

Phonetics and Phonology (A006628)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 1)	English	Gent	group work	0.0h
			seminar	0.0h
			independent work	0.0h
			lecture	0.0h

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Pacchiarotti, Sara	LW21	lecturer-in-charge
Crocco, Claudia	LW06	co-lecturer
Simon, Ellen	LW06	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Linguistics)	5	A
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	5	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

sociophonetics, speech, acoustic analysis, segmental phonetics, phonetic variation, prosody, intonation, rhythm, tone

Position of the course

This advanced course provides an in-depth study of segmental and prosodic phonetics and phonology.

Contents

The course offers elements of acoustic phonetics and explores segmental and prosodic phenomena (such as tone and intonation), focusing on the relationship between phonological structures and variation, with particular attention to sociophonetic aspects.

The course addresses the following topics:

- Recording sounds and Praat tutorial
- Sociophonetics: an introduction to segmental phonetic variation
- Sociophonetics: diving deeper into the field
- Phonetics and phonology of intonation
- Intonation, grammar and variation
- Phonetics and phonology of tone in African languages
- Tone systems in Africa: variation and interaction with prosody and morphology

Initial competences

A bachelor's-level knowledge of the fundamentals of general linguistics is required. No prior knowledge of African languages or other languages used as examples during the course is necessary.

Final competences

- 1 Be able to demonstrate advanced knowledge of segmental and suprasegmental phonetics and phonology, and in particular of sociophonetics, intonation, and the use of tone in tone languages.
- 2 Be able to independently and with guidance understand and critically discuss

scientific publications in these research domains.

- 3 Be able to record speech fragments and acoustically analyze both segmental and suprasegmental features.
- 4 Be able to demonstrate in-depth insight into the role of variation in spoken language and apply this knowledge to concrete speech samples.
- 5 Be able to distinguish different functions of intonation and demonstrate the link between prosody and grammar.
- 6 Be able to discuss variation in tone languages and its interaction with prosodic and morphological features.
- 7 Be able to use digital search environments and search strategies to identify relevant literature and research topics in the field.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Group work, Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Study material

Type: Reader

Name: Collection of scientific articles
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Language : English
Number of Pages : 300
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : Yes
Available in the Library : Yes

References

Sociophonetics: an introduction to segmental phonetic variation

Di Paolo, Marianna & Malcah Yaeger-Dror, eds. (2011). *Sociophonetics: A Student's Guide*, Routledge, London.
Knight, R.-A. & Setter, J. (eds.). (2021). *The Cambridge Handbook of Phonetics*, Cambridge University Press.

Sociophonetics: diving deeper into the field

Foulkes, P. & Docherty, G. (2006). The social life of phonetics and phonology. *Journal of Phonetics*, 34(4), 409–438. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wocn.2005.08.002>.
Montgomery, C. & Moore, E. F. (2018). Evaluating s(c)illy voices: The effects of salience, stereotypes, and co-present language variables on real-time reactions to regional speech. *Language*, 94(3), 629–661.

Phonetics and phonology of intonation

Frota, Sonia. 2016 Surface and Structure: Transcribing Intonation within and across Languages. *Laboratory Phonology: Journal of the Association for Laboratory Phonology*, 7(1): 7, pp. 1–19, DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5334/labphon.10>
Hirst, Daniel, J. 2005. Form and function in the representation of speech prosody. *Speech Communication*, 46(3-4), 334–347
Knight Rachael-Anne & Setter Jane. (eds.). 2021. *The Cambridge Handbook of Phonetics*. Cambridge Handbooks in Language and Linguistics:

Intonation, grammar and variation

Gili Fivela, Barbara, Cinzia Avesani, Marco Barone, Giuliano Bocci, Claudia Crocco, Mariapaola D'Imperio, Rosa Giordano, Giovanna Marotta, Michelina Savino & Patrizia Soriano. 2015. "Intonational Phonology of the Regional Varieties of Italian." In *Intonation in Romance*, edited by Sónia Frota and Pilar Prieto, 140–97. Oxford: Oxford University Press
O'Rourke, Erin & Mary Baltazani. 2023. Sociophonetics and intonation: A proposal for socioprosodics. In Christopher Strelluf (ed.), *The Routledge Handbook of Sociophonetics*, 23–54. Routledge.

Phonetics and phonology of tone in African languages

Myers, Scott. 2024. Phonetics of Tone (African Languages). Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Linguistics. Oxford University Press. Date of access 13 May. 2025, <<https://oxfordre.com/linguistics/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780199384655.001.0001/acrefore-9780199384655-e-1088>>
Odden, David. 1995. Tone: African languages. In John Goldsmith (ed.), *The handbook of phonological theory*, 444–475. Oxford: Blackwell.

Tone systems in Africa: variation and interaction with prosody and morphology

Downing, Laura J. and Annie Riiland. 2017. *Intonation In African Tone Languages*. Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton. (Selected chapters)
Odden David Arnold and Lee Bickmore. Melodic tone in Bantu: an overview. *Africana Linguistica* 20. 3-13. <https://doi.org/10.3406/aflin.2014.1021>

Course content-related study coaching

Assessment moments

continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Presentation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is not possible

Extra information on the examination methods

- assignment: 45%
- presentation: 45%
- participation: 10%

Calculation of the examination mark

Continuous assessment (100%)
Class attendance is necessary to successfully complete the course.

Facilities for Working Students

- Class attendance needs to be discussed with the teacher.
- No online/digital facilities (recordings).
- It is possible to take the exam at a different time within the regular exam period.
- Possibility to make an appointment for feedback.