

Course Title	: Practical Phonetics
Course Code	: ENG2102
Recommended Study Year	: 2 nd Year
No. of Credits/Term	3
Mode of Tuition	: Sectional approach
Class Contact Hours	: 3 hours per week
Category	: Required Course
Prerequisite(s)	: Nil
Co-requisite(s)	: Nil
Exclusion(s)	: Nil
Exemption Requirement(s)	: Nil

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 some basic phonetic concepts and to deepen their understanding of the importance of phonetics in language studies. Students will learn how the sounds of English are classified and transcribed, and by the end of the course will be able to recognize and produce the most important contrasts. They will also gain insights into how their first languages influence 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 ENG3271 English Phonology.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Transcribe words using phonemic symbols, including the use of stress marks where appropriate;
2. Classify English speech sounds according to their place and manner of articulation;
3. Describe how English sounds are produced in terms of articulatory processes;
4. Understand and recognise the operation of connected speech processes such as weak forms, elision, and linking;
5. Critically evaluate online resources related to English pronunciation, and be able to apply them for further learning;
6. Apply their learning to the analysis of short video or audio passages, and present their findings appropriately.

Indicative Contents

- An overview of phonetics
- Consonant sounds
- Vowel sounds
- Consonant clusters
- The syllable
- Word stress
- Weak forms
- Aspects of connected speech

Teaching Method

Classes will consist of a two-hour lecture and a one-hour language laboratory session each week.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

1. The mid-term test will assess students' knowledge of how sounds are produced and classified, and their ability to transcribe a range of common words using the IPA system (outcomes 1, 2 and 3).
2. The written assignment will assess students' ability to evaluate online resources and reflect on their learning (outcome 5).
3. The final written test will assess students' knowledge of various aspects of the English sound system (outcomes 1, 4 and 5).
4. The group presentation will assess students' ability to analyse video samples of authentic spoken English, focusing on aspects of connected speech (outcomes 4 and 6).

Assessment

- Group presentation: analyzing a video or audio clip (20%)
- Individual reflective assignment (20%)
- Mid-term test (25%)
- Final test (25%)
- Attendance and participation (10%)

Required Readings

Roach, P., *English Phonetics and Phonology: a Practical Course*, 4th edition, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2009.

Recommended Readings

Carr, P., *English Phonetics and Phonology: An Introduction*, Oxford, Blackwell, 1999.

Collins, B. and Mees, I. M., *Practical Phonetics and Phonology*, 2nd edition, London & New York, Routledge, 2008.

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

Reference Materials

Roach, P., Hartman, J. and Setter, J., *Cambridge English Pronouncing Dictionary*, 18th edition, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2011.

Roach, P. *A Little Encyclopedia of Phonetics*. Available at: <http://www.personal.rdg.ac.uk/~llsroach/encyc.pdf>

Important Notes:

- (1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
- (2) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations and Course Work. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is “the presentation of another person’s work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student’s own work”. Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
- (3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
- (4) To enhance students’ understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course “Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness” is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.
- (5) Students must adhere to the University’s guidelines and practices when using Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools. The official documents “Guidelines for Using GAI Tools at Lingnan University” and “Best Practices for Ethical and Responsible Use of GAI Tools in Course Assessments” can be found here: <https://www.ln.edu.hk/tlc/generative-artificialintelligence/gai-guidelines-best-practices>.