**English Language I (Language and Phonology) (Year 1, curriculum: Languages for Business)**

## Gr. A-K e Gr. L-Z: Prof. Pierfranca Forchini

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

The aim of this course is to provide the foundations of the phonetics and phonology of contemporary English. It proposes a comparative approach to describing different varieties of English and a contrastive analysis with 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.

*Ability to apply knowledge and understanding*

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

*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 organs of speech.

2. The International Phonetic Alphabet.

3. Phonological, segmental and suprasegmental aspects of English.

4. Pronunciation dictionaries.

5. Contrastive aspects of English, Italian and English spoken by Italians.

6. Comparison between British English, American English and other varieties of English.

7. Scholars of the English language: From G.B. Shaw’s Mr. Higgins to the present day.

***READING LIST***

Compulsory

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

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

P. Forchini, *The Real Professor(s) Higgins: an overview of British and American Scholars,* EDUCatt, Milano, 2014.

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 tests (prove intermedie), or b) taking only a final oral exam, once they have passed the written and oral language tests (prove intermedie).

The *Lingua inglese fonologia* 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; 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 tests (prove intermedie);

– 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 Lingua inglese 1 fonologia (12 Cfu) represents both the language tests (i.e. the written and oral prove intermedie) and the English linguistics phonology exam for this course. With the exception of incoming Erasmus students from other universities, students must pass the language tests before they take the phonology exam. For Erasmus students, this course (30 hours) is worth 5 Cfu.

*Office hours*

During the semester, Prof. Forchini’s office hours take place on a weekly basis, according to the notices in the Dept of Scienze linguistiche e letterature straniere (Via Necchi 9, Third floor, Room 302). Timetable variations will be communicated through her university webpage.