

HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

COURSE OUTLINE

1. **Course Title**

The Pronunciation of English

2. **Course Code**

LANG 7690

3. **No. of Units**

3 units

4. **Offering Department**

MA in Language Studies Programme

5. **Prerequisite**

Nil

6. **Medium of Instruction**

English

7. **Aims & Objectives**

The course has two primary aims: (i) To study the sound system and pronunciation features of English, both segmental and suprasegmental, based on internationally accepted models (such as Received Pronunciation); (ii) To discuss and evaluate theoretical and pedagogical approaches to the acquisition and teaching of English pronunciation in an ESL/EFL context. A secondary aim is to raise the students' awareness of their own pronunciation and the potential for improvement.

8. **Course content**

- (1) Recap: Basic concepts in Phonetics and Phonology
- (2) Classification and transcription of speech sounds
- (3) The English sound system (I): Vowels
- (4) The English sound system (II): Consonants
- (5) Allophonic and phonotactic rules; Syllable structure
- (6) Word stress, rhythm and intonation

- (7) Acquisition of second-language phonology: Transfer (cross-linguistic influence); markedness theory
- (8) Issues and problems in the acquisition of English phonology by L2 learners
- (9) Pronunciation models for English as a world language; the Lingua Franca core
- (10) Listening comprehension; Accents of English
- (11) Techniques for the teaching of pronunciation
- (12) Identifying and analysing learners' pronunciation problems

9. Course Intended Learning outcomes (CILOs)

CILO	By the end of the course, students should be able to:
CILO1	Transcribe English sounds accurately using the International Phonetic Alphabet, and articulate these sounds clearly and intelligibly
CILO2	Evaluate theoretical and pedagogical issues in the acquisition of second-language (L2) phonology
CILO3	Analyze the pronunciation features of L2 learners with reference to L2 acquisition theories
CILO4	Design teaching strategies and materials for the acquisition of English pronunciation by L2 learners

10. Teaching & Learning Activities (TLAs)

CILO No.	TLAs
CILO1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning the IPA symbols and doing exercises in transcribing speech sounds using these symbols; Training in the articulation of speech sounds and whole words, and rating their clarity and intelligibility
CILO2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures, discussions and readings on theories and issues in the acquisition of L2 phonology
CILO3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listening to and assessing recorded pronunciations by L2 learners of English
CILO4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluating resources and textbooks on L2 pronunciation teaching, and designing teaching materials on pronunciation

11. Assessment Methods (AMs)

Type of Assessment	Weighting	CILOs to be addressed	Description of Assessment Tasks
Test 1	15%	1	A practical test on the ability to transcribe and pronounce sounds accurately
Test 2	10%	3	A listening test on assessing the pronunciation of L2 learners
Assignment	25%	2	Critical discussion on theoretical approaches to L2 phonology acquisition
Project	50%	1-4	Developing a mini module on teaching pronunciation to elementary or intermediate learners