Choose one of the following topics. There is no set length for the paper, but 8-9 (double-spaced) pages would be a reasonable target.

(1) **Clear speech**: In a recent review of the literature on clear speech, Smiljanić and Bradlow (2008) describe a speaking style called ‘clear speech’ and its effect on intelligibility in different populations of listeners. The assignment is to review the literature on clear speech, using both primary and secondary sources to summarize what is known about clear speech and what these findings imply for speech production and perception. Identify a set of organizing principles or themes that emerge from current research and use these as section headers for your paper.

(2) **Development of speech perception**: Along with review papers by Diehl, Lotto and Holt (2004) and/or Samuel (2010), identify four or five relevant papers from the literature and write a summary and critique of recent work on the development and formation of speech sound categories in speech perception development. Identify a set of organizing principles or themes that emerge from current research. Use these as headers, and summarize the evidence for or against each theme.

(3) **Auditory–neural representation of speech**: Conduct a review of the literature and identify four or five integrative/review papers such as some of the papers listed below. Write a summary and critique of recent work on the auditory–neural representation of speech. First identify a set of organizing principles or themes that emerge from current research. Use these as headers, and summarize the evidence associated with each theme and, where applicable, consider new lines of research that might help to resolve the issues. Important topics you might consider include the following: (1) the neural representation and coding of speech (e.g., the role of tonotopic organization; rate coding, latency and temporal information); (2) token-to-token variability in the acoustic properties of speech across talkers and contexts; (3) segmentation of speech into discrete units such as phonemes, syllables, and words; (4) stages of development and the auditory and linguistic processes involved; (5) integration of auditory and visual information from lip-reading; (6) separation of speech from background noise; (7) hearing loss and cortical plasticity; (8) the question of whether speech is special (specialization of the auditory system for the processing of speech).