

English Linguistics: Phonology (A005758)

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

Credits 5.0

Study time 150 h

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 1)

English

Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Verbeke, Gil

LW06

staff member

Simon, Ellen

LW06

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - English)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - German)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Greek)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Italian)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Latin)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Spanish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Swedish)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - English)	5	A
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	5	A
Linking Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - English)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - German)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Italian)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Spanish)	5	A
Preparatory Course Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - English)	5	A

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: Phonology' should be aware that this course partly builds on expertise gained in English Linguistics: Introduction and that a background in linguistics is hence expected.

Contents

This course deals with various aspects of the phonological description of the English language. 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. Additionally, a few topics are discussed in more detail, including. These can include, for instance, first or second language phonological acquisition or the relation between orthography and phonology.

Initial competences

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Final competences

- 1 describe and classify the vowels and consonants of English
- 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
- 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
- 8 be able to correctly interpret speech waves and spectrograms (acoustic analysis)
- 9 analyze speech samples in acoustic-phonetic software in order to gain insight into one's own pronunciation (and phonetic variation) or in that of other speakers

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

Extra information on the teaching methods

The seminar consists of tutorials in which students are introduced to acoustic analysis of (English) speech in Praat (Boersma & Weenink) and in which they learn to analyse their own pronunciation and that of other speakers.

Plenary lectures will be recorded and made available to specific target groups (on request; only to students with the relevant special facilities).

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: (2019). Practical Phonetics and Phonology. A resource book for students (4th edition) London & New York: Routledge
Indicative price: € 46
Optional: no
Author : Collins, B., I.M. Mees. & Carley

Type: Slides

Name: Slides, handouts & readings available on Ufora
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no

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 and continuous assessment

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

Written assessment with open-ended questions

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

Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Assignment

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.

Assignment in which students demonstrate that they can analyse and describe their own pronunciation and/or that of other speakers using acoustic software.

Calculation of the examination mark

periodical assessment: 85% of the score

continuous assessment: 15% 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