Core Module (BM) 2 “Sprachpraxis – Beschreibung und Analyse”: Outline

This handout gives you an overview of the following essential aspects of the core module BM 2:

1. Contact Details
2. Module and Course Description
3. Learning Outcomes
4. Concepts and Policies
5. End-of-module Exam
6. Exchange Students
7. Course Programme

1. Contact Details
For general communication and questions concerning the end-of-module exam please contact mapbm2-es1@uni-koeln.de. Please make sure that your email contains your full name, your matriculation number and the specific course you are taking (e.g. Practical Phonetics and Phonology, group 2, Wednesday 10 a.m., Dr. Abel). In case you want to contact your teacher directly, write an email to their individual address or sign up to their office hours.

2. Module and Course Description
The core module BM2 consists of three elements:
1) the course “Grammar: Description, Analysis and Practice” (GR),
2) the course “Practical Phonetics and Phonology” (PP) and
3) the end-of-module exam (“Modulabschlussprüfung”, MAP).
After you have successfully completed all three elements, you will receive 6 Credit Points (CP) for all three elements, which amounts to 180 hours of preparation, class participation, revision and exam preparation.

GR offers an introduction to English grammar. We will describe and analyse the structure and underlying rules of the English language. Basic concepts and terminology in syntax and morphology are explained and illustrated. First, we will introduce the concepts of categories and functions and we will define, describe and analyse words, phrases and clauses. Then, we will turn to English verbs and their classification before investigating English nouns and noun phrases. Finally, we will examine different clause types in English.

PP offers a general as well as a language-specific introduction to phonetics and phonology. We will start by analysing the organs of speech and the articulation of speech sounds. We will survey various phenomena that characterise the sound structure and pronunciation of English, e.g. allophonic and allomorphic variation, syllable structure, phonotactic constraints and features of connected speech. We will discuss differences between British and American English with respect to pronunciation and analyse interference effects on pronunciation from German native speakers. The course will also provide practical training in phonemic transcription.

The MAP covers both the contents of GR and PP equally. You will have to do a handwritten phonemic transcription and answer computerised questions. You have to register for the exam on KLIPS. For details concerning the dates and special regulations due to the coronavirus measures see below.

3. Learning Outcomes
By the end of the GR course, students …

- are familiar with basic linguistic concepts in the area of syntax and morphology.
- identify important phenomena of English grammar.
- describe these grammatical phenomena using the terminology of a specific theoretical framework.
- analyse and formulate rules for these grammatical phenomena.
Bachelor English Studies, Bachelor Unterrichtsfach Englisch

Core Module (BM) 2 „Sprachpraxis – Beschreibung und Analyse“, mapbm2-es1@uni-koeln.de

- distinguish between categories and functions.
- differentiate and categorise types of words, phrases and clauses.
- distinguish between different verb forms and subcategories of verbs.
- analyse the structure of noun phrases.
- name and analyse different types of English clauses.
- have improved their own English grammar skills.
- use English more confidently.

By the end of the PP course, students …
- have practical skills in phonemic transcription (Standard British/American English).
- recognise and use the symbols that represent the sounds of English (IPA).
- describe and categorise consonant and vowel sounds in a linguistically precise manner.
- are familiar with the systematic and idiosyncratic principles and rules of English pronunciation.
- analyse restrictions and variations of the English language.
- identify and explain phonological phenomena such as allophones, allomorphs, stress and syllable structure.
- understand interference effects of German on (their own) English pronunciation.
- increase their phonological and general language awareness.
- enhance their own use and pronunciation of English.

By the end of both courses, students …
- describe English linguistic data in a scientific way.
- analyse the English language with the help of theoretical tools.
- apply their knowledge to their own everyday usage of the English language.
- pass the end-of-module exam.

4. Concepts and Policies

Assignments and attendance: In both GR and PP, there are no mandatory assignments. In order to receive credit for the module, you have to be registered on KLIPS. Because of the coronavirus measures, each GR and PP course offers a weekly Zoom session. The link and further information about Zoom are available on ILIAS. We strongly recommend that you attend the course regularly and participate actively and well-prepared. Use the different types of exercises (in-class, self-study and online exercises, see below) to be best prepared for the MAP.

