



Faculty of Arts  
School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

LING331  
First language acquisition  
Lectures: T/Th 15:30-16:45 (75 minutes)  
Location: SB144

COURSE OUTLINE - FALL 2016

**INSTRUCTOR'S NAME:** Professor S.E. Carroll

**OFFICE LOCATION:** CHD507

**OFFICE HOURS:** Thursdays 13:00-14:00 or by appointment

**TELEPHONE NUMBER :** 403-220-5492

**E-Mail :** susanne.carroll@ucalgary.ca

**DESCRIPTION**

This course provides an introduction to first language acquisition, with particular focus on the acquisition of American English (the most studied language in the literature). The textbook will provide a **psychological perspective** with emphasis on **perceptual learning, memory, and skills-learning**. It covers a whole lot of empirical data (much of it superficially).

The classroom lectures will provide a **linguistic perspective** with emphasis on the **peculiar nature of particular learning problems, the organization of grammars, and the abstract nature of linguistic knowledge** (representations). Accordingly, the goal is to provide an explicit connection to the themes, representations, and content of your courses in phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics. In short, if you have taken a course in phonology or syntax, I expect that this course will deepen your understanding. If you have yet to take a course in phonology or syntax, I expect that this course will help to prepare you for the study of linguistic representations in those courses and provide you with novel forms of data with which to challenge your instructor! The lectures will provide a small number of examples that we will go into in more detail than the textbook. As a result, I expect that you should be able to discuss this small number of phenomena with assurance.

**Prerequisites:** LING201

**OBJECTIVES**

On successful completion of this course, these are the **knowledge and skills** that students will have:

- (1) knowledge of the principle components of any explanatory theory of language acquisition
- (2) knowledge of a simple formal model of language acquisition
- (3) knowledge of the principle **milestones/stages** in first language acquisition with a clear idea of when the particular **stages** emerge in chronological time or in structural terms (MLA).



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- (4) some understanding of the principle **mechanisms** of language acquisition and how they work
- (5) some understanding of the main differences between the principal **approaches** (= theoretical paradigms): **functionalist** vs. **special nativistist**
- (6) good understanding of what child language looks like and sounds like
- (7) some understanding of the ways in which language is similar to and different from other communicative systems that humans use
- (8) some understanding of the history of the field and important participants, and why they are famous.

**DISTRIBUTION OF GRADES**

**Final Examination:**

Participation activities:	15%	The Final Examination will be scheduled by the Registrar during <b>December</b> . Requests for pre-assignment of examinations to special dates for whatever cause or reason cannot be accommodated. Similarly, changes in the dates of scheduled examinations cannot be approved. No exceptions will be made to the Examinations Timetable
2 short written assignments (15% each)	30%	
Mid-term exam:	25%	
Final exam:	30%	

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

\*Please note: The University of Calgary bookstore is organized by AUTHOR LAST NAME.

- Hoff, Erika. 2013. Language Development. 5th edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning. Looseleaf edition ISBN = 13: 978-1-133-93909-2
- Smith, Neil. 2009. Acquiring phonology: a cross-generational case study. Cambridge, U.K: Cambridge University Press. Paperback edition. ISBN = 9781107662957.

I have ordered an e-version of this book. Both works have been put on reserve as well in the library.

Additional readings will be provided for assignments in D2L

All relevant course information, including goals of the course, pedagogical philosophy and marking approach, dates, etc. will be found in D2L. This is a major tool and you should devote time to exploring the site especially if you are new to Desire 2 Learn.

**COURSE EXPECTATIONS**

See D2L for Course Policies re attendance, use of cell phones and laptops in-class, documentation required for missed tests/assignments and re-write policy on the mid-term examination.

**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:



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- 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.

#### **DISABILITIES AND ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. Students with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre should contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Students also required to discuss their needs with the instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

#### **EMERGENCY EVACUATION ASSEMBLY POINTS**

Craigie Hall: Professional Faculties food court (alternate: Education Block food court)  
Education Block and Tower: Scurfield Hall atrium (alternate: Professional Faculties food court)  
Kinesiology: north courtyard, MacEwan Student Centre (alternate: University Theatres lobby)  
For the complete list of assembly points please consult  
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

#### **FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES**

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.



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- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- 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 Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

[arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)

#### **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 <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

#### **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.

#### **SAFEWALK**

To request a Safewalk escort anywhere on campus, 24 hours a day and seven days a week, please call 403-220-5333 or use one of the Help Phones.

Web: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>

#### **STUDENT UNION INFORMATION**

Representatives and contact details: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/home/contact.html>

Student Ombudsman: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

#### **WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM**

Writing skills should cross all disciplines. Students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their courses and, where appropriate, instructors can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Centre in the Effective Writing Office (<http://www.efwr.ucalgary.ca/>) can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.