

Accents of English

ENGL 248 Special Topics in English Language

PROFESSOR: Dr. Niamh Kelly /ni:v 'k^hɛli/

OFFICE: XXX

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OFFICE HOURS: M W 2.00-3.30 or by appt.

Fall 2016; MWF 12.00-12.50

The objective of this course is to examine variation in pronunciation across varieties of English. The course will focus on the phonetic differences across accents of English both in segments and in intonation. We will analyze descriptions of different dialects and also look at how they emerged. Finally, we will investigate the perception of various accents and relevant sociolinguistic topics.

• B 80-89%

• C 70-79%

• D 60-69%

• F 0-59%

Course Requirements

Course Readings:

Required text: Wells, J. C. 1982. *Accents of English*. Vol. 1.

Further reading will be provided.

Class attendance and participation policy:

- Please arrive on time. No texting or phones ringing. Laptops are only to be used for taking notes or looking at class material no emailing, chatting, working on homework, etc.
- Please be respectful and attentive.
- Those who miss nine classes or more, no matter what the reason, will be dropped automatically from the course.

Assignments and Evaluation:

The grade for the course is made up as follows:

- Homework assignments: (4x5%) 20%
- Exams: (2x40%) 80%

Homework: There will be four homework assignments in total, based on the materials in the lectures and the readings. Homework is due on Monday of the relevant week, at the beginning of class. Only paper copies of homework are accepted.

Exams: There will be two exams. The first will be in week 7 and will examine all the material covered up to that point. The second will be in week 15 and will be focused on what was covered since the first exam, however, this does not mean that it will not indirectly reference this material. No make-up exams will be given unless there is a reason such as illness, or death in the family, etc. You must provide documentation for any reason in order to arrange for a make-up.

Grading policy:

- A 90-100%

Academic Integrity

All written work is to be done individually. Collaboration is not allowed on written work. You will be able to work together on some lab projects, but I will let you know when that is acceptable. In such cases, you must identify on the assignment the names of the people you worked with.

Should copying occur, both the student who copied and the student who gave the material will receive a zero for the assignment. Penalty for violation of this code can also be extended to include failure of the course and referral to the Student Affairs Committee for further disciplinary action.

Documented Disability Statement

AUB strives to make learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers due to a disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please inform me immediately so that we can privately discuss options. In order to help establish reasonable accommodations and facilitate a smooth accommodations process, you are encouraged to contact the Accessible Education Office: accessibility@aub.edu.lb; +961-1-350000, x3246; West Hall, 314.

Final Note

Please let me know if there is any issue that is preventing you from performing satisfactorily in this class - issues with other students, difficulty seeing the presentations, problems downloading materials, etc.

I look forward to working with you this semester!

TABLE I: *Tentative course schedule*

Week	Date beginning	Topic	Readings	Work due
1	8.29	Introduction: Language, dialect, accent	1.1	
2	9.5	History: Why accents differ	1.4	
3	9.12	Sounds: phonetics & phonology	1.2, 1.3	
4	9.19	Prosody: Intonation, stress & rhythm	Reading provided	HW 1
5	9.26	Sociolinguistics	Reading provided	HW 2
6	10.3	Sociophonetics; Review	Reading provided	
7	10.10	Exam 1		Exam Mon.
8	10.17	Accents in England	2.1, 3.2	
9	10.24	Ireland, Scotland, Wales	Reading provided	
10	10.31	North America	3.3	HW 3
11	11.7	Australia & New Zealand	Reading provided	
12	11.14	Africa	Reading provided	
13	11.21	India	Reading provided	
14	11.28	Caribbean; Review		HW 4
15	12.5	Exam 2		Exam Mon.