

THE SOUNDS OF THE WORLD'S LANGUAGES

Semester B 2014/2015

Department of Linguistics and Translation

This course brings awareness to students the richness of human speech sounds through (i) demonstrations of a wide variety of the sounds of the world's languages and (ii) descriptions of the multifaceted - articulatory, physiological, acoustical, and linguistic - characteristics of speech sounds. Students will be taught to use the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), an international standard system of notation for transcribing the sounds of the languages of the world. The knowledge of the IPA facilitates the learning of the sounds of foreign languages. Students will participate in the learning activities, such as (i) oral and listening practice of the sounds of different languages, (ii) transcribing sounds using the IPA symbols, (iii) carrying out simple acoustic analysis of speech sounds, and (iv) viewing the video clips of articulation mechanisms and examining the models of the structures of the vocal tract and larynx for speech production. Students will find the course useful not only for gaining knowledge of the sounds of the languages of the world, but also for building a career in teaching pronunciation of the sounds of foreign languages, speech therapy, and speech engineering.



Application Period

23 December 2014 - 19 January 2015