

Veranstalter:	Dr. Lukas Pietsch
Thema:	Accents of English [AA-A1, ENG-4, ENG-5, AA-W, AA-M1]
Art der Veranstaltung:	Seminar Ib
Veranstaltungsnummer:	53–510
Zeit:	2st., Mo 12–14
Raum:	Phil 1250
Beginn:	17. Oktober 2011

Course description:

Most of us have some intuitive idea about what Americans and Brits sound like, and you will remember a thing or two from your linguistics introduction about how to describe the most basic differences in phonetic terms. But can you tell an Australian speaker from a South African? Could you describe what it actually is that makes an Indian English accent so noticeable? When you watch a Hollywood movie, do you “get” all the little hints about a character’s background that are conveyed by the way they talk? This course wants to “sharpen your ears” to the differences in English accents that you come across every day when dealing with English speakers from around the world.

Much of this course will be concerned with practical, hands-on exercises, listening to authentic sound recordings (from movies, TV and so on) and analysing them. At the same time, we will of course also need to establish some of the necessary theoretical background: a solid understanding of basic phonetics, use of “narrow transcription” in the International Phonetic Alphabet, a few basic facts about the history of English pronunciation, but also a first introduction into doing your own instrumental analysis of speech sounds using a microphone and computer.

Suggested reading:

Hughes, Arthur & Peter Trudgill (1996): *English Accents and Dialects*. 3rd edition, London: Arnold.
Wells, John C. (1982): *Accents of English. Vol. 1: An Introduction*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Participation requirements:

Active participation in class (including interactive presentation of exercise examples)
Term paper (typically a written report about a practical analysis of one sound sample)

Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit:	Di 16–17 Uhr, Phil 1157
Sprechstunden während der vorlesungsfreien Zeit:	nach Vereinbarung, Phil 1157