

Academic Year/course: 2021/22

27816 - English Phonetics and Phonology I

Syllabus Information

Academic Year: 2021/22

Subject: 27816 - English Phonetics and Phonology I

Faculty / School: 103 - Facultad de Filosofía y Letras

Degree: 416 - Degree in English

ECTS: 6.0

Year: 1

Semester: Second semester

Subject Type: Compulsory

Module:

1. General information

2. Learning goals

3. Assessment (1st and 2nd call)

4. Methodology, learning tasks, syllabus and resources

4.1. Methodological overview

See "Learning tasks " and "Syllabus".

More information will be provided on the first day of class.

4.2. Learning tasks

This is a 6 ECTS course organized as follows:

- Lectures.
- Practice sessions.
- Autonomous work and study.
- Assessment tasks.

4.3. Syllabus

This course will address the following topics:

Section I. INTRODUCTION

- Topic 1. General concepts.
 - 1.1 Phonetics and Phonology: a definition.
 - 1.2 Transcription: definition and types
- Topic 2. Models of pronunciation.
 - 2.1 Choosing a model of pronunciation.
 - 2.2 GB (General British): history and contrastive definition and description.
- Topic 3. Phonemes, allophones and other basic concepts.
- Topic 4. Establishing the phonemes of English: a process of commutation.

- Topic 5. Classification of vocalic phonemes.
 - 5.1 The system of Cardinal Vowels and the Vowel Quadrilateral.
 - 5.2 Monophthongs. The features of length, degree of closure, place on the front-back axis, and lip rounding.
 - 5.3 Diphthongs and triphthongs.
- Topic 6. Length, a relative concept.
 - 6.1 Long and short vowels in popular terminology.
 - 6.2 Length in strict phonetic terms. Clipping.
- Topic 7. Classification of consonantal phonemes.
 - 7.1 The features of voice, place of articulation, and manner of articulation.
 - 7.2 Main allophones of consonants.
- Topic 8. The 'Five Rules' and other useful generalisations about spelling and pronunciation.
- Topic 9. Spelling-to-pronunciation relationships (SPRs): the concept of grapheme. 'Continental spelling' in English.
- Topic 10. Stress-timing: An introduction to the rhythm of English. Weak and strong forms (of words).
- Topic 11. An introduction to lexical stress.
 - 11.1 Prominence.
 - 11.2 Primary and secondary stress. Weak and strong syllables.
 - 11.3 Stress placement rules. Stress shift.

Section II. VOWELS

- Topic A. Description and practice of the GB vocalic phonemes: 'Pure' vowels (monophthongs) and 'glides' (diphthongs), with an emphasis on spelling regularities and irregularities and on special difficulties for Spanish speakers (pronunciation and perception).
- Topic B. Specific topics:
 1. /i:/ and /I/ as an illustration of the complexities of English SPRs.
 2. Short I and the pronunciation of affixes.
 3. /æ/ and the relativity of the feature of Length.
 4. The FOOT-STRUT split.
 5. A as /A:/: A case of 'lengthening before fricatives'.
 6. The influence of /w/ on immediately following vowel letters.
 7. Incidence of /j/ before /u:/ and other back vowels.
 8. Postvocalic-/r/ loss. Vowels before RR.
 9. Diphthong levelling and triphthong smoothing.

Section III. CONSONANTS

- Topic A. Description and practice of the GB consonantal phonemes, with an emphasis on spelling regularities and irregularities and on special difficulties for Spanish speakers (pronunciation and perception).
- Topic B. Specific topics:
 1. Pronunciation of past and past participle endings in '(E)D.
 2. Pronunciation of inflectional '(E)S.
 3. Pronunciation of adjectives ending in 'ED.
 4. T-glottalling.
 5. Coalescence within words resulting in affricates and palato-alveolar fricatives.
 6. The grammatical function of the fortis/lenis distinction.
 7. Pronunciation of -NG-, -GN(-), and other consonant digraphs.
 8. Nasal and lateral plosion.
 9. Syllabic and silent consonants.
 10. Clear and dark /I/.
 11. Linking and intrusive /r/.
 12. Phonemic alterations at word boundaries in connected speech: assimilation, coalescence, elision.

4.4. Course planning and calendar

Further information concerning the timetable, classroom, office hours, assessment dates and other details regarding this course, will be provided on the first day of class or please refer to the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts website (academic calendar: <http://academico.unizar.es/calendario-academico/calendario>; timetable: <https://fyl.unizar.es/horario-de-clases#overlay-context=horario-de-clases>; assessment dates: <https://fyl.unizar.es/calendario-de-examenes#overlay-context=>)

4.5. Bibliography and recommended resources