The field of metrics studies how poetry aligns phonological material with conventionalized rhythmic patterns, or meters. In order to understand such alignments, we need to understand:

- the relevant phonological structures (especially prosodic)
- the principles that govern possible rhythmic patterns
- the principles that determine appropriate matches between pattern and linguistic material.
- The system of grammatical organization in which this all takes place.

**General Course Outline**

[I’m open to suggestions re. your favorite topics.]

- English literary metrics
  - How to scan iambic pentameter.
  - The phonological basis of English metrics: stress and juncture
  - How to annotate corpora for purposes of analysis (some practical hints, and perhaps some software)
  - Paraphonology (auxiliary phonology used in poetry)
  - Proposals for formalizing metrical grammars
  - How do we know when we’re right? Methods:
    — corpora and profiling
    — comparisons with samples of prose
  - Current research: can new approaches to constraint theory and computational learning solve long-standing problems in metrics?

- Sung and chanted verse
  - silent entities—structural relevant of timing
  - the textsetting problem
  - higher-level structure: quatrains; line-length laws
  - genres: folk song, rap, Hausa sung verse, Serbo-Croatian epic improvised verse, Japanese children’s songs

- Verse typology: a travelogue
  - quantitative verse—classics, Hausa, English (Hopkins’s “sprung rhythm”)
• tonal verse in Chinese (work of Chen, Duanmu)
• parallelism-based verse

Course Requirements:

- For four-unit students:
  - A term paper, on a topic in metrics of your own choosing. This is due Friday of finals week.
  - Two meetings with me, in which you describe what you’re doing with your paper and listen to suggestions. I can also read preliminary draft material if you give me a couple day’s notice.
  - About three short exercises, giving practice in prosodic annotation, scansion, software.
  - Various readings. I will post these on the course web site, http://www.linguistics.ucla.edu/people/hayes/251metrics/.

- For two-unit students:
  - This is pretty casual (i.e. for two units it’s up to you how much you want to get out of the course)
  - I recommend keeping up with the readings and doing the problems.