**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.

***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 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.

The course is taught in English. As regards the course content, no pre-requisites are requested. All students must enroll in the course on Blackboard.

*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 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. American English Phonology and American English Dialects.

10. 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.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students are assessed firstly via an objective test on Blackboard, comprising 30 Multiple Choice - True/False - Matching - Open questions testing their comprehension of the fundamental contents of the course. Students may take the test on a date set in January (for 1st semester courses). Candidates who do not take the Blackboard test 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 RP and American English. 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;

d. the ability to answer questions about their assignment.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The course is taught in English. Students must enrol in the 2023-2024 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.