#### American English

**(BBN-AME-232/f, BBN-AME-232/g)**

Fall 2017

**Time and place**

Friday 9:00–10:30, Room 433 (f)

Friday 12:00–13:30, Room 433 (g)

**Instructor**

Judit Pethő-Szirmai

email : pszirmai.judit@gmail.com

**Office hours**

Room 361, on Fridays by appointment

**Course description**

The course offers a basic introduction to the study of American English, a distinct variety of the English language, in a systematic manner. Differences between British and American English will be discussed on diverse levels of the language: pronunciation, spelling and punctuation, vocabulary and idiomatic expressions, grammar, speaking style and miscellaneous differences.

**Reading material**

Zoltán Kövecses (2000). *Bridge One. British and American English Differences for Learners of English with Exercises*.Budapest, Librotrade Kft. – MPL Könyv Kft.

Selected chapters from Z. Kövecses (2000). *American English. An Introduction.* Peterborough, Canada: Broadview Press.

**Requirements**

*Regular attendance*. Students can miss a maximum of three classes, but they are encouraged to attend each and every class. Coming to class more than 10 minutes late counts as an absence. Three latenesses of less than 10 minutes also count as an absence.

*Class participation*. Students should come prepared for the classes, which means that they need to read the required unit – as designated by the syllabus – in advance, and be ready to raise relevant questions and provide intelligent comments on the discussed topics. Constructive group work will also be required in working with the exercises.

*Presentation*. At the orientation, students will be asked to sign up for short presentations or creative exercises (15 min each) to be held during specific classes of the course. If a student misses a class when his/her presentation is due, it either results in a 0 score and a failed course, or – with a doctor’s note in case of illness – it can be postponed to the next class with the instructor’s approval.

*Tests*. There will be two tests throughout the semester, covering *both* the required units of the reading material and the additional material presented in class. Attendance is obligatory on the day of each test, except for a doctor’s note that has to be presented at the next class following the test or sent in a scanned version. A missed test results in a 0 score and a failed course. With a doctor’s note, retake is possible in the first week of the exam period.

**Grading**

Mid-term and end-term tests: 30-30%, Class participation: 20%, Presentation: 20%

Note: students must not get a zero in any of these components in order to pass the course.

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| **Score (%)** | **Grade** |
| 86-100 | 5 |
| 76-85 | 4 |
| 66-75 | 3 |
| 56-65 | 2 |
| 0-55 | 1 |

**Syllabus**

| **Week** | **Date** | **Topic** | **Required reading** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Sept 15 | Orientation |  |
| 2 | Sept 22 | History I | Ch. 2 *American English.* *An Introduction* |
| 3 | Sept 29 | History II | Ch. 3 *American English.* *An Introduction* |
| 4 | Oct 6 | Pronunciation | Unit 1*Bridge One* |
| 5 | Oct 13 | Spelling and Punctuation | Unit 2 |
| 6 | Oct 20 | Vocabulary I | Unit 3, Sections 1-8 |
| 7 | Oct 27 | Vocabulary II | Unit 3, Sections 9-15 |
| 8 | Nov 3 | FALL BREAK |  |
| **7** | **Nov 10** | **Test 1 (mid-term)** |  |
| 9 | Nov 17 | Grammar I | Unit 4, Sections 1-3 |
| 10 | Nov 24 | Grammar II | Unit 4, Sections 4-6 |
| 11 | Dec 1 | Speaking Style  | Unit 5 |
| 13 | Dec 8 | Miscellaneous Differences | Unit 6 |
| **14** | **Dec 15** | **Test 2 (end-term)** |  |