Course in Contrastive Phonetics and Phonology

First Year Single Honour Degree Students
Number of classes: 1 class of lecture; 1 class of seminar per week
Number of semesters: 2
Course teacher: doc. PhDr. Magdaléna Bilá, PhD. (lectures)
                 Mgr. Eva Eddy, PhD. (seminar sessions)

Aims of the course:
- to provide students with theoretical background concerning the sound system of the English language compared to that of the Slovak language;
- to instruct students how to use contextual clues when listening to native speakers of English;
- to help students identify their own pronunciation errors and give them advice in terms how to improve in this area so that their oral productions may become more intelligible to native speakers and more approximate to L1 pronunciation.

Topics of lectures and seminars:
Global Spread of the English Language, English as a Lingua Franca of
Modern World, Varieties of English
Speech Perception and Production; The Vocal Tract: Initiation, Articulation
and Phonation
Segments: Vowels: Classification; Quantity
Diphthongs: Closing and Centring
Stricture Types; Segments: Consonants: Classification
Plosives: Fortis vs lenis
Fricatives and Affricates
Nasals and Approximants
Phonetics and Phonology
Phoneme, Allophone, Distinctive Features of English vocalic and
consonantal phonemes
Pronunciation Dictionaries; The Role of Pronunciation in Communication
English and Slovak Syllable; Consonant Clusters; Phonotactics
Syllable Types in English and Slovak
Stress in English and Slovak: Lexical; Sentence Stress: Lexical Words and Structure Words
Word Stress Rules in English and Slovak: Strong and Weak Syllables
Aspects of Connected Speech in English and Slovak: Assimilation, Elision and Linking
Rhythm in English and Slovak
Intonation in English and Slovak: Tones
Tone Unit: Structure
Fall-Rise and Rise-Fall plus Tail
Head Types
Functions of Intonation
History of Phonetic and Phonological Research

Requirements for achieving credits:
- full attendance (if for some reason the student misses a class s/he is expected to approach the course teacher and fulfill some additional assignments);
- thorough preparation for class (fulfillment of all assignments);
- active participation in all class activities;
- 65 % score in all tests
- Presentation

REFERENCES
Obligatory:
5. Bowler - Cunningham: Headway Pronunciation (intermediate and upper-intermediate; OUP 1992)
9. www.phon.ucl.ac.uk
Optional:
10. A.C. Gimson: An introduction to the Pronunciation of English (E. Arnold)
11. J.C. Catford: A Practical Introduction to Phonetics (OUP 1990)
14. J.C. Wells: Practical English Phonetics
17. J. C. Wells: Pronunciation Dictionary (Longman 1990)
25. C. Mortimer: Elements of Pronunciation (CUP 1990)
27. B. Bradford: Intonation in Context (CUP 1988)
29. Peter Piper's Practical Principles of Plain and Perfect Pronunciation (Dover Publications 1970)
The English Phonetics and Phonology website if you have access to the Internet, you can find more information on the website produced to go with this book. You can find it at www.cambridge.org/elt/peterroach. Phonemes and other aspects of pronunciation The nature of phonetics and phonology will be explained as the course progresses, but one or two basic ideas need to be introduced at this stage. In any language we can identify a small number of regularly used sounds (vowels and consonants) that we call phonemes; for example, the vowels in the words ‘pin’ and ‘pen’ are different phonemes, and so are the consonants at the beginning of the words ‘pet’ and ‘bet’. Introduction Contrastive Phonology The task of learning a second language is much more arduous than that involved with one’s first language. The reason for this is that the ability to acquire a language. Phonetics and Phonology Humans have a complex system of using sounds to produce language. The study of linguistic sounds is called Phonetics. Phonology is the study of systems of sounds, often the sound. More information. Strand: Reading Literature Topics Standard I can statements Vocabulary Key Ideas and Details. Both Phonetics and Phonology study speech sounds but Phonetics studies them as articulatory and acoustic units whereas Phonology investigates them as functional distinctive units which perform a discriminatory and a social function. The discriminatory function consists in distinguishing one sequence of sounds (words, sentences, texts) from another with a different meaning (e.g. back - bag: due to the force of articulation we can differentiate between the meaning = fortis /k/ and lenis /g/). But we may use it word medially and word finally. Distribution. D contrastive. It is such a distribution in which allophones of different phonemes occur in identical phonetic context (cake - bake, bike - bite). D non-contrastive. o complementary.