FR 396K - Romance Phonology and Morphology - Fall 2012
36865 T-Th 11:00-12:15 HRC 2.106-C
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Office hours: T-Th 2:00-3:00in HRH-3.108-A, and by appointment

Prerequisites
This is an advanced course which presupposes a solid knowledge of the fundamentals of phonology. FR 383K or the equivalent, or LIN 381K or the equivalent, or consent of the instructor.

Course Description
This course focuses on the analysis of the phonology and morphology of Romance languages and dialects (as used here, "phonology" includes both segmental and suprasegmental levels; "morphology" excludes morphosyntax). It will expose students to recent developments in the analysis of Romance and the current theoretical frameworks in phonology and morphology, both in synchrony and in diachrony. Readings will be almost exclusively from primary sources. The object is to "learn the field", understand current research concerns, as they are expressed in papers published in the last 4 or 5 years. We will be discussing a number of recent articles from the major publication outlets in the field: *Probus*, *Diachronica*, the *LSRL (Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages)* volumes, the *Rivista di Linguistica*, the *Journal of French Studies* and others. The focus is on formal, theoretical phonology and a list of tentative titles is available from the instructor, which includes topics such as allophony, diphthongization, vowel reduction, nasalization, palatalization, analyzed from the perspective of Optimality Theory (OT-CC and Contrastive OT), Laboratory Phonetics and Distributed Morphology. But this focus, and the readings that reflect it, will be modified at the beginning of the semester to reflect students' interests and research concerns. On average, we will read two (sometimes lengthy) articles per week.

The broad purpose of this PhD seminar course is to train students to conduct research and write high-quality papers. We will practice writing and evaluating abstracts in phonology and morphology. Mastery of more than one Romance language is not required. The class will be taught in French if all students are comfortable with the language, in English otherwise. Most of the readings are in English.

Texts
No text is required. Readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Grading Policy
There is no final exam. Required work is as follows:
- unfailing class presence and participation
- frequent one-page summaries of readings.
- one major research paper (25 pages)
- two class presentations

Research sequence:
The first class presentation takes place on October 16-18. The topic may still be broad, but substantial research has been conducted (handout and bibliography required)
An abstract for the final paper is due by November 6.
The second class presentation takes place on November 29 and December 04. This is the oral version of the final work (it may consist in a narrowing of the topic presented in October)
The final paper is due on December 12.

Additional information

Religious Holy Days By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Use of E-mail for Official Correspondence to Students All students should become familiar with the University's official e-mail student notification policy. It is the student's responsibility to keep the University informed as to changes in his or her e-mail address. Students are expected to check e-mail on a frequent and regular basis in order to stay current with University-related communications, recognizing that certain communications may be time-critical. It is recommended that e-mail be checked daily, but at a minimum, twice per week. The complete text of this policy and instructions for updating your e-mail address are available at http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.html.

Documented Disability Statement Any student with a documented disability who requires academic accommodations should contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at (512) 471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329-3986 (video phone). Faculty are not required to provide accommodations without an official accommodation letter from SSD. *(Note to Faculty: Details of a student's disability are confidential. Faculty should not ask questions related to a student's condition or diagnosis when receiving an official accommodation letter.)*

- Please notify me as quickly as possible if the material being presented in class is not accessible (e.g., instructional videos need captioning, course packets are not readable for proper alternative text conversion, etc.).
- Please notify me as early in the semester as possible if disability-related accommodations for field trips are required. Advanced notice will permit the arrangement of accommodations on the given day (e.g., transportation, site accessibility, etc.).
- Contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329-3986 (video phone) or reference SSD's website for more disability-related information: http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/for_cstudents.php

Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL) If you are worried about someone who is acting differently, you may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone your concerns about another individual's behavior. This service is provided through a partnership among the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD).
Call 512-232-5050 or visit http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal.

Q drop Policy The State of Texas has enacted a law that limits the number of course drops for academic reasons to six (6). As stated in Senate Bill 1231: "Beginning with the fall 2007 academic term, an institution of higher education may not permit an undergraduate student a total of more than six dropped courses, including any course a transfer student has dropped at another institution of higher education, unless the student shows good cause for dropping more than that number."

Emergency Evacuation Policy Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation:

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of the classroom and the building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when you entered the building.
- If you require assistance to evacuate, inform me in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow my instructions or those of class instructors.

Do not re-enter a building unless you're given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office.

Course progression

This is a research-oriented seminar course for which the syllabus will be constantly readjusted on the basis of the discussions we have in class and the interests of the students. It will be frequently updated. The progression of the course will run as follows:

In the first two weeks (Aug 30 - Sep 13), we will

- review some basic tools of phonological analysis within the generative framework
- recap the tenets of "classical" OT
- study and discuss three articles (Readings #1, #2, #3)
- work on a review exercise in OT analysis (worksheet 1)
- learn about Output-to-Output correspondence

In the next two weeks (Sep 18 - Sep 27), we will

- discuss phenomena that are problematic for classical OT
- explain the logic of opacity in DT and in OT
- study and discuss three articles (Readings #4, #5, #6)
- work on two exercises where OT analysis comes short

In the next two weeks (Oct 02 - Oct 11), we will

- discuss the issue of globalism in phonology and morphology
- learn about the basics of OT-CC
- study and discuss three articles (Readings #7, #8, #9)

October 16 and October 18

- first round of class presentations

In the next two weeks (Oct 23 - Nov 01), we will

- study Harmonic Serialism and the details of OT-CC
- read extensively from McCarthy 2007 Hidden Generalizations
- study and discuss two articles (Readings #10 and #11)
- work on two case studies reanalyzed in OT-CC

November 06, 2012

- guest lecturer Anya Gaskill
- abstracts for final papers are due

In the next two weeks (Nov 08 - Nov 20), we will

- discuss the interaction of prosody with phonology and morphology
- study and discuss three articles (Readings #12, #13 and #14)

November 29 and December 04

- second round of class presentations

Please check Blackboard frequently for postings. All postings are in the same folder: Course documents. Please come to class fully prepared to discuss assigned articles. You will always have a full week to prepare them. Students will take turns preparing summaries of everything we read.