

Use of English: advanced oral skills

Code: 100231
 ECTS Credits: 6

| Degree | Type | Year | Semester |
|------------------------------|------|------|----------|
| 2500245 English Studies | OB | 3 | 2 |
| 2501902 English and Catalan | OT | 3 | 0 |
| 2501902 English and Catalan | OT | 4 | 0 |
| 2501907 English and Classics | OT | 3 | 0 |
| 2501907 English and Classics | OT | 4 | 0 |
| 2501910 English and Spanish | OT | 3 | 0 |
| 2501910 English and Spanish | OT | 4 | 0 |
| 2501913 English and French | OT | 3 | 0 |
| 2501913 English and French | OT | 4 | 0 |

Contact

Name: Juli Cebrián Puyuelo
 Email: Juli.Cebrian@uab.cat

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

Teachers

Hortensia Curell Gotor
 Nuria Gavalda Ferre

Prerequisites

Students should have completed the second year course on English Phonetics and Phonology (1 and 2). Specifically, students should be familiar with phonetic transcription, English rhythm, English intonation, and basic articulatory descriptions of English sounds.

The students' level of English should be between C1 (advanced) and C2 (proficiency) of the *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, Teaching, Assessment*.

Objectives and Contextualisation

Objectives

- Improve comprehension of and oral expression in the English language.

- Speak fluently with accurate and intelligible pronunciation at both a segmental and suprasegmental level.
- Understand audiovisual material dealing with a variety of subjects, both specialized and unspecialized, at different speaking registers
- Give effective English oral presentations.

Skills

English Studies

- Demonstrate they know a wide variety of texts in English language of any mean (oral, written, audiovisual) and recognising implicit meanings.
- Develop critical thinking and reasoning and knowing how to communicate effectively both in your mother tongue and in other languages.
- Executing in oral and written form a flexible and effective use of the English language with academic, professional and social purposes.
- Produce clear and well structured and detailed texts in English about complex topics, displaying a correct use of the organisation, connection and cohesion of the text.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.

English and Catalan

- Demonstrate they know a wide variety of texts in English language of any mean (oral, written, audiovisual) and recognising implicit meanings.
- Develop critical thinking and reasoning and knowing how to communicate effectively both in your mother tongue and in other languages.
- Produce clear and well structured and detailed texts in English about complex topics, displaying a correct use of the organisation, connection and cohesion of the text.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.

English and Classics

- Demonstrate they know a wide variety of texts in English language of any mean (oral, written, audiovisual) and recognising implicit meanings.
- Develop critical thinking and reasoning and knowing how to communicate effectively both in your mother tongue and in other languages.
- Executing in oral and written form a flexible and effective use of the English language with academic, professional and social purposes.
- Produce clear and well structured and detailed texts in English about complex topics, displaying a correct use of the organisation, connection and cohesion of the text.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.

English and Spanish

- Demonstrate they know a wide variety of texts in English language of any mean (oral, written, audiovisual) and recognising implicit meanings.
- Develop critical thinking and reasoning and knowing how to communicate effectively both in your mother tongue and in other languages.
- Produce clear and well structured and detailed texts in English about complex topics, displaying a correct use of the organisation, connection and cohesion of the text.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.

English and French

- Demonstrate they know a wide variety of texts in English language of any mean (oral, written, audiovisual) and recognising implicit meanings.

- Develop critical thinking and reasoning and knowing how to communicate effectively both in your mother tongue and in other languages.
- Executing in oral and written form a flexible and effective use of the English language with academic, professional and social purposes.
- Produce clear and well structured and detailed texts in English about complex topics, displaying a correct use of the organisation, connection and cohesion of the text.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.

Learning outcomes

1. Carrying out oral presentations in English about a variety of topics of public interest.
2. Communicating in the studied language in oral and written form, properly using vocabulary and grammar.
3. Demonstrating they know English specialised and non-specialised texts of high difficulty level, and interpreting them in a critical manner.
4. Effectively communicating and applying the argumentative and textual processes to formal and scientific texts.
5. Students must be capable of comprehending advanced academic or professional texts in their own language or the another acquired in the degree.
6. Students must be capable of precisely arguing ideas and opinions in their own language or another acquired in the degree.
7. Using the English language with the appropriate expression (correctness, fluency, pronunciation, communicative strategies) in formal (presentations, debates, formal interactions) and informal contexts (conversation), with a C2 level.

Content

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT

"Ús de la Llengua: Expressió Oral Avançada" is part of a group of practical language courses for second and third years, along with "Ús de la Llengua Anglesa 1 i 2" (English Language Use 1 and 2) and "Ús de la Llengua: Expressió Escrita Avançada" (Language Use: Advanced Written Expression). The subject is given during the second semester of the third year. During the first semester, students take "Ús de la Llengua: Expressió Escrita Avançada".

