Prosody and Discourse
Seminar, Spring 2016
Linguistics 490.006 / 590.006
Instructor: Caroline Smith
Monday and Wednesday 4:00 - 5:30 PM

What this is about
The course will investigate how prosody (primarily intonation and rhythm/timing) contributes to constructing meaning and structure in discourse. Prosody has been shown to be important in understanding syntactic structure in individual sentences as well as information structure (e.g. focus) and the organization of longer passages of discourse. Topics that can be addressed, depending on student interest, include the role of prosody in the interaction between speaker and listener, prosody in second language speakers and listeners, how visual information contributes to prosody, and computational applications using prosody. The course will include practical exercises in listening to and analyzing speech, and presentation and discussion of readings.

Why this should interest you
The course should be of value to students interested in the interaction of language structure and use. Part of the task of understanding how language is used to communicate is to see how the actual production of a linguistic message contributes to its meaning. The discussion will include both spoken and signed language, and language produced in both experimental and naturalistic settings.

> This class fulfills the requirement for a second phonetics/phonology course for Ph.D. students.

Prerequisites
Basic courses in phonetics and phonology (303 and 304).

Requirements
In-class presentations of readings; acoustic (or video) analysis of recorded speech (or sign); project and paper.

If you’re interested, please contact the instructor at caroline@unm.edu

Experiment: One person looks at one picture, another person sees the other picture. How do they manage their conversational interaction? What prosodic cues do they use in identifying differences?