

COURSE SYLLABUS

I. COURSE TITLE	:	Fundamentals of Phonetics
Course Code & Ref. #	:	ENGL 3325, #49755, Spring, 2012 (Term: 201230)
Credits	:	Three (3) credits
Category	:	Major course
Days/Time/Place	:	TR 4-5:20, A107
Professor	:	
Contact/Office hours	:	TR 3:30-3:55, CIT 243,

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The production and perception of the phonetic and phonemic systems of United States English. Techniques and methods used to correct deficiencies in pronunciation and their application in the classroom. Requires 45 hours of lecture and 15 hours of lab.

III. & IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- A. Abilities: By the end of the semester, the student will develop basic conceptual knowledge in the following areas:
1. Motor processes and musculature involved in speech production;
 2. Phonetic and phonemic systems of English and Spanish;
 3. Basic principles and elementary processes of phonology and phonological change;
 4. English/Spanish phonetic and phonemic contrasts;
 5. Lexical and cross-word suprasegmental processes;
 6. Processes for improving accent.
- B. Skills: During the course of the semester, the student will develop and demonstrate the following analytical skills:
1. Demonstrate knowledge of basic concepts and terminology of phonetics and phonology;
 2. Systematically analyze pronunciation problems and variations from the point of view of modern linguistics;
 3. Describe phonological processes from the point of view of modern linguistics using appropriate terminology;

4. Compare accents, dialects, and speech problems and enumerate basic similarities and differences;
5. Recognize and discuss remediation procedures for pronunciation problems;
6. Identify the speech production organs and sounds produced;
7. Transcribe phonetically;
8. Identify basic phonetic and phonological patterns and problems and explain why they occur;

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS, STRUCTURE, EVALUATION:

A. **Attendance**: Regular attendance at class meetings is essential and is required. If circumstances prevent you from attending a class, you are **STILL RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL MATERIAL THAT IS PRESENTED, DISCUSSED, OR ASSIGNED**, regardless of the reason you are absent. You will receive a **ZERO** for any work missed during an unexcused absence. It is your responsibility to get missed work to the professor in a timely manner. For each absence beyond two, one point will be subtracted from your final course average.

B. **Homework Assignments**: Assignments appear on the course outline, and are due on the dates indicated, whether or not it is mentioned in class that they are due. Students are responsible for preparing assignments before class begins. This implies reading the chapters and doing assigned exercises. Because the material covered in assignments is integral to the understanding of concepts presented in the course, it is important that assignments be done. However, I understand that phonetics is not necessarily the sole passion in every student's life, and that other activities may at times interfere with the completion of assignments. Accordingly, each student is excused from turning in any two regular homework assignments of her choosing. For each missing or inadequately done assignment beyond two, one point will be subtracted from the student's course average. All work for the course must be done in black or blue ink either on the assignment sheet (whenever the handout provides space), or on 8 1/2" x 11" lined paper (when the assignment is from your text or when it will not fit reasonably on the assignment handout). Nothing done in red ink or pencil will be accepted. On all assignments, your name is to appear in the upper right corner of the paper, and some indication of what the assignment is must also appear at the top of the page. Late assignments will not be accepted with the exception that if you miss a class, you may turn in the assignment prior to the start of the next class meeting that you attend.

C. **Evaluation**: The grade for the course will be determined on the basis of grades on in-class tests/quizzes (50%), homework assignments (20%), a final exam (20%), and attendance/participation (10%).

D. **Tests & Quizzes**: Material covered in class, on homework assignments, and in readings may be quizzed. Tests and quizzes will be largely similar in format to homework assignments and in-class activities. They are intended to ascertain whether you have digested the assigned material

and to motivate you to do so. There will be four partial exams (dates appear on the course outline). There will also be two to four quizzes, depending on available time. Quizzes will not normally be announced. There will be no make-ups allowed for missed quizzes.

E. **Final Exam**: The final exam, which will be given during finals week, will include material covered throughout the semester; it will count 20% of your grade.

F. **Extra help**: Students are encouraged to utilize my office hours to their maximum benefit to obtain individual or small group help. If you are willing to put out the effort to learn the course material, I will spend as much time as is necessary to assure that you understand course concepts. However, the time to obtain help is when you are first experiencing difficulty. I will not attempt to teach several weeks' work to a student who has regularly failed to attend class or to attempt homework assignments in a timely fashion. Anyone can pass this class. The choice is yours.

VI: RESOURCES & MATERIALS:

A. TEXTBOOKS:

Baker-González, J, Betancourt, F., Dayton, E., Leder, N., & Phinney, M. (2005ms). *Monitoring speech: An introduction to phonetics*. Available:
http://webct.uprm.edu:8900/SCRIPT/INGL3227_Baker/scripts/serve_home

Baker-González, J, Betancourt, F., Dayton, E., Leder, N., & Phinney, M. (2006ms). *Workbook to accompany Monitoring speech: An introduction to phonetics*. Available at the RUM bookstore.

B. & C. Supplementary readings will be supplied as photocopied handouts. Audiovisual resources will be utilized as needed.

D. BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Edwards, H.T. (2003). *Applied phonetics: The sounds of American English, 3rd ed.* Clifton Park, NY: Thomson Learning.

Fromkin, V., Rodman, R. & Hyams, N. (2011). *An introduction to language, 9th ed.* (or earlier edition). Boston: Thomson Wadsworth. (On reserve under Shand; Chs. 6 & 7)

Ladefoged, P. (2006). *A course in phonetics, 5th ed.* (or earlier edition). Boston: Thomson Wadsworth.

Nash, R. (1977). *Comparing English and Spanish: Patterns in phonology and orthography*. New York: Regents.

Prator, C.H., Jr., & Robinett, B.W. (1985/1990/1995). *Manual of American English pronunciation, 4th ed.* Fort Worth, TX: Holt Rinehart Winston. (Despite its age, this is an excellent source, especially for language teachers)

E. ON-LINE RESOURCES:

<http://www.oddcast.com/home/demos/tts/frameset.php?frame1=talk> (Type in a word, & you'll hear it pronounced in American English.)

<http://palimpsest.lascribe.net/linglinks:phonolinks> (A page with a series of links to IPA symbols & sounds. Not all work well, but some are very good.)

<http://manythings.org> (Fun exercises on minimal pairs & tongue twisters)

<http://eslus.com> (Free mini-lessons for ESL students, some of which are good listening exercises)

<http://uiowa.edu/~acadtech/phonetics> (Lab & video animations & phonetic symbol charts)

<http://eslpoint.com> (Lessons for teachers; handouts for pronunciation practice)

upodn.com (Side-by-side English spelling & phonetic transcription that's pretty good)

VII: UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

Support Services or Special Needs: All students who require support services or special assistance should solicit them at the start of the course or as soon as they become aware of their need through the Coordinator of Services for Handicapped Students, located in the office of the Dean of Students.

Honesty, Fraud, and Plagiarism (from General Rules for Students, Chapter V): Dishonesty, fraud, plagiarism, and any other inappropriate behavior in relation to academic work constitutes a major infraction sanctioned by the General Rules for Students. Major infractions, as presented in the General Rules for Students, can have as a consequence suspension from the University for a specified period of at least one year or permanent expulsion from the University, among other sanctions.