

B.A. (Honours) in Contemporary English Studies

Course Title	: English Phonology
Course Code	: ENG3271
Recommended Study Year	: 3 rd or 4 th Year
No. of Credits/Term	: 3
Mode of Tuition	: Lecture-tutorial mode
Class Contact Hours	: 2-hour lecture per week 1-hour tutorial per week
Category	: Discipline Elective (Contemporary Language Strand)
Prerequisite(s)	: Nil
Co-requisite(s)	: Nil
Exclusion(s)	: Nil
Exemption Requirement(s)	: Nil

Brief Course Description

Phonology is the study of sound patterns in language. While closely related to phonetics, phonology has a different focus: it is concerned with the function, behaviour and organization of speech sounds as linguistic units, rather than the production, perception and classification of speech sounds as physical entities. The course has three stages. After introducing students to some foundational concepts, selected aspects of English phonology will be examined in detail. Finally, various English accents will be surveyed from a number of perspectives. Lectures will be supplemented with practical phonological problems taken from English and from other languages, where appropriate. Students are required to solve these problems using the principles introduced in the lectures.

Aims

The course aims to achieve the following:

1. to introduce students to the major concepts and principles in phonology;
2. to broaden students' knowledge of various English accents, including Hong Kong English;
3. to provide background and skills for conducting investigations that explore English phonological variation;
4. to study certain aspects of English phonology from both theoretical and practical perspectives;
5. to develop students' analytical and problem-solving skills.

Learning Outcomes

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

1. distinguish between phonemic and allophonic variation by analysing language data;
2. solve a range of phonological problems using both inductive and deductive reasoning;
3. explain how various phonological processes, e.g. assimilation, operate in English;
4. divide an English word into syllables and be able to justify decisions by referring to a range of theories and constraints;

5. describe and classify different types of accent variation;
6. present the findings of research into an aspect of phonology.

Indicative Contents

- Phonemes and allophones
- Rules and representations
- Distinctive features
- Phonological processes
- The phonological analysis of the syllable
- Connected speech
- Accents of English
- Changes in pronunciation

Teaching Method

This course will consist of a two-hour lecture and a one-hour tutorial per week.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

- Written assignments (outcomes 1 to 3)
- Presentation of research (outcome 6 directly, and other outcomes indirectly)
- Final written examination (outcomes 1 to 5)

Assessment

Written assignments (40%), group presentation (20%), final examination (40%)

Recommended Readings

Clark, J., Yallop, C., and Fletcher, J., *An Introduction to Phonetics and Phonology*, 3rd edition, Oxford, Wiley-Blackwell, 2007.

Davenport, M. and Hannahs, S. J. *Introducing Phonetics and Phonology*, 3rd edition, Hodder Education, 2010.

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

Giegerich, H.J., *English Phonology: An Introduction*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1992.

Hayes, B., *Introductory Phonology*, Oxford, Wiley-Blackwell, 2011.

Katamba, F., *An Introduction to Phonology*, London, Longman, 1989.

McMahon, A., *An Introduction to English Phonology*, Edinburgh, Edinburgh University Press, 2002.

Wells, J.C., *Accents of English*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1982.

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. 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/>.