis and interpretation

## 2. Who is this course for?

- This is an **upper-level course** but with **no prerequisites**
  - What does that mean?
- There is **no** required background knowledge
  - Exception: High-school algebra (solve for  $x$ )
  - ***Recommended*** background (for undergrads): LING 101, SPHS 530 or 540, or a “Structure of ...” language course



## 2. Who is this course for?

- Why is this an **upper-level** course?
  - Assigned readings are short, but dense—you'll probably want to go over them a couple of times  
*(The preparation questions will also help!)*
  - There is a **research project**

### 3. What is 'linguistic phonetics'?

- **Linguistics** is...

### 3. What is 'linguistic phonetics'?

- **Linguistics** is...  
**the systematic study of human language**
  - Mental grammar:

### 3. What is 'linguistic phonetics'?

- **Linguistics** is...  
**the systematic study of human language**
  - Mental grammar: the unconscious, but systematic, rules and principles governing how humans produce and understand language

### 3. What is 'linguistic phonetics'?

- **Linguistics** is...  
**the systematic study of human language**
  - Mental grammar: the unconscious, but systematic, rules and principles governing how humans produce and understand language
  - The mental grammar includes:

### 3. What is 'linguistic phonetics'?

- **Linguistics** is...

**the systematic study of human language**

- Mental grammar: the unconscious, but systematic, rules and principles governing how humans produce and understand language

- The mental grammar includes:

**semantics**

**syntax**

**morphology**

**phonology**

**phonetics**

### 3. What is 'linguistic phonetics'?

- **Linguistics** is...

**the systematic study of human language**

- Mental grammar: the unconscious, but systematic, rules and principles governing how humans produce and understand language
- The mental grammar includes:
  - semantics**      meaning structure
  - syntax**        phrase and sentence structure
  - morphology**   word structure
  - phonology**    the mental organization of sounds
  - phonetics**     speech articulation, acoustics, perception

### 3. What is 'linguistic phonetics'?

- Are all patterns involving the sounds of language caused by **articulation/acoustics/perception**?
  - Try "saying" a tongue twister silently



### 3. What is 'linguistic phonetics'?

- Are all patterns involving the sounds of language caused by **articulation/acoustics/perception**?
  - Try "saying" a tongue twister silently
    - It's hard, even without articulating any sounds!  
| **mental sound organization** = *phonology*
- The phonetics/phonology interface is complex (and very interesting!)
  - We will focus on articulation, acoustics, and a little perception in this course = *phonetics*
  - For more about phonology, try LING 200 or 523

### 3. What is 'linguistic phonetics'?

- What kinds of research questions would **linguistic phonetics** be interested in?

*One example:*

Languages with and without **front rounded vowels**

- What is a front rounded vowel?
- Do you know any languages that have them?

### 3. What is 'linguistic phonetics'?

*One example:*

Languages with and without front rounded vowels

(from the *World Atlas of Language Structures Online*)

- Some questions to consider:
  - Are FRVs relatively common, or uncommon?  
Why?
  - This map plots *high* and *mid* FRV — why are *low* ones extremely rare?
- Does understanding the articulation and acoustics of FRVs help answer these questions? (*Stay tuned...*)

## 4. Getting ready for the next class

- Visit the [Daily Syllabus page](#) on the course web site