Prosody and Intonation
(Fall 2015, CUNY GC)

Meeting Time: Thursdays, 11:45am - 1:45pm
Course Listing: LING 79400 and SPCH 80900
Instructor: J. Bishop
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Office: 7208 (or 7400)
Office Hours: (Thursdays 2:15 - 3:15pm)

Course Description:
This course is an introduction to the Autosegmental-Metrical framework for studying sentence-level prosody and intonation. We will first concentrate on transcribing English intonation using the ToBI (Tones and Break Indices) system, and then expand to other languages (e.g., Japanese, Korean, Bengali, and French) and discuss a broader prosodic typology. This course will provide tools for sophisticated prosodic analysis that can be applied to the study of phenomena in segmental phonetics/phonology, syntax, semantics, information structure, sentence processing, computational linguistics, and L1/L2 language acquisition; an emphasis will be on relating our phonological model of prosodic and intonational structure to these other areas of inquiry.

Prerequisite(s):
Phonology I (LING71300) is recommended; Speech Science (SPCH 70500, or an equivalent course in acoustic phonetics) would be extremely useful.

Texts:
Required: Readings will be provided on the course website (www.speechlab.csi.cuny.edu/teaching)
Optional: Intonational Phonology (2nd Edition), Robert Ladd (2008), Cambridge University Press. (I’ll post readings from here, but this is a useful book to own).

Course requirements:
- Six homework assignments, mostly based on lab exercises.
- A 10-minute individual production exam during finals week.
- Term project: Students will fully design (but not carry out) a research project utilizing the prosodic theory and analysis developed in class. This is an especially good opportunity to explore the interface between prosody and another linguistic subfield. Students will be required to discuss their project topics with the instructor before the 9th class meeting.
Some possible project topics (general areas):

1. The role of prosody in conditioning articulatory dynamics, coarticulatory timing, or other phonetic phenomena; the extent to which higher-level prosodic structure serves as a relevant domain for segmental phonological alternations/processes.

2. Any of the many interactions between prosody and the interpretation of focus, topic, quantifier scope; the relation between intonational phrasing and syntactic phrasing; prosodic properties of children’s speech or Motherese (i.e., infant-directed speech); L2 speech; disordered speech.

3. The role of prosody in the (on-line) processing of linguistic information, including (but not limited to) lexical access, syntactic parsing, and reference resolution.

4. A (sketch of a) phonological model of the intonation of a dialect of any language for which the “standard” variety has already been described in intonational phonology.

5. A (sketch of a) phonological model of the intonation of any language for which there is no current description in the AM framework.

6. Describe and analyze prosody associated with a special discourse meaning or sociolinguistic function. This could include, but is not limited to, political speech, announcement/newscaster or read speech, advertisements, or the speech of some particular social group.

Tentative Schedule
Readings in brackets are optional, i.e., useful for further study on a particular topic. (If I don’t post one of the optional readings that you want, just let me know).

**Week 1**: Introduction: Intonation and its representation: A phonological model - Assignment 0 out
—Readings: Beckman (1993); Beckman & Pierrehumbert (1986; English part only) Ladd (2008) ch.1; [Ladd 1992, 2008 ch.2]; p.1-10; Bolinger (1958); Crystal (1969); Pierrehumbert (1980); Cruttenden (1997)]

**Weeks 2-3**: The ToBI system
—Lab: presence of accent; simple pitch accents - Assignment I out

**Week 4**: Pitch accents in ToBI
—Lab: Complex pitch accents I - Assignment II out
—Readings: Beckman & Ayers (1997) sections 2.1-2.2; Pierrehumbert & Steele (1989); [Petrelli, Beckman, & Hirschberg (1994); Beckman (1996)]
Week 5-6: Intonational tunes and their meanings
—Lab: Complex pitch accents II - Assignment III out

Weeks 7-8: Phrasing and focus
—Lab: Phrasal accents and Intonational boundary tones

Weeks 9-10: Durational correlates of prosodic structure
—Lab: Break Indices - Assignment IV out
—Readings: Beckman & Ayers (1997) section 3; Weightman et al. (1992); [(Price et al. (1991); Ladd & Campbell (1991)]

Week 11: Break Indices; Pitch range and discourse structure
—Lab: labelling the miscellaneous tier - Assignment V out
—Readings: Beckman & Ayers (1997) sec. 2.9-2.11 & 4; Liberman & Pierrehumbert (1984); Hirschberg & Pierrehumbert (1986); [Grosz & Hirschberg (1990); Terken & Hirschberg (1994); Swerts & Geluykens (1994); Ladd (1994); Hayes (1994); Ayers (1994); Ladd (2008, ch.7)]

Weeks 12-13: Prosodic Typology

Week 14: Wrapping up
—10-minute individual oral (i.e., production) exam
—Projects due