Script: GR and PP are each accompanied by a script. Both documents as well as all other material are provided on ILIAS. Read the relevant chapter of the script indicated in your course programme BEFORE the session. The study questions given at the beginning of each chapter guide your reading process and highlight the most important aspects.

Self-study exercises: Both the GR and the PP script contain “self-study exercises” in order to consolidate your knowledge. In GR, the self-study exercises are an integral part of each chapter and therefore you are supposed to work on the self-study exercises BEFORE the session. In PP, the self-study exercises are given at the end of the script. You can work on them after having read the chapter(s). Model solutions to the self-study exercises are provided in the scripts.

In-class exercises: In our Zoom sessions we will talk about the study questions and/or clarify your questions. In the remaining time we will either work on the in-class exercises together in the plenary session or in smaller groups (breakout rooms in Zoom) or you can work on the in-class exercises on your own at home. Model solutions to the in-class exercises are provided on ILIAS.

Online exercises: We provide you with plenty of online exercises on ILIAS. Use them to a) revise the content of our classes and test your learning progress (after each chapter, complete the corresponding online exercises) and b) practice for the exam with the help of the mock exams (“Probeklausuren”). The mock exams show you what is expected in the MAP. The type of questions (e.g. multiple choice,
gap exercises, transcription upload etc.) that you find in the online exercises as well as in the mock exams will be used in the final exam. The correct answers to the online exercises are provided by ILIAS (the computer indicates whether your answers have been right or wrong). A link to the online exercises can be found in the GR and/or PP ILIAS folders. Just click on it and log in with your ILIAS name and password.

Transcription: A central part of the PP course is to enhance your skills in phonemic transcription. Beginning in the fifth week of the course, you should upload one transcription each week until Friday, 12 noon. Please proceed as follows:
1) Prepare a handwritten phonemic transcription (use the pages provided in chapter 11 of the script).
2) Scan your transcription with the help of a scanner or a scanner app for smartphones. Check on the scan’s quality, i.e. make sure that we can decipher/read your transcription.
3) Upload your transcription as one pdf (!) file onto ILIAS.

After submission, you will have access to a model transcription. Please compare the model transcription with your version and make the necessary corrections yourself. The PP teachers will choose one submitted transcription each week and correct it. This anonymised model correction will be made available on ILIAS to all students and you can gain valuable insights from studying it. If you do not want your transcription to be chosen for this model correction, please indicate this on your transcription.

5. End-of-module Exam
Each term there are two dates to take the exam. You have to register on KLIPS for the MAP and without registration you cannot take the exam. This semester the MAP is taking place on:

I. 09.02.2022, 10 a.m. → KLIPS registration period: 17.11.2021-29.12.2021
II. 23.03.2022, 10 a.m. → KLIPS registration period: 29.12.2021-09.03.2022

We strongly recommend you take the first slot and use the second slot if you fail the first attempt. Usually it takes 3 to 4 weeks to mark the MAP and to publish the results on KLIPS. There is no limit to the number of times you may take the exam until you pass (“keine Versuchsrestriktionen”), but failed attempts (grade 5.0) will show on your transcript of records. You have to retake the MAP until you pass it. Once you have passed the MAP with grade 4.0 or better, you cannot retake it. The grade counts 1% towards your overall grade in English.

The exam slot covers 2 hours: 90 minutes for completing the exam plus 30 minutes for administrative purposes. The number of points you can obtain in the exam is 80 (40 GR, 20 PP content and 20 PP transcription). You need at least 48 points (60%) in order to pass the exam. For further general information and particularities due to the corona measures see https://anglistik1.phil-fak.uni-koeln.de/index.php?id=27605. In the third week of teaching, we will talk about “MAP details” in our PP classes (not in GR), so please attend this session.

6. Exchange students
Welcome at the University of Cologne and at the Department of English I. Your end of module exam is not computerised, but a pen and paper exam (delivered via e-mail due to the corona virus measures). For further information, please read https://anglistik1.phil-fak.uni-koeln.de/index.php?id=27605.

7. Course Programme
Please go to the ILIAS folder that accompanies your specific GR and PP course and access the course programme in question.