Course Title	: Digital Perspectives on Spoken English
Course Code	: DES607
Recommended Study Year	: Term 1 or 2
No. of Credits	: 3
Mode of Tuition	: Sectional
Class Contact Hours	: 3 hours per week
Category	: Elective
Prerequisite(s)	: Nil
Co-requisite(s)	: Nil
Exclusion(s)	: Nil
Exemption Requirement(s)	: Nil

Brief Course Description

This course examines the use of various forms of technology in relation to the description and analysis of spoken English. Students will learn to analyse speech samples, using software to generate waveforms and pitch tracks. The course will apply concepts and analytical techniques to topics such as the teaching and learning of English pronunciation and English accent variation. Students will also familiarise themselves with, and take a critical perspective on, a range of online resources.

Aims

The aims of the course are 1) to develop and consolidate students' knowledge of English phonetics and phonology, 2) to familiarise students with the digital analysis of speech samples, further consolidating their knowledge of speech production and articulatory phonetics, 3) to apply the concepts and techniques to the analysis of speech samples for practical purposes, and 4) to raise students' awareness of various topics of relevance, such as English accent variation, and 5) to increase students' capacity to critically evaluate a range of online sources related to spoken English, including those aimed at developing pronunciation skills.

Learning Outcomes

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

1. understand the principles underlying the production of speech sounds;
2. use speech analysis software to recognise segmental and suprasegmental features of spoken English;
3. recognise and describe aspects of English accent variation, including allophonic features;
4. identify and critically evaluate online resources related to the learning of English pronunciation;
5. apply technology to the study of spoken English and critically reflect upon its application.