

Opasraportti

FHum - Phonetics (2017 - 2018)

Phonetics

Admission requirements / Academic year 2017–2018

In the academic year 2017-2018, all students enrolled at the University of Oulu and registered as present are allowed to study phonetics with the following restrictions. Basic studies can be completed by students who have completed the course Introduction to Phonetics (694500P) or equivalent studies before the spring term 2018. In spring term 2018, the right to study is only open to students who started their phonetics studies in the autumn term 2017 or earlier. The basic studies in phonetics at the University of Oulu will end in the spring term 2018.

Study guidance

Study guidance is provided by the Lecturer of Phonetics Pentti Körkkö during his office hours on Thursdays 12 pm–1 pm, and at other times by appointment. Telephone +358 29 448 3375, e-mail pentti.korkko(at)oulu.fi

Phonetics

Phonetics is a specialised field of Linguistics studying the physiology, acoustics and perception of speech, that is, how spoken messages are conveyed from the speaker to the listener in the so-called speech chain. Traditionally, the field of Phonetics is divided into the following areas of study: speech production, acoustic phonetics and auditory phonetics (speech perception); they are to some degree independent, although they are still fundamentally interdependent. Phoneticians examine speech and voice phenomena from several perspectives because speech always has vocal qualities that are specific either to the speaker or to the language being spoken, or indeed to features that are universal and present in all languages in the world. A linguistic approach to speech is truly important in Phonetics because language, as a basic element used in speech communication, strongly regulates both the production of speech and its perception. The multidisciplinary nature of the field of Phonetics is underlined by the contents of the courses we provide: within the areas of phonetic research, courses may focus on e.g. linguistics, physiology, acoustics and/or auditory perception of speech.

A knowledge of Phonetics may support: the study of foreign languages; the study of speech technique and voice control in speech communication; and the study of Logopedics, particularly of speech and language disorders, thus aiding clinical speech therapy. Other study areas where a knowledge of Phonetics is relevant are: phoniatriy, audiology, media studies, communication technology (especially speech technology), speech recognition and vocology.

Why study Phonetics?

Speech is the most important tool that we use for communication, though we might not always appreciate the significance of our speech because speaking is usually such an obvious and natural activity. The importance of speech is often noticed only when there are temporary or long-term problems, for example, when illness or an injury affects our organs of speech, or when the sounds of a foreign language are difficult to produce intelligibly for our listeners. Phonetics is the number one discipline that studies all vocal speech phenomena: speech production (how we make sounds with our organs of speech), the vocal characteristics unique to a speaker or a language, the vocal features speakers or languages have in common, and the perception and understanding of the sound of speech.

Phonetics can be studied only as a subsidiary (minor) subject at the University of Oulu and is especially suitable for students of languages (both mother-tongue languages Finnish, Swedish and Sami, and foreign languages), and for

students of speech communication. Because of the themes and focus areas in Phonetics, the subject can also be combined easily with the study of audiology, physiology, media studies and communication theory.

If you are interested in languages – in Finnish and its dialects, or in foreign languages – and you would prefer to find future employment in a research-related area, Phonetics is a very appropriate choice for a linguistic subsidiary subject. Naturally, studies in Phonetics will not prevent you from starting a career as a teacher, since the core of Phonetics is important in teaching as well. As a researcher or as a teacher with a background in Phonetics, you could specialise in, for example, the phonetic phenomena of language teaching and learning; or as a researcher who has studied Phonetics and who, therefore, is an expert in speech phenomena and methods, you could examine the phonetic characteristics of an individual language, or the universal speech phenomena of languages, or the deviant features of a person's speech. Phonetic expertise and knowledge of phonetic methods would also make it possible for you to make real discoveries based on e.g. measurements of children's babbling and speech development, or on the voice use of singers and artists, actors, speakers, TV presenters and so on. Phonetics is a multifaceted discipline where an individual researcher can easily find an interesting area of research: you could find yourself specialising in an examination of language from the perspective of Linguistics, Logopedics, Medicine or Psychology, without of course excluding an artistic perspective either.

The careers of past students with Phonetics as a subsidiary subject have varied greatly. Phonetics offers qualifications to work as e.g. a researcher, a teacher or an expert in speech and speech communication, variously working in a university or a college, collaborating on research projects, or working within a corporation or some other organisation.

Learning outcomes of the Basic Studies

The aim of the Basic Studies is that students will be able to describe, explain and analyse physical speech phenomena and how vocal speech conveys messages. Students will be able to select and use phonetic methods for studying languages, and to evaluate the role and significance of Phonetics in Linguistics. The research-oriented practical courses of the Basic Studies make it possible for students to focus on special areas they find interesting.

