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**English Language I (Language and Phonology)**

## Gr. A-K: Prof. Maria Luisa Maggioni; Gr. L-Z: Prof. Caterina Pavesi

*Gr. A-K: Prof. Maria Luisa Maggioni*

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The aim of this course is to provide the foundations of the phonetics and phonology of contemporary English and propose a comparative approach to describing the different varieties of English and a contrastive approach to the sounds of the Italian language.

*Knowledge and understanding*

At the end of the course students are expected to have gained an understanding of the segmental and suprasegmental features of English in different varieties.

At the end of the course students are expected to be able to identify and produce the features of spoken English with regard to the core areas detailed in the Course Contents section and to applythe acquired knowledge and understanding to these areas.

*Transferable skills*

At the end of the course students are expected to have enhanced their ability to read a code and use a dictionary.

***COURSE CONTENT***

1. The sounds of English – which English?

2. The organs of speech.

3. The International Phonetic Alphabet.

4. Describing and classifying sounds: Vowels and Consonants.

5. Phonemes, minimal pairs, allophones, the syllable.

6. Word stress, primary and secondary.

7. Connected speech, weak forms, elision, liaison, assimilation.

8. Aspects of suprasegmental prosody: stress, rhythm, intonation.

9. Daniel Jones and the English Pronouncing Dictionary.

10. Varieties of English.

***READING LIST***

Obligatory:

The notes and slides from the course on Blackboard.

B. Crystal-D. Crystal, *You Say Potato,* the Story of English Accents, Pan Books, paperback version, 2015.

P. Forchini, *A description of American English Phonology,* EDUCatt, Milano, 2020.

D. Jones, *Cambridge English Pronouncing Dictionary,* Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2011, 18th ed. P. Roach-J.Hartman-J. Setter (eds), including the introductory essays.

Further reading:

P. Forchini, *The Real Professor(s) Higgins,* EDUCatt, Milano, 2015.

M. Maggioni, *L’inglese Oltre l’Inglese,* EDUCatt, 2015.

P. Trudgill-J. Hannah, *International English: a guide to the varieties of standard English,* Arnold, London, 2002, 4th ed.

Other bibliography may be indicated during the course.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The teaching method includes technology-enhanced lectures, using audio-visual materials and mobile learning tools, pair and/or group work, peer-to-peer learning, individual analysis and observation tasks, self-study.

If the health situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic prevents teaching in the classroom, students will be notified in good time of the alternative lessons which will be provided via the online platforms used by the University.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students may choose between a) taking a partial written test *in itinere* (valid for one academic year) and finishing with an oral linguistics exam, once they have passed the written and oral language exams, or b) taking only a final oral exam, once they have passed the written and oral language exams.

The oral exam, conducted in English, is divided into two parts. In the first part, students are required to show the ability to consult the pronunciation dictionary by illustrating its structure and features, reading from the pronunciation dictionary that they bring to the exam. They must show they are able to read the IPA, and pronounce the symbols correctly. In the second part, students must be able to present the topics dealt with in the course by reporting and commenting on the topics and methodologies listed in the Course Contents section and by identifying and explaining the features of language detailed in the Course Contents section, using appropriate terminology.

The final mark reflects:

– the weighted average in the written and oral language exams;

– the score on the interim test on Blackboard (if it has been taken);

– performance in the oral Phonology exam.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The course is taught in English and students must enroll via Blackboard.

The final mark for English Language I (Language and Phonology) (12 Cfu) represents both the language exams (i.e. the written and oral *prove intermedie*) and the English linguistics exam for this course (Phonetics and Phonology). With the exception of incoming Erasmus students from other universities, students must pass the language exams before they take the linguistics exam. For Erasmus students, the Phonetics and Phonology course (30 hours) is worth 5 Cfu.

In case the current Covid-19 health emergency does not allow frontal teaching, remote teaching will be carried out following procedures that will be promptly notified to students.

*Office hours*

Prof. Maggioni is available to talk to students by email arrangement.

Office hours take place on a weekly basis, according to the notices in the Dept of Scienze linguistiche e letterature straniere (Via Necchi 9, IV floor). Timetable variations will be communicated through her university webpage.

*Gr. L-Z: Prof. Caterina Pavesi*

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

This course introduces students to the fundamental concepts of the phonetics and phonology of contemporary English.

