

LIN 1223H1F Advanced Phonology III: Representations in Harmonic Serialism

Syllabus

Instructor	Peter Jurgec ['júrgə̀ts] (call me Peter)
Office hours	Wednesday 8 pm or by appointment
Office	suppressed
Email	suppressed
Seminar	Wednesday 6–8 pm (Sidney Smith Hall 2112)

Course Description and Goals

Optimality Theory (OT) is a grammatical model based on the interaction of conflicting constraints. Classic OT is fully parallel (each input maps directly to an output), with largely unrestricted Gen(erator). Harmonic Serialism (HS) is a serial version of OT that limits Gen to make at most one operation at a time. A large part of the research agenda is still focused on figuring out what exactly constitutes a single operation, but one trend is clear: operations are related to modifying (adding/deleting/changing) representational primitives, such as features, root nodes, association lines, syllables and their constituents, or feet. This suggests that representations play a crucial role in HS. This course will examine some of the representational consequences of HS.

By the end of the course, students will be able to (i) understand how HS works, (ii) compare predictions of different theoretical models (representations, operations, serialism), (iii) make use of computational tools for linguistic analyses, (iv) analyze linguistic data in HS. Students are required to read one or two articles/book chapters per week and contribute to the discussion in class. Other requirements include: short weekly assignments related to the reading material, short in-class reports on reading, participation at the OT-Help workshop, and a term project consisting of two versions of a paper and an in-class presentation. Auditors are welcome.

This course is suitable for students that have completed LIN322H Phonological Theory or equivalent.

Course Website

The course website is available on *Blackboard* (<http://portal.utoronto.ca>).

Course Requirements

Participation (10%)

You are required to attend the seminar, and ask questions. To receive full credit, you should ask at least one (1) question each session. Participation will count 10% towards the final grade.

Reading Assignments (16%)

You are required to do the readings in advance. Eight short assignments will be given in relation to the reading (e.g. 3-2-1 tasks, summary, discussion points, review). To receive full credit, you should submit all these assignments **by Tuesday noon** before the class the reading is for. The assignments will not be graded satisfactory (full credit) or unsatisfactory (no credit).

Presentation (15%)

The course ends with the HS Workshop, in which everyone will present their papers. You are required to make handouts or slides (but not both!).

, Your presentation will be graded based on the following criteria:

- Have you had enough time to prepare?
- How is your presentation structured?
- Is the argumentation clear?
- Is the presentation easy to follow?
- Is the presenter communicating with the audience efficiently (rather than just reading)?
- Are the slides/handouts well-organized, pleasing to the eye, and without typos?
- How well did you respond to questions?

Two peer reviews (14%)

You will peer review two other students' papers.

Your peer reviews will be graded based on the following criteria:

- Did the review accurately summarize the paper?
- Did the review accurately evaluate the paper?
- Is the review well-structured and clear?
- Did the review recognize the main contribution(s) of the paper?
- Did the review raise valid objections or alternative solutions?
- How detailed is the review? (Are minor comments also included?)
- Was the tone of the review appropriate?

Paper (45%)

You are expected to focus on a particular issue, topic, problem, or language. Sample topics include: Solutions for opacity in HS, Input death solutions in HS, Analysis of {insert pattern in some language} in Harmonic Serialism. A more comprehensive list of topics will be available on October 1. The paper should be at least 12 single-spaced pages long (not including literature).

Before First Version (5%)

You should have a tentative topic by October 13 (1%), a list of the relevant literature by October 24 (2%), and a short summary by October 31 (2%). The topic may change.

First Version (15%)

The first version of the paper should be as close to the final version as possible. At the very least, the first version should contain the introduction and conclusion, all the data, the discussion and the bulk of the analysis. The due date is November 13. Recommended reading: McCarthy 2010a.

Final Version (25%)

The final version of the paper should contain a full (theoretical) account. The paper is due on December 5.

Your paper will be graded based on the following criteria:

- Is the paper and well-organized and clearly written?
- Did the paper raise new questions, observations, generalizations?
- Is the empirical coverage of the paper sufficient?
- Did the paper accurately summarize previous research?
- Is the argumentation solid?
- Is the theoretical account original, clearly motivated and well-suited?
- Did you integrate the reviewers' and instructor's comments? You may provide a separate letter with a point-by-point response to the reviewers.

