

LINC11, Linguistics: Speech Acoustics, Perception and Prosody, 7.5 credits

Lingvistik: Talets akustik, perception och prosodi, 7,5 högskolepoäng
First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The pro-dean for First-Cycle Studies at the Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2019-11-27 and was last revised on 2026-05-25 by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology (U 2026/212). The revised syllabus comes into effect 2026-06-01 and is valid from the spring semester 2027.

General information

The course is offered as a freestanding course and is included as a module in Linguistics: Level 2. It can normally be included in a first or second cycle degree.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of study *Specialisation*

Linguistics G1F, First cycle, has less than 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the students shall be able to

Knowledge and understanding

- account for some key moments in the history of phonetics
- account for general acoustic elements from a source-filter perspective on speech sounds
- account for acoustic patterns with respect to vowel and consonant categories and prosody as well as how these patterns are reproduced in acoustic diagrams

- account for the link between acoustic patterns of speech sounds on the one hand, and the production and the perception of the respective sounds on the other
- present basic, phonetically relevant facts about the role of the nervous system and the ear in speech communication as well as the foundations of psychoacoustics and speech perception theory

Competence and skills

- produce and interpret spectrograms and other diagrams relevant to phonetics
- adequately use phonetic methods to analyse primary data
- apply a simple statistical method to primary data
- express themselves in writing using a discourse that is relevant to phonetics and at an appropriate academic level for the task

Judgement and approach

- select an appropriate phonetic method for primary data
- compare and assess the empirical approach in a small selection of research publications.

Course content

The course focuses on key parts of phonetics such as speech acoustics and its link to the production and perception of speech. The course includes laboratory components that provide insight into how acoustic representations are produced and interpreted. The focus is on both segmental and prosodic features of spoken language.

In addition, phonetic theory is linked to a part of the history of phonetics. With the aid of selected literature, different methods in phonetics are described and compared. Basic application of statistical methods will also be discussed and practically applied in the course.

Course design

Teaching consists of lectures, laboratory sessions and exercises.

Assessment

Assessment is based on the following three modules:

Module 1: Speech Acoustics, Perception and Prosody a written invigilated exam, 3.5 credits (grades: Fail, Pass, Pass with Distinction)

Module 2: Speech Acoustics, Perception and Prosody a written report, 1.5 credits (grades: Fail, Pass)

Module 3: Speech Acoustics, Perception and Prosody a laboratory session with a written presentation, 2.5 credits (grades: Fail, Pass)

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

For a grade of Pass on the course, the student must have been awarded this grade on all modules; for a grade of Pass with Distinction, the student must also have been awarded this grade on the written examination.

Entry requirements

General entry requirements and LINA14 Linguistics: Level 1, 30 credits, or LINB21, 15 credits, and LINB22, 15 credits, or 60 credits in a language subject including basic knowledge of phonetics in accordance with LINB22, or the equivalent.

Further information

- The course is offered at the Centre for Languages and Literature, Lund University.
- The course is included as a module in LINA24.
- 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.