Course in Contrastive Phonetics and Phonology

First Year Single Honour Degree Students
Number of classes: 1 class of lecture; 1 class of seminar per week
Number of semesters: 2
Course teacher:    doc. PhDr. Magdaléna Bilá, PhD. (lectures)
                 Mgr. Eva Eddy, PhD. (seminar sessions)

Aims of the course:
-    to provide students with theoretical background concerning the
     sound system of the English language compared to that of the
     Slovak language;
-    to instruct students how to use contextual clues when listening
     to native speakers of English;
-    to help students identify their own pronunciation errors and
     give them advice in terms how to improve in this area so that their
     oral productions may become more intelligible to native speakers
     and more approximate to L1 pronunciation.

Topics of lectures and seminars:
Global Spread of the English Language, English as a Lingua Franca of
Modern World, Varieties of English
Speech Perception and Production; The Vocal Tract: Initiation, Articulation
and Phonation
Segments: Vowels: Classification; Quantity
Diphthongs: Closing and Centring
Stricture Types; Segments: Consonants: Classification
Plosives: Fortis vs lenis
Fricatives and Affricates
Nasals and Approximants
Phonetics and Phonology
Phoneme, Allophone, Distinctive Features of English vocalic and
consonantal phonemes
Pronunciation Dictionaries; The Role of Pronunciation in Communication
English and Slovak Syllable; Consonant Clusters; Phonotactics
Syllable Types in English and Slovak
Stress in English and Slovak: Lexical; Sentence Stress: Lexical Words and Structure Words
Word Stress Rules in English and Slovak: Strong and Weak Syllables
Aspects of Connected Speech in English and Slovak: Assimilation, Elision and Linking
Rhythm in English and Slovak
Intonation in English and Slovak: Tones
Tone Unit: Structure
Fall-Rise and Rise-Fall plus Tail
Head Types
Functions of Intonation
History of Phonetic and Phonological Research

Requirements for achieving credits:
- full attendance (if for some reason the student misses a class s/he is expected to approach the course teacher and fulfill some additional assignments);
- thorough preparation for class (fulfillment of all assignments);
- active participation in all class activities;
- 65 % score in all tests
- Presentation

REFERENCES
Obligatory:
5. Bowler - Cunningham: Headway Pronunciation (intermediate and upper-intermediate; OUP 1992)
9. www.phon.ucl.ac.uk
Optional:
10. A.C. Gimson: An introduction to the Pronunciation of English (E. Arnold)
11. J.C. Catford: A Practical Introduction to Phonetics (OUP 1990)
14. J.C. Wells: Practical English Phonetics
17. J. C. Wells: Pronunciation Dictionary (Longman 1990)
25. C. Mortimer: Elements of Pronunciation (CUP 1990)
27. B. Bradford: Intonation in Context (CUP 1988)
29. Peter Piper's Practical Principles of Plain and Perfect Pronunciation (Dover Publications 1970)
More specifically, the Course of Theoretical and Applied Phonetics introduces students to the International Phonetic Alphabet and other popular transcription systems, to the syllabic structure of English, the distribution of stress within a word, the consonant and vowel systems and the suprasegmentals, such as intonation in the broad sense of the word and rhythm. The course is taught through lectures, class discussions, practical tasks, laboratory sessions, oral presentations, dramatic readings of literature excerpts (reciting poetry), essays and project work. The course is intended: à€¢ to buil