

SUBJECT:	FONÈTICA I FONOLOGIA ANGLESES II	
Code:	28454	
Credits:	7,5 (4,5 theory + 1,5 practice + 1,5 tutorials)	
Semester:	2	
Groups:	1	2
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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT

The aim of the course is to provide an in-depth description of the phonetic and phonological system of English, focusing predominantly on prosodic and suprasegmental aspects: word and sentence stress, rhythm and intonation. A description of the features of connected speech and English syllable structure will be provided together with a working knowledge of phonetic transcription. The students are introduced to the phonetic and phonological system of English by means of class presentations by the teacher, together with the comments in class of readings done by the students at home. This is complemented by a series of exercises done throughout the semester. Students practise transcription during the course, both in class and at home.

OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, the students will be able to stress English words and sentences, to use English intonation and rhythm, to identify the features of connected speech and to be aware of the differences in syllable structure between English and Catalan/Spanish. They will be able to do phonological and phonetic transcription, and to pronounce correctly English words both in spelling and in transcription.

SYLLABUS

1. Introduction to pronunciation study.
2. Suprasegmental features in English.
 - a. English stress. Stress and vowel/consonant quality. Vowel weakening.
 - i. Word stress.
 - ii. Sentence stress.
 - b. English rhythm.
 - i. Stress-timed vs. syllable-timed rhythm. Isochrony in English rhythm. Alternation of strong and weak syllables.
 - ii. Rhythmical modifications in English.
 - iii. Rhythm and weak forms. Strong and weak forms of English grammatical words.
 - c. English intonation. Functions of intonation in English: grammatical, attitudinal, information structuring.
 - i. Tone units.
 - ii. Nucleus placement.

3. Review of allophonic variation in English consonants and vowels.
 - a. Consonants: voicing and aspiration in stops; affricates, fricatives and glides; pronunciation of NC clusters; /l/ vocalization, rhotic and non-rhotic dialects.
 - b. The English vowels.
 - c. Stylistic prestige and generational markers in the pronunciation of English consonants and vowels. Reduction of diphthongs and triphthongs; /h/-less accents; the *-ing* suffix; glottalization; palatalization; t/d flapping, etc.
 - d. A general comparison of the vowel and consonant system of English, Spanish and Catalan.
4. Modification processes in connected speech.
 - a. Description and exemplification of connected speech processes: assimilation, weakening, elision, dissimilation, metathesis and haplology.
 - b. Style and rate dependency of modification processes. The ‘ease of articulation’ notion. The ‘perceptual distinctiveness’ notion. The role of stress and boundaries in modification processes.
5. English phonotactics and syllable structure. Sequential constraints in English. Possible, non-possible and questionable sequences. Existing and non-existing sequences.
 - a. Phonotactic constraints of English vowels. Distribution of tense and lax vowels.
 - b. Distribution of initial and final consonants and consonant clusters.
 - c. Phonotactic constraints in English and Spanish/Catalan.

ASSESSMENT

Besides the usual participatory responsibilities (class attendance, assigned readings) there will be weekly home assignments and a final written and oral exam. The written exam will include the assigned readings. Students will be evaluated as follows:

- Final written and oral exam (70%).
 - In the written exam students will be required to answer questions which involve defining concepts, determining the intonation and stress patterns of some utterances, and using phonetic and phonological transcription.
 - In the oral exam students will be required to correctly pronounce English words and sentences in phonological transcription and in regular orthography.
- Homework, assignments, quizzes, participation in class and tutorial sessions (30%).

Both final exams need to be passed: failing either will involve a final “Fail”.

Note: The level of English will be taken into account when correcting exams and in the assessment of the final grade.

TUTORIALS

Tutorials will be devoted to the assessment of individual progress, revision of homework assignments and individual practice in producing and reading IPA transcriptions and orthographic texts.

BIBLIOGRAPHY / MATERIALS

Course material will be provided during the course, including a select list of textbooks, pronouncing dictionaries and online resources.

Finch, D. F. and Ortiz Lira, H. (1982). *A course in English Phonetics for Spanish Speakers*. London: Heinemann.

Rogerson, P. and Gilbert, J. B. (1990). *Speaking Clearly*.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED PRACTICE BOOKS:

Baker, A. (2006). *Ship or Sheep? An intermediate pronunciation course*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Gilbert, J. B. (1993) (2nd ed.). *Clear Speech. Pronunciation and Listening Comprehension in North American English*. Cambridge University Press.

Hewings, M. (2007). *English Pronunciation in Use. Advanced*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.