

# The Pronunciation of English

Spring 2024

## *Code*

BBNAN11700/D4, BBNAN11700/D7 BBNAN11700/D8

## *Time and place*

D4: Wed 8:15–9:45, D 410; D7: Thu 8:15–9:45, D 604; D8: Thu 10:15–11:45, D 604

## *Value, type*

3-credit seminar

## *Host*

Institute of English and American Studies

## *Instructor*

Péter Őri

## *E-mail*

oripeter17@gmail.com

## *Course description*

This course will discuss the phoneme system of (current Standard Southern British) English, along with the phonetic properties of the sound segments, and some of the most important phonological rules of the language. We will be practicing phonemic transcription, using the CUBE system. Special emphasis will be placed on letter-to-sound rules so that the spelling of English words will become a more reliable guide in guessing their pronunciation. This is planned to be a practical course with a lot of exercises for you to gain an in-depth knowledge of the material. Therefore, everybody will be encouraged to actively participate in the class work and required to regularly do their home assignments.

## *Course material and communication*

The syllabus, the course materials, the home assignments and your results will be made available on the platform of the course (in the MS Teams group), where announcements will also be posted, so it is your responsibility to check it for updates on a regular basis.

## *Readings*

Besides the shared course materials and the online readings mentioned in the slides, selected chapters from the following textbook are recommended for the course:

Nádasdy, Ádám. 2006. Background to English pronunciation (phonetics, phonology, spelling). Budapest: Nemzeti Tankönyvkiadó.

## *Assessment*

Assessment will be based on a midterm test (40%) and an end-term test (60%), which will be modified by the weekly assignments submitted and potentially by your in-class participation. There will be about 8 assignments during the semester, each of which will contribute 0.5% to your final score in the following way: 0 assignments: -2%, 1 assignment: -1.5% ... 4 assignments: +0% ... 8 assignments: +2%.

Grading policy: 0–59.99% → 1; 60–69.99% → 2; 70–79.99% → 3; 80–89.99% → 4; 90–100% → 5

## *Attendance*

Regular attendance is necessary; a maximum of three absences can be tolerated.

*Syllabus for group D4\**

<i>Mar. 6</i>	Introduction 1. Phonetics vs. phonology; short vowels in SSBE
<i>Mar. 13</i>	2. Phonemic transcription, IPA symbols and the CUBE system; articulation of vowels, phonetics of SSBE vowels; vowel contrasts: /ʌ/ vs. /ɔ/ vs. /ɑ:/
<i>Mar. 20</i>	3. Vowel contrasts: /a/ vs. /ɛ/ and /əw/ vs. /o:/; diphthongs in SSBE
<i>Mar. 27</i>	4. Distribution of /r/; R-influence, long vowels in SSBE; vowel categories
<i>Apr. 3</i>	5. Letter-to-sound rules, graphic positions (1)
<i>Apr. 10</i>	<b>MIDTERM TEST</b> 6. Vowels in unstressed syllables, weak forms of function words
<i>Apr. 17</i>	7. Letter-to-sound rules, graphic positions (2)
<i>Apr. 24</i>	8. Shortening rules and lengthening environments
<i>May 1</i>	<i>No class (public holiday)</i>
<i>May 8</i>	9. Articulation and categorization of consonants; phonotactics: nasal+plosive clusters; morpho-phonological alternations: allomorphs of -s and -ed
<i>May 15</i>	10. Allophonic variations: aspiration, L-darkening, flapping and glottalization Revision
<i>May 22</i>	<b>END-TERM TEST</b>

\* The syllabus is subject to change; please check it regularly for updates.

*Syllabus for groups D7 and D8\**

<i>Mar. 7</i>	Introduction 1. Phonetics vs. phonology; short vowels in SSBE
<i>Mar. 14</i>	2. Phonemic transcription, IPA symbols and the CUBE system; articulation of vowels, phonetics of SSBE vowels; vowel contrasts: /ʌ/ vs. /ɔ/ vs. /ɑ:/
<i>Mar. 21</i>	3. Vowel contrasts: /a/ vs. /ɛ/ and /əw/ vs. /o:/; diphthongs in SSBE
<i>Mar. 28</i>	<i>No class (Good Thursday)</i>
<i>Apr. 4</i>	4. Distribution of /r/; R-influence, long vowels in SSBE; vowel categories
<i>Apr. 11</i>	<b>MIDTERM TEST</b> 5. Vowels in unstressed syllables, weak forms of function words
<i>Apr. 18</i>	6. Letter-to-sound rules, graphic positions (1)
<i>Apr. 25</i>	7. Letter-to-sound rules, graphic positions (2)
<i>May 2</i>	8. Shortening rules and lengthening environments
<i>May 9</i>	9. Articulation and categorization of consonants; phonotactics: nasal+plosive clusters; morpho-phonological alternations: allomorphs of -s and -ed
<i>May 16</i>	10. Allophonic variations: aspiration, L-darkening, flapping and glottalization Revision
<i>May 23</i>	<b>END-TERM TEST</b>

\* The syllabus is subject to change; please check it regularly for updates.