



Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology

FONM15, Phonetics: Phonology, 7.5 credits

Fonetik: Fonologi, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2026-05-25 (U 2026/212). The syllabus comes into effect 2026-06-01 and is valid from the spring semester 2027.

General information

The course is a compulsory component of the Master of Arts programme in Language and Linguistics (HASPV) specialising in General Linguistics and Phonetics.

The course is also offered as a single course and can normally be included as part of a general degree at the undergraduate or graduate levels.

Language of instruction: English

The course can be taught in Swedish if an agreement is reached by both the teacher and the students. Such an agreement would depend on both the lecturer and the students having a good knowledge of Swedish.

Main field of study

Language and Linguistics with specialization in General Linguistics

Language and Linguistics with specialization in Phonetics

Specialisation

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

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Learning outcomes

On completion of the course the student shall

Knowledge and understanding

- be able to account for the division of linguistic sound patterns into phonological units, distinctive features, and domains according to current theoretical frameworks,

- be able to account for recurring phonological operations and sound changes in the world's languages,
- be able to account for the larynx's functions and their specific role in linguistic sound change,

Competence and skills

- analyze abstract underlying forms and operations on the basis of phonological data in the surface representation,
- identify properties of phonological environments that condition phonological operations and sound changes,
- design a data collection protocol based on principles in experimental science and laboratory phonology,
- collect linguistic data with speakers in order to investigate the presence of phonological patterns,
- hypothesize the developmental pathway behind a linguistic sound pattern based on asymmetries in phonetics,

Judgement and approach

- argue for the choice of theoretical framework in the context of a phonological analysis,
- interpret the results from phonological data collection based on the underlying experimental design decisions,
- challenge a theoretical phonological framework at its limitations or weak points via a proposed study in laboratory phonology.

Course content

The course builds on a deep-dive into concepts in phonological theory, that is to say the division of phonological structure into units, distinctive features, domains and those operations, that lie between deep and surface structure, with special focus on how and why these structures have developed and recur in the world's languages. The course will also spotlight the larynx's special role in the development of linguistic sound patterns in segmental and prosodic phonology.

The course also refines the student's abilities in experimental design in the context of laboratory phonology and the interpretation of phonological data from experimental or documentation-oriented sources. Special focus will be on the internal and external influences that underlie participants' responses to phonological tasks.

Course design

Teaching is given in the form of lectures (6–7), group exercises (3–4), two planning meetings for lab assignments, and a presentation day (total 12–14 meetings). It is obligatory to attend all class sessions. Absence from class sessions is compensated via submission of an assignment according to the instructor's instructions.

Assessment

Module 1: two laboratory sessions with written presentations, 3 credits (grades: Fail, Pass)

Module 2: oral and written presentation of an individual assignment, for which a theoretically justified issue is tested empirically, 4.5 credits (grades: Fail, Pass, Pass with Distinction)

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction

The two laboratory sessions are awarded a grade of Fail/Pass. The oral and written presentation of an individual assignment is awarded a grade of Fail/Pass/Pass with Distinction. To be awarded a Pass on the whole course, a Pass is required on all assessed components. To be awarded a Pass with Distinction on the whole course, a grade of Pass with Distinction is also required on the oral and written presentation of the individual assignment.

Entry requirements

90 credits, of which at least 60 credits are from within a language discipline or linguistics (general linguistics or phonetics), or equivalent knowledge, and English 6/English Level 2.

Further information

- The course is offered at Centre for Languages and Literature, Lund University.
- The course replaces FONM10.
- The credits allocated for course content that in whole or in part is commensurate with another course can only be credited once for a degree.
- For further details see the current registration information and other relevant documentation.