

Sample Course Description

Faculty: Faculty of Foreign Languages

Study program: Bachelor in French language

Course Title: Phonetics of the French language

Course Credits: 4

Language of Instruction: French

Course Description: The subject of phonetics contains the basic notions of French phonetics, the definition of the object of study and its relations with other sciences. The relationship between phonetics and phonology, the conditions of the birth and development of phonology in the framework of structural linguistics, basic notions in phonology (phonemes, phonetic variants, phonological systems) will be studied; basic notions of French language prosody (intonative, rhythmic and stress phenomena in French) as well as phonetic transcription systems.

Course Goals: The student must be able to distinguish phonetics from other sciences and from phonology. At the same time, the student should know well the specialties of phonetics and its basic concepts as follows.

Phonetics studies the sounds of language (phones) as they are produced. Phonology studies sounds from the point of view of their function in a language. The sounds that distinguish one from another are called phonemes.

Articulatory phonetics includes the study of the phonatory apparatus and how sounds are produced. Acoustic phonetics studies the acoustic structure of the sounds transmitted by the speaker. Auditory phonetics examines how sounds are perceived by the listener.

French phonetics includes two major classes of sounds: vowels and consonants.

Vowels are sounds characterized by a free passage of air. Consonants are sounds characterized by a narrowing (fricatives) or a complete momentary closure (ploses) of the passage of air.

A syllable is a phoneme or group of phonemes that is pronounced with a single voice emission. In French, the nucleus of a syllable is always made up of a vowel.

Prosody is the study of the phenomena of accentuation and intonation (variation in pitch, duration and intensity) making it possible to convey information related to meaning such as highlighting, questioning, exclamation etc.

Course Requirements:

Attendance: Lectures and seminars 75%

Assessment: Attendance 10%, continuous assessment 20%, final exam 70%

Grading: The lowest grade is 5 and the highest grade is 10.

46-55 points	5
56-65 points	6
66-75 points	7
76-85 points	8
86-95 points	9
96-100 points	10

Course Schedule: Semester I, 15 lectures and 30 seminars