



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY
Faculty of Arts
School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

LING 316
Language Acquisition I
Fall 2019
TR 11:00 - 12:15 EDC 388

COURSE OUTLINE

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Dimitrios Skordos

OFFICE LOCATION: CHD 413

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday 13:00 – 13:50 and by appointment

TELEPHONE NUMBER: (403) 220-6396

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DESCRIPTION

Children start out seemingly unable to communicate through language, but typically end up as fully competent adult communicators. This course introduces us to the study of how children acquire the sounds, words, and grammar of their native language.

OBJECTIVES

We will explore theoretical issues and approaches regarding language acquisition, including the contributions of the innate endowment of the human mind, as opposed to environmental exposure to language. We will largely focus on typical language development and critically examine empirical evidence and experimental methodologies used to study language development from a wide variety of sources. We will also examine how our theory of acquisition impacts our theory of adult language and vice versa.

OUTCOMES

Students will acquire a good understanding of basic terminology and theoretical concepts and approaches in language development. They will develop the skills necessary to pose theoretically interesting questions and critically examine empirical evidence to answer those.

DISTRIBUTION OF GRADES

- Homework Assignments: 30%
- Discussion Questions: 10%
- Midterm Exam: 30%
- Final Exam: 30%

GRADING SCALE

A+ = 100-97; **A** = 93-96; **A-** = 92-88; **B+** = 87-83; **B** = 82-78; **B-** = 77-73; **C+** = 72-68; **C** = 67-63; **C-** = 62-58; **D+** = 57-53; **D** = 52-50; **F** = 49%

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Hoff, Erika. 2013. Language Development. 5th edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning. Looseleaf edition ISBN = 13: 978-1-133-93909-2
- The textbook will serve as a reference and encyclopedic guide to the subject. A substantial amount of additional readings in the form of primary research papers will be provided in D2L.



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RECOMMENDED TEXTS

- N/A

COURSE NOTES

Classes typically include presentation of material by the Instructor, presentation of research articles by the instructor and/or students, and class discussion. Class discussion will be an essential part of the course, therefore you are required to complete all readings before coming to class. Class attendance, while not mandatory, is very strongly encouraged. Class discussion being an integral part of the course, it will prove difficult for people to keep up and do well if they do not attend. Any accommodation, for late assignments, or missing the midterm will only be considered in cases where sufficient documentation of an unavoidable circumstance of sufficient gravity is provided. Please see D2L for an exhaustive list of class policies and expectations.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

1. **Plagiarism** is a serious offence, the penalty for which is an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. Plagiarism exists when:

- a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test);
- b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;
- c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or
- d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted."

Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

2. **Cheating** at tests or examinations includes but is not limited to dishonest or attempted dishonest conduct such as speaking to other candidates or communicating with them under any circumstances whatsoever; bringing into the examination room any textbook, notebook, memorandum, other written material or mechanical or electronic device not authorized by the examiner; writing an examination or part of it, or consulting any person or materials outside the confines of the examination room without permission to do so, or leaving answer papers exposed to view, or persistent attempts to read other students' examination papers.

3. **Other academic misconduct** includes, but is not limited to, tampering or attempts to tamper with examination scripts, class work, grades and/or class records; failure to abide by directions by an instructor regarding the individuality of work handed in; the acquisition, attempted acquisition, possession, and/or distribution of examination materials or information not authorized by the instructor; the impersonation of another student in an examination or other class assignment; the falsification or fabrication of clinical or laboratory reports; the non-authorized tape recording of lectures.

4. Any student who voluntarily and consciously aids another student in the commission of one of these offences is also guilty of academic misconduct.

COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.



Faculty of Arts

School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT

Graded assignments will be retained by the Department for three months and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Final examinations will be kept for one calendar year and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Said material is exclusively available to the student and to the department staff requiring to examine it. Please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy>.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>).

Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their Instructor or the Department Head/Dean or to the designated contact person in their Faculty.

FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES

Have a question, but not sure where to start?

The Arts Students' Centre is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance they may require.

In addition to housing the Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs) and the Associate Dean (Teaching, Learning & Student Engagement), the Arts Students' Centre is the specific home to:

- Program advising
- Co-op Education Program
- Arts and Science Honours Academy
- Student Help Desk

Location: Social Sciences Room 102

Phone: 403-220-3580

Email: ascarts@ucalgary.ca

Website: arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Block.

Contacts for the Students' Union Representative for the Faculty of Arts: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca.

INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Devices such as laptops, palmtops and smartbooks are allowed provided that they are used exclusively for instructional purposes and do not cause disruption to the instructor and to fellow students. Cellular telephones, blackberries and other mobile communication tools are not permitted and must be switched off.

SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

A link to required information that is not course-specific related to student wellness and safety resources, can be found on the Office of the Registrar's website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>.