

L541: Spring, 2012

## **Term Project: Getting Started**

Over the course of the semester, we will have you work in groups to conduct the core of a project in phonetic research. We will have you work in groups of (approximately) three to make this tractable for all of us, allowing you the opportunity to pool your resources, and allowing us to focus on a smaller number of projects to maximize the likelihood that they will turn out well. Although the research itself will be a group effort, each student is expected to be involved with each of the phases of the research, and to submit his or her own write-up of the experiment. The reasons for this approach are two fold: 1) having individual write-ups encourages you all to understand what the research is showing - there have been cases in which two of three group members really had no idea what the project was for, and 2) this will give you your own independent record of the project for future reference. One final note about these projects is that they generally yield interesting and novel results and hence can easily form the core (or at least seed) of publishable research.

### **Keep a log!**

While doing the research, keep a careful log of what you are doing and why. Each individual ought to do this at every step of the research, including sketching out the topics of interest. This will be invaluable for you later on when you write up the research report. You will be surprised at how much you have forgotten in the space of a semester.