

English Linguistics II: Phonology (A001271)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0

Study time 150 h

Course offerings in academic year 2025-2026

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

De Soete, Alexander

LW06

staff member

Simon, Ellen

LW22

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

crdts

offering

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

English, linguistics, phonology, phonetics, segmental, suprasegmental

Position of the course

This course teaches students to describe and transcribe a spoken utterance in English in a theoretical and descriptive phonological framework and makes them familiar with the basic principles of current phonological theories, contrastive phonology and phonological first and second language acquisition.

Note for exchange students: Exchange students wishing to take 'English Linguistics II: Phonology' should be aware that this course partly builds on expertise gained in English Linguistics I and that a background in linguistics is hence expected.

Contents

This course deals with various aspects of the phonological description of the English language, in particular Received Pronunciation (Standard British English). Segmental aspects (isolated sounds, stress in individual words, allophonic variation) as well as suprasegmental aspects (prosody incl. intonation, stress in a tone unit and phenomena such as sound deletion, sound contraction, etc.) are taken into consideration.

Initial competences

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Final competences

- 1 describe and classify the vowels and consonants of English (RP)
- 2 describe in detail the movements of the speech organs and the airstream mechanism in the production of English sounds
- 3 master the key concepts of the phonetics and phonology of English, such as phonemes versus allophones, syllable structure, phenomena of connected speech, stress and intonation, etc.
- 4 phonemically transcribe English speech, with attention to aspects of connected speech, such as assimilations, elisions, reductions
- 5 conduct a contrastive phonological analysis by comparing the English phonological system to the Dutch one
- 6 have insight into the principles in phonological first and second language acquisition and in speech learning models (e.g. Speech Learning Model, Perceptual Assimilation Model).

7 demonstrate the relation between phonology and orthography in English

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture

Study material

None

References

- pronunciation dictionary: Wells, J.C. (2008, 3rd ed.). Longman Pronunciation Dictionary, Harlow: Pearson.

Course content-related study coaching

personal: by oral or electronic appointment

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Skills test, Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Skills test, Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

Written exam in which the knowledge of and insights into the phonetics and phonology of English are tested and in which students are expected to phonemically transcribe English sentences in connected speech.

Skills test: students analyse their own pronunciation/accent or that of a peer.

Calculation of the examination mark

periodical assessment: 100% of the score

Facilities for Working Students

1. Possible exemption from certain educational activities requiring student attendance.

2. The examination cannot be rescheduled

3. Feedback can be given by email, telephone or during an appointment during or after office hours

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy