

## B.A. (Honours) in Contemporary English Studies

<b>Course Title</b>	:	Practical Phonetics
<b>Course Code</b>	:	ENG102
<b>Recommended Study Year</b>	:	1 <sup>st</sup> Year
<b>No. of Credits/Term</b>	:	3
<b>Mode of Tuition</b>	:	Lecture and Tutorial (Laboratory)
<b>Class Contact Hours</b>	:	2 hours Lecture/week 1 hour Tutorial/week
<b>Category in Major Programme</b>	:	Required Course
<b>Prerequisite(s)</b>	:	N/A
<b>Co-requisite(s)</b>	:	N/A
<b>Exclusion(s)</b>	:	N/A
<b>Exemption Requirement(s)</b>	:	N/A

### **Brief Course Description**

Phonetics is the systematic study of human speech sounds. It is concerned with how speech sounds are produced and perceived. It provides means to classify and transcribe these sounds. While phonetics can be studied in various ways, we will adopt an articulatory approach in this course, with a practical emphasis.

As an introduction to phonetics, this course assumes no prior knowledge of this field. The purpose of the course is to introduce students to the basic phonetic concepts and theories, and to deepen their understanding of the importance of phonetics in language studies and language-related sciences. Students will learn how to recognize, produce, transcribe and classify various speech sounds. They will also learn how their first language (Cantonese) influences their perception and pronunciation of English sounds.

### **Aims**

The course aims to achieve the following:

1. To introduce students to the basic concepts in phonetics;
2. To explore human articulatory capabilities;
3. To promote students' awareness of the importance of phonetics in language studies;
4. To study some of the differences between the English and Cantonese sound systems;
5. To enhance students' ability to discriminate various English sounds;
6. To improve students' pronunciation of English;
7. To develop their ability to read and write transcriptions in the International Phonetic Alphabet;
8. To lay a solid foundation for higher courses, such as ENG271 English Phonology.

## **Indicative Content**

1. An overview of phonetics
2. English consonants
3. English vowels
4. Consonant clusters
5. The syllable
6. Word stress
7. Aspects of connected speech
8. Intonation

## **Teaching Method**

One two-hour lecture and a one-hour tutorial per week. Tutorials are conducted in a language laboratory.

## **Measurement of Learning Outcomes**

Through assignments, monitoring of laboratory work, and both written and oral tests.

## **Assessment**

Continuous Assessment: 100%

Tests: 50% (mid-term 20%, final 30%)

Assignments: 40%

Participation: 10%

## **Required Readings**

Roach, P., *English Phonetics and Phonology: a Practical Course* (3<sup>rd</sup> edition), Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000.

## **Recommended Readings**

Catford, J. C., *A Practical Introduction to Phonetics*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1988.

Collins, B. and Mees, I. M., *Practical Phonetics and Phonology*, London & New York: Routledge, 2003.

Gimson, A. C., *An Introduction to the Pronunciation of English*, London: Edward Arnold, 1994.

Ladefoged, P., *A Course in Phonetics* (4<sup>th</sup> edition), New York: Harcourt Brace College Publishers, 2001.

## **Reference material**

Roach, P., Hartman, J. and Setter, J. (eds), *Cambridge English Pronouncing Dictionary* (16<sup>th</sup> edition), Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

Roach, P., *A Little Encyclopedia of Phonetics*.

<http://www.personal.rdg.ac.uk/~llsroach/encyc.pdf>