Evaluation: Summary

Participation		10%	weekly
Reading assignments		16%	weekly
Presentation		15%	11/26
Peer reviews		14%	11/20
Paper	Topic	1%	10/13
	Literature review	2%	10/24
	Short summary	2%	10/31
	First version	15%	11/13
	Final version	25%	12/5

Class Schedule (Tentative)

Date	Topic	Deadlines
9/10	Introduction. OT Review Reading: McCarthy 2008, § 1–2 (particularly § 2.2–2.8, 2.10–2.12)	
9/17	Issues in OT* Reading: McCarthy 2008, § 4–6 (particularly § 4.1–4.7)	
9/24	Intro to HS* Reading: McCarthy 2010b	
10/1	Positional Faithfulness* Reading: Jesney 2011 (add'l Beckman 1997)	
10/8	Harmony* Reading: McCarthy 2011, Kimper 2012	
10/15	Feet* Reading: Pruitt 2010	10/13 Tentative topic due
10/22	OT-help Workshop* (in-class simulations) Reading: Torres-Tamarit & Jurgec 2015, Mullin et al. 2010	10/24 Literature review due
10/29	Syllables* Reading: Elfner 2009	10/31 Short summary due
11/5	Opacity* Reading: Torres-Tamarit 2015; Jurgec & Razboršek 2014	
11/12	Individual consultations. No seminar	11/13 Paper version 1 due
11/19	Variation Reading: Kimper 2013	11/20 Paper reviews due
11/26	HS Workshop (students' presentations) 5–9 pm, includes dinner	12/5 Final paper due

* (star) marks short homework assignments (due Tuesday noon)

Course Policies

- This course requires constant, weekly output. Plan your homework well in advance and make sure you have enough time to complete the task.
- Deadlines can be a challenge in graduate seminars. There can be no extensions on the weekly reading assignments, so please, make sure to do them in advance. If you think you cannot meet a non-homework-related deadline because of personal or religious reasons, or because of a health or family emergency, make sure to let me know **as soon as possible** or when the situation presents itself—but certainly well before the deadline. I will do my best to accommodate your needs. Note that as a general rule, extensions will not be allowed if requested after the deadline has passed.
- All work is to be submitted via email. Please add LIN1223 at the beginning of the subject line. Please, submit your work in the Portable Document Format (.pdf), and make sure that any special fonts are included in the file.

- It is the university policy that students use their UofT addresses for all communication related to their coursework.
- Please, do not be late to class. In the case of absence, no credit can be given for assignments that require in-class participation or presentation.

References

- Beckman, Jill N. (1997). Positional faithfulness, positional neutralization and Shona vowel harmony. *Phonology* **14**. 1–46.
- Elfner, Emily (2009). Syllabification and stress-epenthesis interactions in Harmonic Serialism. Ms. University of Massachusetts, Amherst. 50pp.
- Jesney, Karen (2011). Positional faithfulness, non-locality, and the Harmonic Serialism solution. In Susi Lima, Kevin Mullin & Brian Smith (eds.) *Proceedings of NELS 39*, Amherst: GLSA, University of Massachusetts. 429–440.
- Jurgec, Peter & Tina Razboršek (2014). Counterfeeding opacity in Šmartno Slovenian and Input Positional Faithfulness. Ms. University of Toronto and Nova Gorica, Slovenia.
- Kimper, Wendell (2012). Harmony is myopic. *Linguistic Inquiry* **43**. 301–309.
- McCarthy, John J. (2008). *Doing Optimality Theory: Applying Theory to Data*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.
- McCarthy, John J. (2010a). Harmonic Serialism supplement to *Doing Optimality Theory*. Ms. University of Massachusetts Amherst. Available on Rutgers Optimality Archive, ROA 1099, <http://roa.rutgers.edu>.
- McCarthy, John J. (2010b). An introduction to Harmonic Serialism. *Language and Linguistics Compass* **10**. 1010–1018.
- McCarthy, John J. (2011). Autosegmental spreading in Optimality Theory. In John A. Goldsmith, Elizabeth Hume & Leo Wetzels (eds.) *Tones and Features (Clements memorial volume)*, Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter. 195–222.
- Mullin, Kevin, Brian W. Smith, Joe Pater & John J. McCarthy (2010). OT-Help 2.0 user guide. Available at <http://people.umass.edu/othelp/OTHelp2man.pdf>.
- Pruitt, Kathryn (2010). Serialism and locality in constraint-based metrical parsing. *Phonology* **27**. 481–526.
- Torres-Tamarit, Francesc (2015). Length and voicing in Friulian and Milanese: Or why rule-free derivations are needed. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* **33**. 1351–1386.
- Torres-Tamarit, Francesc & Peter Jurgec (2015). Lapsed derivations: Ternary stress in Harmonic Serialism. *Linguistic Inquiry* **46**. 376–387.