This course is taken after having taken English Phonetics and Phonology 1 and 2. The course includes intensive English pronunciation practice and focuses on skills related to giving oral presentations, reading aloud and listening. Theoretical aspects of pronunciation introduced in Phonetics and Phonology 1 and 2 are applied, as well as phonological processes apparent in natural speech, such as the combination of sounds in syllables, and aspects related to pronunciation variation and register. A deeper look at the differences between the English and Spanish/Catalan phonological systems and typologies is taken and complemented by error diagnosis.

SYLLABUS

This course aims at intensive English pronunciation practice through error diagnosis and focuses on improving skills related to giving oral presentations, reading aloud and listening.

UNIT 1. Fluency and accuracy in oral communication and reading aloud. Phrasing, i.e., dividing speech in tone units. Accenting new information (identifying the tonic). Approximation of intonation patterns. English rhythm: use of weak forms. Vowel reduction. Common connected and reduced speech processes: weakening, elision, assimilation. Differences in register.

UNIT 2. Production and recognition of phonemes. Vowels and vowel reduction. Aspiration. Production of consonant and vowel contrasts. English clusters. Error typologies in an L2 and error diagnosis. Sound/spelling correspondences.

UNIT 3. Skills in oral comprehension and active listening. Identifying key information. Listening precision. Taking notes. Remembering essential information. Comprehension of a variety of registers and standard accents.

UNIT 4. Techniques in oral communication and giving formal oral presentations. Expressing ideas clearly and precisely. Gestural language.

Methodology

- Brief lectures and demonstrations.
- Class discussions and in-class exercises (individually or in small groups).
- Pronunciation practice and other practical oral activities in the classroom.
- Oral presentations and other oral assignments performed in class.
- Written exercises and assigned readings
- Students recordings as homework or in-class activities.

Activities

| Title | Hours | ECTS | Learning outcomes |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|------|-------------------|
| Type: Directed | | | |
| Theory classes and practical exercises | 45 | 1.8 | 1, 4, 2, 7 |
| Type: Supervised | | | |
| Individual assignments and group discussions | 22.5 | 0.9 | 1, 4, 2, 7 |
| Type: Autonomous | | | |
| Hours of study and preparation of homework exercises and assignments | 57.5 | 2.3 | 4, 2 |

Evaluation

ASSESSMENT

- 60% of the final course grade is based on a written exam (30%) one or two weeks before the last week of classes and a final oral exam (30%) around one week after the end of classes.
- 18% of the final mark corresponds to an academic oral presentation.
- 14% of the final mark consists of several assignments throughout the course.
- The remaining 8% is based on homework, attendance and class participation.

Please, note:

1) The exams, both written and oral, the oral presentation and the assignments are obligatory.

2) The pass mark for a written assignment, exercise or exam is a **5** (out of 10). In order to pass the oral presentation, oral exam and oral assignments, students must reach a score of at least **60%** of the total score. To pass the subject a student must pass the oral exam, the written exam and the academic oral presentation, as well as obtaining an average course grade of 5 out of 10 or higher.

3) A final mark of "No available" can only be obtained if the student has completed a maximum of 40% of the course assessment.

4) **VERY IMPORTANT:** Partial or total plagiarism 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.

5) In the case of a justifiable absence on the day of an exam, assignment or any other important task (for example, because of illness), the student must present the pertinent documentation in order to justify the absence. In that case, an alternative evaluation date may be offered, or a possible redistribution of the marks may be considered, if approved by the course coordinator.

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

Reassessment

Only students who have passed at least 70% of the course evaluation are eligible for reassessment. Therefore, only one of the following three items may be reassessed: the oral exam, the oral presentation, or the written exam. The maximum mark that can be obtained at the time of reassessment is a pass (5/10). The re-assessment dates are assigned by the university and will not be changed to suit individual students' needs. The assignments and homework exercises cannot be reassessed.

Evaluation activities

| Title | Weighting | Hours | ECTS | Learning outcomes |
|----------------------------------------|-----------|-------|------|-------------------|
| Academic oral presentation | 18% | 1 | 0.04 | 5, 3, 1, 4, 2, 7 |
| Assignments | 14% | 10 | 0.4 | 4, 2, 7 |
| Homework, participation and attendance | 8% | 12 | 0.48 | 6, 2, 7 |
| Oral exam | 30% | 0.5 | 0.02 | 1, 4, 2, 7 |
| Written exam | 30% | 1.5 | 0.06 | 4, 2, 7 |

Bibliography

-Recommended textbooks:

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

Burton, Graham. (2013). *Presenting. Deliver presentations with confidence*. London, UK: Collins.