Courses

[694513P](#) Acoustic Phonetics 5 ECTS cr

[694514P](#) Experimental Acoustic Phonetics 6 ECTS cr

[694500P](#) Introduction to Phonetics - book exam 3 ECTS cr

[694512P](#) Phonetics and Phonology 6 ECTS cr

[694511P](#) Speech Production and Perception 6 ECTS cr

Tutkintorakenteisiin kuulumattomat opintokokonaisuudet ja -jaksot

694513P: Acoustic Phonetics, 5 op

694514P: Experimental Acoustic Phonetics, 6 op

694500P: Introduction to Phonetics - book exam, 3 op

694512P: Phonetics and Phonology, 6 op

694511P: Speech Production and Perception, 6 op

Opintojaksojen kuvaukset

Tutkintorakenteisiin kuulumattomien opintokokonaisuuksien ja -jaksojen kuvaukset

694513P: Acoustic Phonetics, 5 op

Voimassaolo: 01.08.2015 -

Opiskelumuoto: Basic Studies

Laji: Course

Vastuuyksikkö: Faculty of Humanities

Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail

Opettajat: Pentti Kärkkö

Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish

ECTS Credits:

5 (135 hours of work)

Language of instruction:

Finnish, English

Timing:

semester 2017-18

Learning outcomes:

upon completion the student is able to describe the physics of speech and to explain the effects of sound structure and speaker-specific factors on the acoustic properties of speech; he is aware of the basic processes in auditory speech perception

Contents:

basic acoustics, acoustic theory of speech production, acoustic features of vowels and consonants, auditory phonetics

Mode of delivery:

textbook examination

Learning activities and teaching methods:

independent learning for textbook exam 135h

Target group:

Students majoring and minoring in languages

Prerequisites and co-requisites:

completion of the courses An Introduction to phonetics (694500P) and Speech production and perception (694511P) and Phonetics and Phonology (694512P) is required

Recommended or required reading:

required reading: Johnson (2012), Acoustic and auditory phonetics and Suomi, Johdatusta puheen akustiikkaan)

Assessment methods and criteria:

written examination, assessment criteria is based on the learning outcomes of the course; read more about assessment criteria on the University of Oulu webpage

Grading:

1–5 (0 = fail)

Person responsible:

Lecturer in Phonetics

Working life cooperation:

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Other information:

course studies to be completed during spring term 2018

694514P: Experimental Acoustic Phonetics, 6 op

Voimassaolo: 01.08.2015 -

Opiskelumuoto: Basic Studies

Laji: Course

Vastuuyksikkö: Faculty of Humanities

Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail

Opettajat: Pentti Kärkkö

Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish

ECTS Credits:

6 (162 hours of work)

Language of instruction:

Finnish, English

Timing:

semester 2017-18

Learning outcomes:

upon completion the student is able to independently carry out a linguistic study based on acoustic measurements of speech: i.e. the student is able to gather relevant speech material using field and/or studio recordings, do relevant acoustic analyses and measurements and to interpret and to evaluate the significance of measurement results; the student is also able to select and utilize adequate software tools in scientific lab report writing

Contents:

working in recording studio; digital processing of speech samples; (speech processing in computer environment); research areas and methods of acoustic phonetics; acoustic measurement of speech and voice: research material, acoustic analyses and measurements; written scientific reports

Mode of delivery:

face-to-face teaching including demonstrations and exercises, private guidance, laboratory measurement work, writing laboratory report

Learning activities and teaching methods:

demonstration exercises 10h, independent learning for textbook exam 54h, exercises in data gathering and analysis & measurements (group work) 80h, private guidance 18h

Target group:

major and minor language students

Prerequisites and co-requisites:

completion of the courses Phonetics and Phonology (694512P), Acoustic phonetics (694513P) and Speech production and perception (694511P) and An Introduction to Phonetics (694500P) is required

Recommended or required reading:

Required reading: Selected chapters (approx. 200 pages, to be negotiated with required reading: selected chapters (approx. 200 pages = 60h, to be negotiated with the responsible teacher) of the following textbooks: Kent & Read, The acoustic analysis of speech; Kent, The Speech sciences; Hardcastle & Laver, Handbook of phonetics sciences

Assessment methods and criteria:

written examination, completion of preliminary speech recordings and segmentation tasks and a written lab report on an experimental research task; assessment criteria is based on the learning outcomes of the course; read more about assessment criteria on the University of Oulu webpage

Grading:

1–5 (0 = fail)

