

HUMA 5060 Topics in Chinese Phonetics

Instructor: Xiaonong Zhu

Course description

The course introduces basic concepts and terminology Chinese phonetics and discusses theoretically significant topics, especially those not found in general phonetics or English phonetics. It provides a wide range of knowledge of phonetics and also teaches techniques of analyzing speech sounds using computer software.

Objective:

In this course students will gain familiarity with the theory, terminology, and practical techniques for describing the sounds of Chinese dialects. They will learn to analyze sounds using acoustic software and apply their knowledge to working out the phonology of an unfamiliar Chinese dialect.

Topics:

- Phonetic terminology in the Chinese language
- Physiological dimensions of speech sounds
- Basic acoustic concepts
- Air stream mechanism
- Phonation types
- Vowels
- Consonants
- Tone
- Spectrograms: types and measurement
- Procedures of investigating the sound system of a Chinese dialect
- Phonetics and phonology

Assessment Scheme:

An Assignment	20%
Class Performance (attendance and class discussion)	10%
Research project	70%