

EN5464: ENGLISH PHONETICS AND PHONOLOGY

Effective Term

Semester B 2024/25

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

English Phonetics and Phonology

Subject Code

EN - English

Course Number

5464

Academic Unit

English (EN)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course introduces students to the theoretical and practical knowledge they need to analyse English pronunciation(s). Students will gain an understanding of how speech can be studied in a scientific way (phonetics) and how English sounds are organised and used (phonology). They will be introduced to the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), an essential tool for the description of speech sounds. Students will develop the ability to describe the production of English sounds, transcribe English words and utterances, and appreciate how knowledge of English phonetics and phonology can be applied to various areas such as pronunciation teaching, description of English accents and forensic phonetics.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Identify the essential phonetic and phonological concepts needed for language analysis.		x	x	x
2	Describe the basic organizational principles of English phonology using appropriate meta-language and IPA transcription symbols.		x	x	x
3	Apply the knowledge of English phonology to the analysis of authentic native and non-native spoken English texts.		x	x	x
4	Apply the knowledge of English phonetics and phonology to real-life problems such as pronunciation teaching.		x	x	x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	1	Interactive lectures, using web-based resources and in-class exercises Students will engage in interactive lectures to acquire knowledge of essential phonetics and phonological concepts, including the description of the fundamental organizational principles of English phonology, analysis of the functions of the different elements of English pronunciation, and the applications of the acquired knowledge of phonetics and phonology to real-life problems.	1, 2, 3, 4	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)
1	Participation Students will contribute to in-class activities and complete short formative exercises to demonstrate their ability to identify the essential phonetics and phonological concepts and to describe the basic organizational principles of English phonology.	1, 2	10	Individual work
2	In-class tests Students will do two in-class tests to demonstrate their ability to identify the essential phonetics and phonological concepts and to describe the basic organizational principles of English phonology.	1, 2	50	Individual work

3	Individual essay assignment Students will do an essay assignment to apply their theoretical and practical knowledge of English phonetics and phonology to the analysis of different spoken English texts and to the analysis of real-life problems such as pronunciation teaching.	3, 4	40	Individual work
---	---	------	----	-----------------

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Participation (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Participation performance in class activities and completing short exercises.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent participation in all class activities and completes all in-class exercises satisfactorily.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Very good participation in all class activities and completes most of the in-class exercises satisfactorily.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Adequate participation in class activities and completes some of the in-class exercises satisfactorily.

Marginal

(D) Little participation in class activities and completes very few in-class exercises satisfactorily.

Failure

(F) Minimal or no participation in class activities (including discussion and exercises).

Assessment Task

In-class assessments (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Demonstrated ability to transcribe English words and sentences and understanding of key phonetic and phonological concepts.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)

- Very high degree of accuracy in transcriptions.
- Broad and deep understanding and illustration of all/almost all key concepts.

Good

(B+, B, B-)

- High degree of accuracy in transcriptions.
- Good understanding and illustration of the majority of the key concepts.

Fair

(C+, C, C-)

- Satisfactory accuracy in transcriptions.
- Adequate understanding and illustration of most of the key concepts.

Marginal

(D)

- Limited accuracy in transcriptions.
- Limited understanding and illustration of most of the key concepts.

Failure

(F)

- Very low accuracy in transcriptions.
 - Minimal understanding and illustration of most of the key concepts.
-

Assessment Task

Individual essay assignment (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Demonstrated ability to apply knowledge of phonetics and phonology to real-life issues. Language use and organisation and.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)

- Demonstrated ability to apply a full range of appropriate concepts with very high accuracy.
- A lucid and well-structured essay with accurate and idiomatic language use.

Good

(B+, B, B-)

- Demonstrated ability to apply a wide range of appropriate concepts with high accuracy.
- A clearly structured essay with largely accurate language use, but may lack clarity in some places.

Fair

(C+, C, C-)

- Demonstrated ability to apply some relevant concepts satisfactorily.
- The essay has reasonable macro-structure with appropriate language use.

Marginal

(D)

- Limited ability to apply relevant concepts to the task.
- The essay has little structure and poor argumentation and language use.

Failure

(F)

- Minimal ability to apply relevant concepts to the task.
 - The essay has minimal structure.
 - Very poor argumentation and language use.
-

Assessment Task

Participation (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Participation performance in class activities and completing short exercises.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent participation in all class activities and completes all in-class exercises satisfactorily.

Good

(B+, B) Very good participation in all class activities and completes most of the in-class exercises satisfactorily.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Adequate participation in class activities and completes few in-class exercises satisfactorily.

Failure

(F) Minimal or no participation in class activities (including discussion and exercises).

Assessment Task

In-class assessments (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Demonstrated ability to transcribe English words and sentences and understanding of key phonetic and phonological concepts.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)

- Very high degree of accuracy in transcriptions.
- Broad and deep understanding and illustration of all/almost all key concepts.

Good

(B+, B)

- High degree of accuracy in transcriptions.
- Good understanding and illustration of the majority of the key concepts.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C)

- Marginal accuracy in transcriptions.
- Marginal understanding and illustration of most of the key concepts.

Failure

(F)

- Very low accuracy in transcriptions.
 - Minimal understanding and illustration of most of the key concepts.
-

Assessment Task

Individual essay assignment (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Demonstrated ability to apply knowledge of phonetics and phonology to real-life issues. Language use and organisation.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-)

- Demonstrated ability to apply a full range of appropriate concepts with very high accuracy.
- A lucid and well-structured essay with accurate and idiomatic language use.

Good

(B+, B)

- Demonstrated ability to apply a wide range of appropriate concepts with high accuracy.
- A clearly structured essay with largely accurate language use, but may lack clarity in some places.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C)

- Marginal ability to apply relevant concepts to the task.
- The essay has little structure. Argumentation and language use are marginally acceptable.

Failure

(F)

- Minimal ability to apply relevant concepts to the task.
- The essay has minimal structure.
- Very poor argumentation and language use.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Consonants and vowels; Phonemic transcription, IPA; English accents, varieties of English; Connected speech, stress and intonation; Applications of English phonetics and phonology

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	There is no single textbook that will cover all the topics in this course. Students will read the weekly course materials provided by the teacher

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Carr, Philip (2013). English Phonetics and Phonology: An Introduction. Second Edition. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell.
2	Celce-Murcia, Marianne, Brinton, Donna M., and Goodwin, Janet M. (2010). Teaching Pronunciation: A Course Book and Reference Guide. Second Edition. New York: Cambridge University Press.
3	George Mason University. Speech Accent Archive.
4	Pennington, Martha C. (1996). Phonology in English Language Teaching: An International Approach. London: Addison-Wesley Longman.
5	Roach, Peter (2009). English phonetics and phonology: a practical course. (4th edition). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.