Person responsible:

Lecturer in Phonetics

Working life cooperation:

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Other information:

the course studies must be started prior to April 2018 and completed during spring semester 2018

694500P: Introduction to Phonetics - book exam, 3 op

Voimassaolo: 01.08.2005 -

Opiskelumuoto: Basic Studies

Laji: Course

Vastuuyksikkö: Faculty of Humanities

Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail

Opettajat: Pentti Kärkkö

Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish

ECTS Credits:

3 (81h of studies)

Language of instruction:

Finnish / English

Timing:

exam dates (autumn semester): 22.9.2017 and 24.11.2017

exam dates (spring semester): 26.1.2018 and 23.3.2018

Learning outcomes:

upon completion the student is able to explain processes of speech production, the student knows the basic phonetic terminology used in describing and classifying speech sounds and prosodic features and is also able to explain the general and special features of the Finnish sound system

Contents:

Language and speech, speech production, phonetic description and classification of speech sounds, speech prosody

Mode of delivery:

textbook exam

Learning activities and teaching methods:

written examination; independent studying including reading required literature and preparation for exam / exam 2h

Target group:

major and minor language students enrolled prior to semester 2017-18

Recommended or required reading:

foreign language option for non-native speakers of Finnish: Rogers (2000), The Sounds of Language – An Introduction to Phonetics, Chapters 1 and 7–14.

Assessment methods and criteria:

written examination, assessment criteria is based on the learning outcomes of the course; read more about assessment criteria on the University of Oulu webpage

Grading:

1–5 (0 = fail)

Person responsible:

Lecturer in Phonetics

Working life cooperation:

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Other information:

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694512P: Phonetics and Phonology, 6 op

Voimassaolo: 01.08.2015 -

Opiskelumuoto: Basic Studies

Laji: Course

Vastuuyksikkö: Faculty of Humanities

Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail

Opettajat: Pentti Körkkö

Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish

ECTS Credits:

6 (162 hours of work)

Language of instruction:

Finnish, English

Timing:

semester 2017-18

Learning outcomes:

fundamental conceptual framework needed in describing the phonetic phenomena of languages, including phonology, phonotactics and morphophonology; the student is able to explain phonological, phonotactical and morphophonological processes

Contents:

fundamentals of phonetics and phonology, phonotactics and morphophonology; phonology in language teaching; basics of Finnish phonological processes

Mode of delivery:

reading textbooks

Learning activities and teaching methods:

independent learning for textbook exam 162h

Target group:

major and minor language students

Prerequisites and co-requisites:

completion of the course 694500P An Introduction to phonetics is required

Recommended optional programme components:

Pennington (1996) Phonology in English language teaching: an international approach (270 pages = 80h)

Recommended or required reading:

required reading: Clark, Yallop & Fletcher, An Introduction to phonetics and phonology (Chapters 1–11); Suomi, Toivanen & Ylitalo, Fonetiikan ja suomen äänneopin perusteet (Osa II Johdatus suomen kielen äänneoppiin)

Assessment methods and criteria:

written examination, assessment criteria is based on the learning outcomes of the course; read more about assessment criteria on the University of Oulu webpage

Grading:

1–5 (0 = fail)

Person responsible:

Lecturer in Phonetics

Working life cooperation:

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Other information:

course studies to be completed during spring term 2018

694511P: Speech Production and Perception, 6 op

Voimassaolo: 01.08.2015 -

Opiskelumuoto: Basic Studies

Laji: Course

Vastuuyksikkö: Faculty of Humanities

Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail

Opettajat: Pentti Körkkö

Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish

ECTS Credits:

6 (162h of work)

Language of instruction:

English, Finnish

Timing:

semester 2017-18

Learning outcomes:

upon completion the student is able to describe and explain processes of speech production, speech acoustics and speech perception

Contents:

physiology of speech production, speech acoustics and speech perception, theories of speech production and perception

Mode of delivery:

textbook exam

Learning activities and teaching methods:

Independent studying for the textbook exam 162h

Target group:

major and minor language students

Prerequisites and co-requisites:

completion of the course An Introduction to phonetics 694500P is required

Recommended or required reading:

required reading: Borden, Harris (2009), Speech Science Primer and Ashby & Maidment (2005), Introducing Phonetics Science

Assessment methods and criteria:

Written examination. Assessment criteria are based on the learning outcomes of the course. Read more about the assessment criteria on the University of Oulu webpage.

Grading:

1–5 (0 = fail)

Person responsible:

Lecturer in Phonetics

Other information:

course studies to be completed during spring term 2018