

| Degree                  | Type | Year | Semester |
|-------------------------|------|------|----------|
| 2500245 English Studies | OT   | 3    | 0        |
| 2500245 English Studies | OT   | 4    | 0        |

## Contact

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## Use of languages

Principal working language: english (eng)  
 Some groups entirely in English: Yes  
 Some groups entirely in Catalan: No  
 Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

## Prerequisites

Course requirements:

- English Phonetics and Phonology 1 and 2.
- Advanced level of spoken and written English. (between C1 and C2 of Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, Teaching, Assessment).

## Objectives and Contextualisation

The course will consist of an introduction to the principles, methods and techniques of articulatory, acoustic and auditory phonetics which are the basis, or substance, of phonological facts. The acoustic-auditory cues used in English to signal sound contrasts and prosodic features will be described and analyzed and compared to those of Spanish and Catalan. The methodology of experimentation in phonetics and phonology will be presented.

- Students will learn to:
  - to record, analyze and measure speech sounds instrumentally
  - to do acoustic analysis of phonetic variation using Praat
  - to present experimental results
  - to describe the phonetics of English, Spanish and Catalan
  - to describe and analyze the prosody of English
  - to do phonetic transcription
  - to quantify the data and relate it to phonological questions
  - to interpret research papers

## Skills

### English Studies

- Describe synchronously the main grammar units, constructions and phenomena of the English language.
- Develop critical thinking and reasoning and knowing how to communicate effectively both in your mother tongue and in other languages.
- Generate innovative and competitive proposals in research and professional activities.
- Respect the diversity and plurality of ideas, people and situations.

- Students can apply the knowledge to their own work or vocation in a professional manner and have the powers generally demonstrated by preparing and defending arguments and solving problems within their area of study.
- Students have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (normally within their study area) to issue judgments that include reflection on important issues of social, scientific or ethical.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills in order to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
- Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.
- Using the acquired knowledge in order to solve problems related to any professional activity in the field of the English language, specially to the teaching.
- Utilising new technologies in order to capture and organise information in English and other languages, and applying it to the personal continued training and to the problem-solving in the professional or research activity.
- Working in an autonomous and responsible way in a professional or research environment in English or other languages, in order to accomplish the previously set objectives.

## Learning outcomes

1. Apply the acquired knowledge in order to improve the general knowledge of linguistic and cultural diversity.
2. Apply the acquired knowledge to the generation of innovative and competitive research on a basic level.
3. Applying the acquired knowledge and competences to professional and academic activities related to linguistics.
4. Applying the acquired methodologies of work planning to work in an environment in the English language.
5. Applying the acquired scientific and work planning methodologies to the research in English.
6. Applying the information in English that is available on the Internet, in databases, etc. to the work and/or research environments.
7. Applying the theoretical and practical knowledge of the phonological system in English to the teaching and improvement of pronunciation.
8. Characterising the sounds of English from an articulation, acoustic and auditory point of view.
9. Communicating in the studied language in oral and written form, properly using vocabulary and grammar.
10. Demonstrate a master of the specific methods of individual academic work that prepare the student for a postgraduate specialised education in the same or a different field of study.
11. Demonstrate a sound knowledge about the topics related to the study of linguistics.
12. Describing the functioning of the muscular activity of breathing, phonation and articulation, as well as the aerodynamic principles intervening in the production of speech.
13. Effectively communicating and applying the argumentative and textual processes to formal and scientific texts.
14. Issue appropriate critical assessments based on the comprehension of relevant information about social, scientific or ethical issues related to linguistics.
15. Locating and organising relevant information in English that is available on the Internet, in databases, etc.
16. Mastering the advanced knowledge and scientific methodologies related to linguistics, literature, history and culture that prepare the student for a postgraduate specialised education in the same or a different field of study.
17. Produce new professional initiatives.
18. Students must be capable of comprehending advanced academic or professional texts in their own language or the another acquired in the degree.
19. Students must be capable of precisely arguing ideas and opinions in their own language or another acquired in the degree.

## Content

Acoustic, articulatory and perceptual description of English. Production and perceptual difficulties in L2 acquisition.

Introduction to acoustic phonetics.

The source-filter theory of speech production.

Formants and harmonics.

Waveform, spectral and spectrographic analysis.

The acoustic characteristics of English vowels and consonants.

The analysis of suprasegmentals.

Spectrogram reading.

Introduction to speech perception and auditory phonetics.

