

**The Ohio State University
Freshman Seminar Program
Course Proposal**

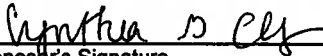
Course Information.

1. Attach a sample syllabus that includes the following. (Sample syllabi can be found at <http://freshmanseminars.osu.edu>).
 - the course goals
 - a brief description of the content
 - the distribution of meeting times
 - a weekly topical outline
 - a listing of assignments
 - grade assessment information (A-E or S / U)
 - required textbooks and / or reading list
 - the academic misconduct and disability services statements (sample statements can be found at <http://artsandsciences.osu.edu/currofc/resources.cfm>)

2. Attach a brief biographical paragraph that includes the current research interests, teaching awards and honors, and undergraduate courses taught by the participating instructor(s). The paragraph will be included in materials for first-year students.

Cynthia Clopper, Department of Linguistics

Proposer's Name and Academic Unit



Proposer's Signature

clopper.1@osu.edu

Proposer's e-Mail Address

614-292-8235

Contact Phone Number

9/2/16

Submission Date


Signature Department Chair of Academic Unit

Please indicate the semester you would like to offer the seminar: AU' _____ SP'17 _____

This form and any attachments should be mailed to Freshman Seminar Program, 100 Denney Hall, 164 Annie and John Glenn Avenue, ATTN: Dawn Nolen or e-mailed to nolen.2@osu.edu. For additional information, please call 614/292-4680.

**Famous Voices
Freshman Seminar
Arts & Sciences 1138.**
1 Credit
Spring 2017**

Instructor: Dr. Cynthia Clopper
Office: Ohio Stadium East 110A
Phone: 614-292-8235
Email: clopper.1@osu.edu
Office Hours: Mondays 1:00pm-3:00pm, and by appointment

Day and Time: Mondays 11:30am-12:25pm
Location: TBA

Course Description

Every human voice is unique. In this class, we will explore what makes voices unique, with the goal of understanding what makes the voices of famous actors and politicians distinctive, memorable, and recognizable. Our investigation of these questions will involve readings in basic acoustic-phonetics (i.e., the study of human speech sounds) and in-class acoustic analysis of the speech of student-selected famous voices to uncover their distinctive properties.

Course Components

Reading Assignments: Reading assignments are listed on the weekly schedule below. Electronic copies of all of the readings will be posted on Carmen and each reading will have an associated Carmen discussion board for questions. Class meetings on days when reading assignments are due will be devoted to discussion of the assigned reading. You are therefore expected to read the assigned reading in preparation for those class meetings and to post at least one thoughtful question about the reading to the Carmen discussion board by 11:59pm on the day before class.

Voice Assignments: Voice assignments are listed on the weekly schedule below. For each voice assignment, you will be asked to find a recording of a famous voice that illustrates the current topic. Class meetings on days when voice assignments are due will be devoted to acoustic analysis of the voices you submit. You are therefore expected to upload your recording and a brief comment about why the voice fits the topic to the Carmen assignment by 11:59pm on the day before class.

People's Choice: The last class meeting of the course will be dedicated to additional voices identified by the students in the class. Nominations for the People's Choice voices can be submitted at any time to the People's Choice assignment on Carmen. Nominations must include the name of the person, a recording of their speech, and a brief comment about what you find interesting about the voice. Each student must nominate two voices for the People's Choice. All nominations are due before class in Week 12, when we will vote on the nominated voices to determine the winner(s).

Class Participation: Students are expected to attend class and to actively participate in reading assignment discussions and in-class hands-on acoustic analysis activities.

Grading

Final grades will be either Satisfactory (S) or Unsatisfactory (U), with a S grade corresponding to at least 75% of the total possible 56 points. You must therefore earn at least 42 points to earn a S grade. Points will be awarded as follows:

Reading assignment questions:	2 points each x 7	14 points
Voice assignments:	2 points each x 5	10 points
People's Choice nominations:	2 points each x 2	4 points
<u>Class participation:</u>	<u>2 points each x 14</u>	<u>28 points</u>
Total		56 points

Academic Misconduct

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (http://studentlife.osu.edu/pdfs/csc_12-31-07.pdf).

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1 – Famous Voices

Thinking about famous voices and what makes them distinctive

Week 2 – The Sound of Speech

Introduction to the acoustics of speech
 READ: Chapter 3 of *The Speech Chain*

Week 3 – Visualizing Speech

Introduction to waveforms as a visual representation of speech
 READ: Chapter 1 of *Vowels and Consonants*

Week 4 – Pitch

Introduction to pitch (fundamental frequency) in the human voice

READ: Chapter 2 of *Vowels and Consonants*

Week 5 – Distinctive Voices: Pitch

Acoustic analysis of famous voices that have distinctive pitch

DUE: Pitch voice assignment

Week 6 – Timing

Introduction to rhythm and timing in human speech

READ: Chapter 6 of *Elements of General Phonetics*

Week 7 – Distinctive Voices: Timing

Acoustic analysis of famous voices that have distinctive timing

DUE: Timing voice assignment

Week 8 – Voice Quality

Introduction to human voice quality

READ: Chapter 7 of *Principles of Phonetics*

Week 9 – Distinctive Voices: Quality

Acoustic analysis of famous voices that have distinctive quality

DUE: Quality voice assignment

Week 10 – Age and Gender

Introduction to variation in age and gender in human voices

READ: Chapter 8 of *A Course in Phonetics*

Week 11 – Distinctive Voices: Age and Gender

Acoustic analysis of famous voices with interesting age/gender features

DUE: Age/gender voice assignment

Week 12 – Accent

Introduction to variation due to accent in human speech

READ: Chapter 11 of *English Phonetics and Phonology*

DUE: People's Choice nomination

Week 13 – Distinctive Voices: Accent

Acoustic analysis of famous voices with interesting accents

DUE: Accent voice assignment

Week 14 – People's Choice

Acoustic analysis of more famous voices

Instructor Biography

Dr. Cynthia Clopper is an Associate Professor in the Department of Linguistics and an Associate Director of the Center for Cognitive and Brain Sciences. Her major area of expertise is phonetics (the study of human speech), including both the acoustic properties of human speech and human speech perception. Dr. Clopper's current research projects examine the effects of variation on speech production and perception, the effects of listener experience on the perception of regional dialect variation, and the prosodic (pitch, rhythm, and timing) structure of American English and Paraguayan Guaraní. She advises undergraduate research projects in these and related areas and was awarded a Distinguished Undergraduate Research Mentor award in 2008. Dr. Clopper teaches undergraduate courses in phonetics and quantitative data analysis (statistics). She is also the Faculty Honors Advisor in Linguistics and the program advisor for the undergraduate Cognitive Science minor.