# 24.964 Topics in Phonology: Stress

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**Class site:** [https://stellar.mit.edu/S/course/24/sp14/24.964/index.html](https://stellar.mit.edu/S/course/24/sp14/24.964/index.html)  

**Place and time:** Thursday 2-5, in 32D-831  

**Course prerequisites:** a class in phonology or permission of instructor  

**Course requirements:** do the readings; participate to class discussions; do a research project on a stress system, presented in class at the end of the term, and written up by end of May.  

**Course description:** The main goal of this class is to explore the uses of metrical constituent structure in the analysis of stress. The recent literature on stress reports overgeneration and undergeneration problems posed by existing foot-based constraints, and seeks to remedy them by adding more foot types and more foot-based constraints. Most of this work, with Kager’s 2012 exception, has not experimented with foot-free solutions. We will consider giving such alternatives a try. In the last two sessions we will apply what we have learned to the analysis of some complex metrical systems.  

The course opens with a 4-week unit on background issues: how we can tell where stress is, important in light of how poor stress records occasionally are (deLacy 2012); whether stress is more than the sum of its acoustic correlates; and the early history of metrical analyses, including the debates between feet and grid-only analyses, which have set the stage for current research.  

**Schedule** (subject to revisions)  

| 6-Feb | Basics | Cues to stress; stress as distinct from its cues |  
| 20-Feb | sw and grids | Liberman and Prince 1977  
| 27-Feb | feet | Hayes 1985, Mester 1994  
| 6-Mar | grids only | Prince 1983, Gordon 2002  
| 13-Mar | New arguments for feet |  
| 20-Mar | Overgeneration issues: foot-based solutions |  
| 27-Mar | mid-point pathology | Kager 2012  
| 3-Apr | odd-parity pathologies | Hyde 2012  
| (cont.) | overlapping foot solution | Hyde 2008, 2002  
| 10-Apr | HS and feet |  
| 17-Apr | more non-local pathologies | Pruitt 2010  
| 24-Apr | more on HS and stress | Elfner 2009  
| 1-May | Undergeneration issues: segmental reflexes of foot structure |  
| 8-May | foot boundaries | Vajsman 2009  
| 15-May | foot heads | Bennett 2012  
| Case studies | macro-feet | Martinez Paricio 2013  
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| These include: Tripura Bangla, Chugach-Alutiq, Uspatenko, Nanti.  
| Check out the Case studies topic on the Stellar site of the class for later additions.