

SUBJECT:	VARIACIÓ I CANVI LINGÜÍSTIC EN ANGLÈS
Code:	28497
Credits:	6
Semester:	B
Groups:	1
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Tutoria integrada:	Virtual
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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT

The aim of the course is to describe and analyse the main phonological, morphological and syntactic features of the major varieties of English, with special attention to various dimensions of variation (e.g. areal, social, ethnic, etc.). The students will also be briefly introduced to different methods of data-collection, as well as theoretical models that can be used in the study of language variation and change.

OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- identify (most of) the different regional varieties of English
- describe the most salient differences across varieties
- identify what linguistic features are pervasive across varieties
- assess the role of non-standard English varieties and take a position in the standard vs. non-standard debate

SYLLABUS

1. Core concepts for the study of language variation and change

- Language variation: why does it exist and in which domains can it be observed?
- Concepts: accent, dialect, slang, register; standard vs. non-standard
- Methods of data-collection: traditional dialectology, sociolinguistic methods

2. English in England

- Some historical background
- Description of: RP, Southern, Midlands and Northern varieties, Cockney
- Phonological and phonetic features; conservative vs. innovative features, major phonological developments
- Morphological and syntactic features

3. Celtic varieties of English: English in Scotland, Wales and Ireland

- Some historical background
- Scots vs. Scottish English
- Southern Hiberno-English; Gaelic influence; relation to former stages of English, comparison with Scots
- Welsh English

4. American English

- Some historical background
- Features of General American
- North American varieties: English in New England, New York, Canada, Newfoundland, the South, African American English. Differences.

5. English in the Southern hemisphere: English in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa

- Some historical background
- Features of English in Australia and New Zealand
- Features of English in South Africa

6. English as a second language: English in South Asia, West Africa and the Caribbean

- Functions of Standard English in society
- English in West African and the Caribbean: pidgins and creoles

ASSESSMENT

The final grade is calculated as follows: 60% final exam; two short assignments (10% + 10%) and 20% project work (instructions will be given in class).

TUTORIALS

The tutorials for this course are mostly virtual and will be devoted to answering questions and clarifying doubts about class content and the two short assignments. However, students are also expected to have three personal interviews with the teacher (to be scheduled at the beginning of the course) to get feedback from the assignments and discuss the final project.

BIBLIOGRAPHY / MATERIALS

(All the references in this list are in the library or in *Sala de Revistes*. Most of the articles from journals are available electronically from a UAB computer)

Bailey, R.W. and Görlach, M. (1982). *English as a world language*. Cambridge: CUP.

Chambers, J.K. and P. Trudgill (1980). *Dialectology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (revised edition in 1998).

Chambers, J.K., Trudgill, P. and N. Schilling-Estes (eds.) (2001) *The Handbook of Language Variation and Change*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers.

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- Green, L. (2002). *African American English. A linguistic introduction*. Cambridge: CUP.
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- Holm, J. (2000). *An Introduction to Pidgins and Creoles*. Cambridge: CUP.
- Hughes, A. and P. Trudgill (1987). *English accents and dialects*. London: Arnold.
- Kortmann, B., Schneider, E., Burridge, K., Mesthrie, R. and C. Upton (eds.). (2004) *A Handbook of Varieties of English*. Vol 1: Phonology; vol 2: Syntax and morphology. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Kachru, B. (1998). English as an Asian Language. *Links & Letters* 5: 89-108.
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OTHER COMMENTS

Some background knowledge on phonetic transcription is required for this course.