**B.A. (Honours) in Contemporary English Studies**

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<th><strong>Course Title</strong></th>
<th>English Phonology</th>
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<td><strong>Course Code</strong></td>
<td>ENG3271 / ENG271</td>
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| **Recommended Study Year** | 3rd & 4th Year for 4-year System  
| | 2nd & 3rd Year for 3-year System |
| **No. of Credits/Term** | 3 |
| **Mode of Tuition** | Lecture and Tutorial |
| **Class Contact Hours** | 2 hours Lecture/week  
| | 1 hour Tutorial/week |
| **Category in Major Programme** | Disciplinary Elective |
| **Prerequisite(s)** | N/A |
| **Co-requisite(s)** | N/A |
| **Exclusion(s)** | N/A |
| **Exemption Requirement(s)** | N/A |

**Brief Course Description**

Phonology is the study of sound patterns in language. While closely related to phonetics, phonology has a different focus: it is concerned with the function, behaviour and organization of speech sounds as linguistic units, rather than the production, perception and classification of speech sounds as physical entities. The course has three stages. After introducing students to some foundational concepts, selected aspects of English phonology will be examined in detail. Finally, various English accents will be surveyed from a number of perspectives. Lectures will be supplemented with practical phonological problems taken from English and from other languages, where appropriate. Students are required to solve these problems using the principles introduced in the lectures.

**Aims**

The course aims to achieve the following:
1. to introduce students to the major concepts and principles in phonology
2. to broaden students’ knowledge of various English accents, including Hong Kong English
3. to provide background and skills for conducting investigations that explore English phonological variation
4. to study certain aspects of English phonology from both theoretical and practical perspectives
5. to develop students’ analytical and problem-solving skills

**Learning Outcomes**

On completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. distinguish between phonemic and allophonic variation by analysing language data
2. solve a range of phonological problems using both inductive and deductive reasoning
3. explain how various phonological processes, e.g. assimilation, operate in English
4. divide an English word into syllables and be able to justify decisions by referring to a range of theories and constraints
5. describe and classify different types of accent variation
6. present the findings of research into an aspect of phonology

Indicative Content

1. Phonemes and allophones
2. Rules and representations
3. Distinctive features
4. Phonological processes
5. The phonological analysis of the syllable
6. Connected speech
7. Accents of English
8. Changes in pronunciation

Teaching Method

This course will consist of a two-hour lecture and a one-hour tutorial per week.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

1. Written assignments (outcomes 1 to 3)
2. Presentation of research (outcome 6 directly, and other outcomes indirectly)
3. Final written examination (outcomes 1 to 5)

Assessment

Written assignments (40%), group presentation (20%), final examination (40%)

Recommended Readings