



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

LING331 L01
First Language Acquisition
Lectures: **T/Th 14:00-15:15 (75 minutes)**
Location: **ST131**

COURSE OUTLINE - SEMESTER F2017

Instructor: Professor Susanne E. Carroll
Office: CHD507

Office hours: Wednesday 13:00 to 14:00
or by appointment

Email: susanne.carroll@ucalgary.ca
Phone: 403-220-5492

Prerequisites: LING201

Required Text:

Guasti, Maria Teresa. 2016. *Language acquisition: The growth of grammar*. 2nd edition. Cambridge, Ma: MIT Press. ISBN 9780262529389

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

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to first language acquisition.

Goals:

Guasti's textbook has a *cross-linguistic focus*: the goal is to show that children learning different languages in very different social and cultural contexts nonetheless **follow the same developmental trajectory**. Smith's book is a useful "yes, but ..." reminder that although children follow the same developmental trajectories when we look at language acquisition looking at *group data*, there is lots of variation when we compare *individuals*. Both readings and classroom lectures will provide a **linguistic perspective** on language development. One goal is to show how what you learn in your courses on linguistic description (phonology, syntax, semantics) serves as a foundation for understanding language acquisition. A second goal is to provide lots of detail about **stages of development**.

Outcomes:

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

- (1) knowledge of the principle components of an 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, including *Mean Length of Utterance*;
- (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**;



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- (6) good understanding of what child language looks like and sounds like in comparison to the target adult language;
- (7) some understanding of the ways in which language is similar to yet different from other communicative systems that humans use;
- (8) some understanding of the history of the field and important participants, and what critical ideas they have contributed.

| Distribution of Marks: | | Final Examination: |
|--|------|--|
| Participation activities due every week: | 15% | The Final Examination will be scheduled by the Registrar during December . 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 |
| 1 data analysis assignment | 15% | |
| 1 summary & critical analysis of publication | 15% | |
| Mid-term exam: | 25% | |
| Final exam: | 30% | |
| | 100% | |
| See D2L for dates | | |

Grading scale:

I use the scale in the University of Calgary calendar on all assignments and examinations. See section F.2 of the Calendar. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-2.html>

Course Expectations:

See D2L *Stuff you should know* 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.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES ON ...

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

PLAGIARISM is a serious offense, the penalty for which is an 'F' on the assignment and possibly also an 'F' in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw.

The University Calendar states that "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.



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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

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services office at 403-210-6019 or access@ucalgary.ca; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf

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. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- 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 3rd 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, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, 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



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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.