

COURSE OUTLINE: PRONUNCIATION

Summer Semester 2011

Instructor:	Ian Mills	E-mail:	ian-francis.mills@phil.tu-chemnitz.de		
Office:	RH39/231				
Office Phone:	39389	Course Times:	A: WED	9:15- 10:45	2/SR14
Office Hours:	Tuesday 1030-1230		B: WED	11:30-13:00	2/SR14
			C: THU	11:30-13:00	EB2

Course Description:

Pronunciation involves far more than individual sounds. Word stress, sentence stress, intonation, and word linking all influence the sound of spoken English, not to mention the way we often slur words and phrases together in casual speech. 'What are you going to do?' becomes 'Whaddaya gonna do?' English pronunciation involves too many complexities for learners to strive for a complete elimination of accent, but improving pronunciation will boost self-esteem, facilitate communication, and possibly lead to a better job or a least more respect in the workplace. Effective communication is of greatest importance! This course is designed and intended to complement students' theoretical phonology/ linguistics studies. A foundation for the course is laid with an introduction to the International Phonetic Alphabet. Using a range of media, the articulation of specific English sounds in a variety of Englishes will be looked at, giving particular attention to those areas of English pronunciation that tend to be problematic for German speakers. The course puts focus on listening (and transcription) of standard dialects of English and time is spent on in-class controlled-speech exercises to help students understand and, ultimately, reduce their individual speech problems.

Class Materials:

Students are asked to purchase the course pack from Copyshop Dietze (Reichenhainer Str. 55) before the first meeting (Course Pack file number: **40**). Students must also have the technology to record and send sound files.

English Mailing List

All students are asked to sign up for the English Mailing list to receive important Department information. If you haven't subscribed yet, please do so asap at <https://mailman.tu-chemnitz.de/mailman/listinfo/english>

Prerequisite:

Successful completion of PVL "ILC"

Testing and Grading:

This course culminates in a 75-minute exam (15-min oral plus 60-min written test) PL exam ("Prüfungsleistung"). In order to be admitted to the PL exam, students need to fulfil the following requirements:

Assessment:

1. Oral Presentation (35% of Course Grade)
2. Mid-Semester Test (50% of Course Grade)
3. Regular attendance, active in-class participation and completion of homework of homework assignments (regardless of whether you attended the session in which the HW was assigned or not) (15% of Course Grade)

Participants must achieve at least 70% (3.3) in their combined scores of assessments 1, 2 and 3 above in order to be admitted to the PL exam.

Attendance Policy:

1. It is expected that you attend the class regularly (no more than 2 absences).
2. Failure to attend the class regularly will result in exclusion from the course.
3. If you cannot attend the class, it is expected that you provide your lecturer with the appropriate documentation, i.e. sick note from your doctor etc.

Completion of Assessment:

1. It is expected that all work is completed on time as outlined in the Assessment Brief for each assessment (see below).
2. **The lecturer will not accept any late work** unless you have made special arrangements with them PRIOR to the due date. Any late work will receive a fail (0%).
3. Assessments will not be rescheduled unless appropriate documentation is provided.

The Final PL Exam will take place in the exam period after the end of the teaching series. There will be one exam session for all three groups (A-C) together.

Semester Schedule

wik #	Wik det	æsajnmænts / kǒntænts
wik wǎn	4 th – 8 th eprǣl	Pronunciation, the <i>Cinderella</i> of language learning – Intro to Pronunciation Chart and the IPA
wik tu	11 th – 15 th eprǣl	Common Mistakes of German Speakers & Activities
wik θri	18 th – 22 nd eprǣl	Weak Forms / Syllable Stress & What makes a good presentation?
wik fǒr	25 th – 29 th eprǣl	Special look at vowel sounds
wik fajv	2 nd – 6 th me	Special look at consonant sounds
wik sǣks	9 th – 13 th me	Presentations (Pt. I) & Linking
wik sǣvǣn	16 th – 20 th me	Presentations (Pt. II) & Revision Exercises
wik et	23 rd – 27 th me	MID SEMESTER TEST
wik najn	30 th me – 3 rd dʒun	(No Lesson Thurs – Christi Himmelfahrt) –Mid Semester Test Feedback
wik tǣn	6 th – 10 th dʒun	Presentations (Pt. III) - Sentence Stress
wik ælǣvǣn	13 th – 17 th dʒun	Presentations (Pt. IV) – Intonation & Rhythm
wik twǣlv	20 th – 24 th dʒun	Presentations (Pt. V) – Focus on Conversation
wik θǣrtin	27 th dʒun – 1 st dʒulaj	Presentations (Pt. VI) – Revision for Oral Test
wik fǒrtin	4 th – 8 th dʒulaj	FINAL ORAL TEST
wik fǣftin	11 th – 15 th dʒulaj	Assessment Return Oral Test Feedback & Revision for Final exam

Pronunciation Final Exam (PL) in Examination Period – Date TBA.