Auditory cues to identify English vowels and consonants.

Invariance and variability

Speech editing and speech synthesis.

Introduction to speech production.

The respiratory process.

The phonatory process.

The articulatory process. Methods and techniques

Speech aerodynamics.

Coarticulation.

## Methodology

It will be based on the activities specified in the following table:

### Activities

| Title                          | Hours | ECTS | Learning outcomes |
|--------------------------------|-------|------|-------------------|
| <b>Type: Directed</b>          |       |      |                   |
| Assessment                     | 25    | 1    | 4, 5, 2, 19, 15   |
| Lectures                       | 30    | 1.2  | 3, 18, 11, 14, 13 |
| Reading and practice exercises | 20    | 0.8  |                   |
| <b>Type: Supervised</b>        |       |      |                   |
| Group discussions              | 5     | 0.2  | 5, 14, 13, 9      |

|                         |    |     |                    |
|-------------------------|----|-----|--------------------|
| Individual assignments  | 20 | 0.8 | 5, 18, 16, 10      |
| <b>Type: Autonomous</b> |    |     |                    |
| Individual study        | 30 | 1.2 | 4, 5, 6, 15        |
| Reading and exercises   | 20 | 0.8 | 4, 5, 8, 12, 13, 9 |

## Evaluation

### ASSESSMENT

Class participation, homework assignments, assigned readings, quizzes, final exam. The final written exam will include the assigned readings. Students will be evaluated as follows:

- Two written exams, middle and end of the semester (25% each). A passing grade of 5 is required for the final average.
- Four assignments (40%).
- Class exercises and class participation (10%).

#### Please, note:

- All the subjects in this degree follow continuous assessment.
- All the exercises are COMPULSORY. An exercise not handed in or an exam the student has not sat will count as an 'NP' ('no presentado' or 'no evidence'), that is to say a 0.
- Completing one exam and one assignment, or two assignments, excludes obtaining a "No evaluable" as final mark.
- The minimum mark for an exercise or exam to be considered for the average final mark is 5.
- The student's command of English will be taken into account when marking all exercises and for the final mark.
- Reviewing procedure: Students have a right to review their exercises with the teacher in a personal tutorial, on the set dates, never later than 2 weeks after the exercise/exam is marked, including re-assessment. The student loses this right if s/he fails to collect the exercise/exam within the period announced by the teacher.
- Re-assessment conditions: Only students who pass 70% of the assignments/exams for continuous assessment may take re-assessment for the remaining 30%, provided they have done all the exercises or taken all the exams. A re-assessment exam is always programmed by the 'Facultat' but the teacher may offer other forms of re-assessment for the exercises.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Partial or total plagiarising will immediately result in a FAIL (0) for the plagiarised exercise (first-year subjects) or the WHOLE SUBJECT (second-, third- and fourth-year subjects). PLAGIARISING consists of copying text from unacknowledged sources -whether this is part of a sentence or a whole text- with the intention of passing it off as the student's own production. It includes cutting and pasting from internet sources, presented unmodified in the student's own text. Plagiarising is a SERIOUS OFFENCE. Students must respect authors' intellectual property, always identifying the sources they may use; they must also be responsible for the originality and authenticity of their own texts.

### Evaluation activities

| Title                                | Weighting | Hours | ECTS | Learning outcomes                      |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-------|------|--|
| In-class exercises                   | 10%       | 0     | 0    | 4, 5, 1, 7, 6, 17, 15                  |
| Individual assignments and exercises | 40%       | 0     | 0    | 2, 3, 6, 19, 18, 11, 16, 10, 14, 13, 9 |

## **Bibliography**

### **Textbooks:**

Ladefoged, P. 2001. A Course in Phonetics. New York: Hartcourt. 4th edition.

Rogers, H. 2000. The Sounds of Language. London: Longman.

### **Selected chapters of:**

Borden, G.J., Harris, K.S. & L.J. Raphael. 1994. Speech Science Primer. Baltimore, London: Williams and Wilkins. 3rd edition.

Clark, J. and Yallop, C. 1990. An introduction to phonetics and phonology. 2nd ed. Oxford: Blackwell

Johnson, K. (1997). Acoustic and Auditory Phonetics . Oxford: Blackwell (2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 2002).

Ladefoged, P. 2001. Vowels and Consonants. Oxford: Blackwell. (2nd ed. 2004)

More detailed bibliography will be provided in class.