- Dale, Paulette & Poms, Lillian. (2005). *English Pronunciation Made Simple*. New York: Longman/Pearson.
- Estebas, Eva. (2009, or later editions). *Teach yourself English pronunciation: An interactive course for Spanish speakers*. Netbiblos/UNED.
- Grussendorf, Marion. (2007). *English for Presentations*. O.U.P.
- Hancock, Mark. (2003). *English Pronunciation in Use*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Hewings, Martin. (2007). *English Pronunciation in Use. Advanced*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Miller, Sue F. (2000). *Targeting pronunciation*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin
- Monroy-Casas, Rafael & Arboleda-Guirao, Inmaculada (eds.) 2014. *Readings in English phonetics and phonology*. Valencia: Universitat de Valencia.
- Derwing, Tracey M. & Munro, Murray J. (2015) *Pronunciation Fundamentals. Evidence-based perspectives for L2 teaching and research*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins.
- Reed, Marnie & Levis, John. (editors). (2015). *The Handbook of English Pronunciation*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Blackwell.
- Rogerson, Pamela & Gilbert, Judy. B. (1990). *Speaking Clearly*. Cambridge University Press.
- Additional bibliography:
- Avery, Peter & Ehrlich, Susan. (1992) *Teaching American English Pronunciation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Bell, Masha. (2004). *Understanding English Spelling*. Pegasus Ed.
- Brazil, David. (1994). *Pronunciation for advanced learners of English*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
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- Cruttenden, Alan. (2001). *Gimson's pronunciation of English [6th edition]*. London: Edward Arnold.
- Dauer, Rebecca. (1993). *Accurate English: A complete course on pronunciation*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall Regents.
- Ellis, Mark. & O'Driscoll, Nina. (1992). *Giving presentations*. Harlow: Longman.
- Finch, Diane F. & Ortiz Lira, Hector. (1982). *A course in English phonetics for Spanish speakers*. Heinemann Educational Books.
- Gilbert, Judy. (1993) (2nd edition). *Clear speech: pronunciation and listening comprehension in American English*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Harmer, Jeremy & Lethaby, Carol. (2005). *Just Speaking and Listening*. Marshall Cavendish.
- Hewings, Martin & Goldstein, Sharon. (1999). *Pronunciation Plus: Practice through interaction*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
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- Jones, Daniel. (2006). *Cambridge English Pronouncing Dictionary*. 17th ed. Cambridge University Press.
- Kenworthy, Joanne. (1987) *Teaching English Pronunciation*. London: Longman.

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- Lynch, Tony. (1986). *Study Listening. A Course in Listening to Lectures and Note Taking*. London: CUP.
- Powell, Mark. (1996). *Presenting in English*. Hove: LTP.
- Richard, Jack C.. (2008). *Teaching listening and speaking, from theory to practice*. NY: CUP.
- Smith, Jonathan & Margolis, Annette. (2007) *Pronunciation: A Study Book*. Reading: Garnet Education.
- Sweeney, Simon. (2000). *Communicating in Business*. C.U.P.
- Teschner, Richard V. & M. Stanley Whitley. (2004) *Pronouncing English: a stress-based approach*. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press.
- Tian Jing Xian (ed.) (2001). *Speaking Strategies for the IELTS Test. Kouyu*. Beijing: Beijing Yuyan Wenhua Daxue Chubanshe. ISBN 7 - 5619 0990 - X/H 01092.
- Vaughan-Rees, Michael. (2002). *Test Your Pronunciation*. Pearson Ed. Limited.
- Wells, John C. (2000) [1990]. *Longman pronunciation dictionary*. London: Longman.
- Wells, John C. (2006) *English Intonation: An Introduction*. Cambridge: CUP.

-Online resources

Phonetic transcription

<http://www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/johnm/flash/flashin.htm>

<http://davidbrett.uniss.it/phonology/page%20with%20frames2.htm>

General phonetics and English phonetics

<http://www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/resource/index.html>

<http://www.phonetics.ucla.edu/course/contents.html>

<http://hctv.humnet.ucla.edu/departments/linguistics/VowelsandConsonants/>

Pronunciation practice and ear-training

<http://www.shiporsheep.com/>

<http://www.cambridge.org/elt/shiporsheep/>

<http://www.btinternet.com/~eptotd/vm/vowelmachine/vowelmachine.htm>

<http://www.uiowa.edu/~acadtech/phonetics/>

<http://www.soundsofenglish.org/links.htm>

<http://www.manythings.org/>