By the end of the course, students are expected to:

– be able to discuss the contents of the course in English and the prescribed reading material;

– be able to demonstrate comprehension of the mechanisms of the articulation of English vowels and consonants;

– show knowledge of the international phonetic alphabet, and pronounce the vowels and consonants of English correctly, regardless of the variety they identify with (e.g. British or American English);

– be able to explain the need for a Pronouncing Dictionary in English and demonstrate its use;

– be able to explain differences between some major varieties of English, such as (but not restricted to) British and American English.

***COURSE CONTENT***

1. The sounds of English – which English?

2. The organs of speech.

3. The International Phonetic Alphabet.

4. Describing and classifying sounds: Vowels and Consonants.

5. Phonemes, minimal pairs, allophones, the syllable.

6. Word stress, primary and secondary.

7. Connected speech, weak forms, elision, liaison, assimilation.

8. Aspects of suprasegmental prosody: stress, rhythm, intonation.

9. Daniel Jones and the English Pronouncing Dictionary.

10. American English Phonology and American English Dialects.

11. World Englishes: Features of Varieties of English from around the world.

***READING LIST***

Obligatory:

The notes and slides from the course on Blackboard.

D. Crystal, *Sounds Appealing, The Passionate Story of English Pronunciation*, Profile Books LTD, London, paperback version, 2019.

P. Forchini, *A description of American English Phonology,* EDUCatt, Milano, 2020.

D. Jones, *Cambridge English Pronouncing Dictionary,* Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2011, 18th ed. P. Roach-J.Hartman-J. Setter (eds), including the introductory essays.

Further reading:

L. Murphy, *The Prodigal Tongue, The Love-hate Relationship Between British and American English,* Oneworld Publications, London, 2019.

P. Forchini, *The Real Professor(s) Higgins,* EDUCatt, Milano, 2015.

Other bibliography may be indicated during the course.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The teaching method includes technology-enhanced lectures, using audio-visual materials and mobile learning tools, pair and/or group work, peer-to-peer learning, individual analysis and observation tasks, and self-study.

If the health situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic prevents teaching in the classroom, students will be notified in good time of the alternative lessons which will be provided via the online platforms used by the University.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students are assessed firstly via an objective test on Blackboard, comprising 30 Multiple Choice - True/False - Matching questions testing their comprehension of the fundamental contents of the course. Students may take the test on a date set in January/May. Candidates who do not take the Blackboard test in January or May are required to take a written test on the official exam date, they will be tested on course contents. Students will also be required to hand in (at least 7 days before the official exam date) a written assignment of 800-1,000 words comparing British RP with a variety of their choice. Instructions and Assessment criteria for the assignment will be communicated during the course.

In the assignment, written in English, students must be able to discuss the contents, with particular reference to the phonology of the varieties of English they have chosen to compare.

The final mark for Lingua inglese Lingua e fonologia (for 12 credits - CFU) reflects:

a. the weighted average grade in the written and oral language tests (prove intermedie), the written language test contributes for 1/6 and the oral language test contributes for 2/6;

b. the score on the Blackboard written test on phonology;

c. performance in the written assignment.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The course is taught in English. Students must enrol in the 2020-2021 course on the Blackboard platform where they can access course materials, practice materials, videos, reference materials and take the end of term test.

With the exception of incoming Erasmus students from other universities, students must pass the language exams before they take the linguistics exam. For Erasmus students, the English Phonology course (30 hours) is worth 5 CFU.

All students must enrol in the course on Blackboard.

*Place and time of consultation hours*

During the semester, Prof. Pavesi is available to talk to students by email arrangement.

**English Language Practical Classes (Year 1, Three-year Course students)**

L. Arnò, R. Baldi, C. Bell, P. Biancolini, A. Carraglia, L. Ferrario, A. Fottrell, M. Porro, P. Prostitis, J. rock, G. Taglialatela, J. Villis, L. Williams

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

This course aims to consolidate the students’ knowledge and practical skills in the areas of grammar, reading, writing and spelling, oral communication and pronunciation. Students should reach level B2 in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

By the end of the course, students are expected to:

– be able to demonstrate comprehension of a passage read aloud and the ability to transcribe it correctly in the Roman alphabet;

– show knowledge of the grammatical structures of English and areas of lexis contained in the course books at B2 level;

– be able to compose a text correctly in English at B2 level, showing knowledge of the norms of written English;

– be able to translate sentences from Italian to English demonstrating knowledge of grammatical structures and lexis taught at B2 level;

– be able to decode the International Phonetic Alphabet and pronounce the vowels and consonants of English correctly, regardless of the variety they identify with (e.g. British or American English);

– be able to converse in English, asking and answering questions at a B2 level about the prescribed texts for the exams.