Assessment Brief

Assessment Number/ Title	Oral Presentation - #1
Due Date	In class as per schedule
Length	10 Minutes (max)
Weighting	Contributes 35% towards course grade
Style / Format	Oral Presentation
Background / Scenario	Throughout your studies, you are required to deliver a number of presentations. It is important that you focus not only on content delivery (i.e. what you say), but also on the spoken delivery (i.e. how you say it).
Task(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Choose an interesting process from your field of work or study, your daily life, sport or another area that interests you. 2. Choose a process that has at least three distinct steps and that can be explained clearly in approximately ten minutes. 3. The presentation will provide an opportunity to use all the skills covered in this course; however, the primary purpose of the explanation is to practise the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition words like <i>first, next, after that,</i> and <i>finally</i> to signal each step of the process • Signal words like <i>for example, in other words,</i> and <i>to say it another way</i> to clarify and rephrase important information in your presentation • Pitch fall and pause to mark thought groups, especially to set off transition words and rephrased information • Brief pauses to set off major segments of your presentation (between each step in your process) • Segmentals, i.e. individual sounds. 4. Outline your presentation. For each step in your process, tell the audience <i>what</i> the step is, <i>why</i> it is important, and <i>how</i> you accomplish it. 5. You may use visual aids (simple outlines, diagrams, pictures, or flow charts) to add interest and clarity; however, you will need to provide the technology to present these. 6. Rehearse your presentation several times, using only your outline (notes). Use a simple, clear, direct speaking style. 7. Record your presentation and use the Self-Evaluation Form on the next page to evaluate it. This form should be submitted to your lecturer prior to the start of your presentation.
Marking Criteria	<p>The presentation will be marked on delivery, i.e. length, organisation, repetition, interest and complexity, pronunciation/clarity, i.e. clear consonants and vowels, stress, linking and pausing, speed and volume, and on peer feedback (see peer assessment attached).</p> <p>See attached Marking Guide</p>
Assessment Return	This assignment should be returned to you the week following the completion of the presentation.

Assessment Brief

Assessment Number/ Title	Mid-semester Test - #2
Due Date	In class Week 8, i.e. Wednesday 25th May or Thursday, 26th May 2011
Word Length	n/a
Weighting	Contributes 50% towards course grade
Style / Format	Written Test
Individual / Group	Individual assignment
Background / Scenario	The purpose of this course is to become familiar with the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) and standard dialects of English and to be able to articulate these sounds. There is a particular focus on those areas that tend to be problematic for German speakers. The mid-semester test for this course will consist of all topics covered in the course thus far.
Task(s)	<p>You are required to complete an in-class written test that will consist of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IPA • weak forms • syllable stress • /æ/ vs. /e/ • /u:/, /ʊ/, /ɜ:/ • linking • voiced vs. voiceless consonants • /θ/, /ð/
Marking Criteria	The test will be marked on accuracy of answers provided.
Assessment Return	The results of this test should be returned to you in the class following the test.

Assessment Brief

Title	Final Exam
Due Date	<p>Oral Exam: in your respective lessons in week 14 of the course at the allocated time – i.e. Wednesday 6th July or Thursday 7th July</p> <p>Written Exam: In the exam period following the end of the lecture series. Date TBA</p>
Word Length	<p>Written: 60minutes</p> <p>Oral: 10 minutes</p>
Weighting	PL for this course
Style / Format	Written and Oral Exam
Individual / Group	Individual assignment
Background / Scenario	The purpose of this course has been to become familiar with the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) and standard dialects of English and to be able to articulate these sounds. The final exam for this course will consist of an assessment of both your written and your oral command of English pronunciation conventions.
Task(s)	<p>You are required to complete an in-class written exam and an individual oral exam:</p> <p><u>Written Exam</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The written exam will cover all topics covered over the semester with particular emphasis on those of the latter half of the semester. <p><u>Oral Test</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Your oral test will consist of a ten minute interview with the lecturer. 2. You will be asked to read some unseen English passages aloud. 3. You will be provided additional prompts to demonstrate your ability to produce native speaker-like pronunciation qualities. 4. Your test may be recorded.
Marking Criteria	<p>The written exam will be marked on accuracy of answers provided.</p> <p>The oral exam will be marked on fluency, range of expression and your ability to produce native speaker-like segmentals and supra-segmentals.</p> <p>See attached Marking Guide for oral part of the exam</p>
Assessment Return	The results of this exam should be returned to you in the last scheduled lesson of the semester.