Course number and title: LING 451-0: Proseminar in Sound Structure

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Course description: This is a research seminar on language sound structure. The topic for Winter 2006 will be "Inter- and Intra-Talker Variability: Contact Induced Variability". We will review some of the main empirical findings on the causes and effects of signal variability both within and across native and non-native talkers. We will discuss the implications of these findings for theories and models of cross-language and second-language speech production and perception, and for speech technology (speech synthesis and automatic speech recognition).

Projects: A major component of the course will involve the design, compilation and exploration of speech databases. Students will work either individually or in small groups to produce a speech database “prototype” that can be used to develop descriptive and inferential analyses of speech variation across and/or within talkers.

Prerequisites: First year graduate work in phonology/phonetics, speech science, or psycholinguistics, or permission of the instructor.

Teaching method: Discussion and lecture.

Evaluation method: Class presentations, collection and analysis of primary data.

Reading: From the current research literature.

Restrictions: None. Please note that students who took this course last year, may participate again this year (see the instructor for more information).

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Winter 2006
LING 451: Proseminar in Sound Structure
Inter- and Intra-Talker Variability: Contact-induced Variability

Sample databases:
Everyone explores just one of these.
Come to class in weeks 2 and 3 with a brief description of the database(s). Focus on the database motivation and design.

- Variation in Conversation: The Buckeye Speech Corpus: http://vic.psy.ohio-state.edu/index.html
- University College London, Department of Phonetics and Linguistics, Speech Data http://www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/resource/data.html
- Center for Spoken Language Understanding @ OGI (Oregon Graduate Institute of Science and Technology): http://cslu.cse.ogi.edu/corpora/corpCurrent.html
- Linguistics Data Consortium at The University of Pennsylvania http://www.ldc.upenn.edu/
- Speech Accent Archive
Sample database studies:
Come to class in weeks 2 and 3 with a brief description of the study and a question/issue to discuss. Focus on the database design and its application to the central issue of the paper.


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<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
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| 1    | • General Intro. 1: Inter- and Intra-Talker Variability.  
     | • General Intro. 2: Second Language Phonetics & Phonology |
| 2    | • General Intro. 3: Second Language Phonetics & Phonology contd.  
     | • Sample Database Reports  
     | • Sample Database Reports contd. |
| 3    | • Database design & analysis plan |
| 4    |                                     |
| 5    |                                     |
| 6    | • Database collection |
| 7    |                                     |
| 8    | • Database analysis |
| 9    | • Write-up |
| 10   | • Reading Week |
| 11   | • Exam Week |