***COURSE CONTENT***

– Consolidation and development of grammatical knowledge of English.

– Speaking skills and listening comprehension.

– Writing skills with attention to formal and informal emails.

– Reading comprehension skills.

– Translation skills.

– Practising the correct transcription into English of a text read aloud.

– Practising decoding the international phonetic alphabet correctly.

***READING LIST***

Compulsory for all groups 1-14

P. Dummett-H. Stephenson-L.Lanford , *Life,* *Upper Intermediate (Student’s Book, app, ebook code), National Geographic Learning.* ISBN 9781473781320.

Compulsory for students in Groups 1-4

Andreolli-P. Lindwood, *Grammar Reference New Edition (Volume + Easy eBook (su DVD) + eBook),* Petrini, 2016.

Compulsory for students in Groups 5-14

M. Vince, *Language Practice for First,* Macmillan, 5th edition with key.

Materials for the laboratories on Speaking skills will be announced on Blackboard.

Optional – for extra practice and the remedial course (corso di recupero)

H. Downes-J. Rock, *New English Practice,* Cedam, 2012.

It is recommended that students buy a good bilingual and monolingual dictionary that will last throughout their degree course. Any of the following are appropriate in their latest edition:

*Il Sansoni Italiano-Inglese*, Sansoni.

*Grande Dizionario Hoepli Inglese con CD-ROM*, Hoepli.

*Il Dizionario Inglese Italiano Ragazzini*, Zanichelli.

*Oxford Paravia. Il dizionario inglese-italiano, italiano-inglese*.

Recommended monolingual dictionaries:

*Advanced Dictionary*, Collins Cobuild.

*Advanced Learners Dictionary*, Cambridge.

*Advanced Learners Dictionary*, Oxford.

*English Dictionary for Advanced Learners*, Macmillan.

*Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Students are divided into 14 courses according to the results they score on the placement test. Each of the 14 courses has a corresponding area on the Blackboard platform, where all information is provided about lessons and end-of-year tests. The lessons are interactive, requiring pair work and group work, as well as self-study at home. For students needing extra practice in speaking, there are interactive lessons in the laboratory dedicated to speaking skills for which students need to sign up on Blackboard.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students take a written test (prova intermedia scritta) at the end of the second term which tests knowledge of grammar at a B2 level, listening comprehension, spelling and punctuation through a dictation exercise, reading and writing skills, and translation into English. There is also an oral interview (prova intermedia orale) in which they discuss a number of readings. The written and oral tests are the same for all students, regardless of their specialisation or the group they belong to. The assessment of oral skills focuses on correct pronunciation, effective communication skills, the ability to use appropriate lexis, as well as knowledge of the readings required. The marks obtained in the written and oral tests are combined into a weighted average (*media ponderata*) where the written mark is worth 1/3 and the oral mark 2/3. This weighted average contributes to the final mark, which is obtained after taking the exam in Phonology or Literature. The written mark counts for up to 1/6 and the oral mark up to 2/6 of the final mark.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The reference point for the organisation of the English Language courses is the email address: celi.inglese[@unicatt.it](mailto:chei@unicatt.it) which is managed by the coordinator, prof. Jane Christopher. The president of the final exam commission coincides with the name of a professor of English linguistics (in the first year, Prof. Pierfranca Forchini), but the president cannot answer questions about language courses, groups or final language tests.

Students are placed in one of 14 groups after the Verifica della Preparazione Iniziale (VPI) and should stay in the group they are assigned to for the whole year. Each group has two or three teachers. It is highly recommended to attend lessons, which begin on **19th September, 2022**.

The first two weeks are intensive with 10 hours of language lessons per week. From 3rd  **October** for 10 weeks, there are 4 hours of lessons per week. The courses are taught in English.

Students must enrol in their courses on the Blackboard platform to be able to access the course contents and practice materials.

Any students who do not succeed in passing the first year written exam are required to attend the first year remedial course (*corso di recupero*) in their second year.

*Annualisti and Biennalisti*: Students who take English as a third language for just one or two years attend four hours of lessons a week, as well as the Phonology course. Their exam (language and phonology) is worth 8 credits.

**N.B.** If the health situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic prevents teaching in the classroom, students will be notified in good time of the alternative lessons which will be provided via the online platforms used by the University.

*Place and time of consultation hours*

The language teachers are available to talk to students after lessons.