



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

*LING 416*  
*Language Acquisition II*  
*Winter 2023*  
*TR 15:30 - 16:45 (SS 012)*

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**INSTRUCTOR'S NAME:** Angeliki Athanasopoulou

**OFFICE HOURS:** *F 14:00 - 15:00 (CHD 513)*

**E-MAIL:** [angeliki.athanasopou@ucalgary.ca](mailto:angeliki.athanasopou@ucalgary.ca)

*Note that I will respond to e-mails within 48h during weekdays.*

**DESCRIPTION**

In-depth investigation of issues in language acquisition. Topics include differentiating populations of learners (monolingual, bilingual and delayed first-language learners, child and adult second-language learners, heritage language learners) and the exploration of different kinds of research tasks and methods.

**OBJECTIVES**

Researchers from different disciplines have studied language development for decades using different tools and often constructing vastly different theories that attempt to explain the relevant phenomena. This course builds upon previous fundamental background in language acquisition to look in depth at the methods and the arguments researchers have used to construct their theories of language development. We will explore theoretical and methodological issues and approaches regarding language acquisition in considerable depth. We will compare and contrast generativist vs. constructivist/functionalist approaches to language development. In contrast with earlier courses in acquisition, our case studies will include data from bilingual and atypical development and a substantial part of the course will focus on evaluating different types of research methodologies.

**OUTCOMES**

Students will develop their:

- understanding of concepts, theories, and methodologies of language acquisition
- ability to discuss the language acquisition of different populations of learners (critical thinking skills)
- ability to analyze developmental data from any language (problem-solving skills)
- ability to evaluate experimental methods for language acquisition (critical thinking skills)
- ability to present and write a topic on language acquisition (communication skills)
- ability to explain concepts of language acquisition to a broad audience (communication skills)

**REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS**

Any materials will be posted on D2L.

**RECOMMENDED COURSE MATERIALS**

Sedivy (2019). *Language in Mind: An Introduction to Psycholinguistics*. Oxford University Press.

**COURSE NOTES**

Every week, students are asked to engage in the following activities on their own: (1) do the relevant readings and (2) participate in the D2L discussion board. Also, every Tuesday and Thursday 15:30 - 16:45



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we meet in class, where we discuss the course materials and the students present their discussion points.

Course work is administered through D2L. Requests for an extension in advance of the deadline will be considered and if approved, will incur no penalties. Late submissions without advance notice will not be accepted.

Attendance is not required, but it is highly encouraged. Students' performance on assignments is typically negatively impacted by no/minimal attendance as we go through problem sets similar to those in assignments and students have an opportunity to practice problem-solving skills.

**Important dates:**

- *Class Schedule:* TR 15:30 - 16:45
- *Start of Classes:* Jan 9
- *Term Break:* Feb 19-25
- *End of Classes:* Apr 12

**ASSESSMENT**

4 Assignments	x 10 points	= 40	(Jan 26, Feb 16, Mar 09,30)
10 Discussion entries	x 1 point	= 10	weekly
1 Presentation	x 10 points	= 10	(Apr 6,11)
1 Final paper	x 40 points	= 40	(Apr 17)

There will be no final exam for this course.

**Assignments:** The assignments may include essay questions on the main ideas discussed in the materials and datasets of child data from a variety of languages that students have to analyze. Students will be assessed on their understanding of journal articles, the experimental process, the results, how the results support one or another theoretical position, and their ability to work on child data. Assignments must be submitted through D2L by 5pm the day they are due. Students are encouraged to discuss assignment problems with classmates, however each student must write up and submit their work independently. Unexcused late submissions without advance notice will not be accepted.

**Discussion board entries:** Students are evaluated in their understanding and critical evaluation of the reading materials and are asked to submit 1-3 discussion points for each topic weekly. The points will be submitted on a D2L discussion board by 5pm the day before class. Unexcused late submissions without advance notice will not be accepted. For full credit, students must participate in the discussion in 10 of the 12 weeks.

**Presentation:** 3 minutes presentation on your final paper topic. Students will be assessed on the quality of the entire proposal in both form and content. Unexcused late submissions without advance notice will not be accepted.

**Final paper:** The final will be a paper (maximum 5,000 words, not including References) in which the students propose in some detail an experiment designed to investigate a question in language acquisition. Students will be assessed on the quality of the entire proposal in both form and content: a) The background and motivation for the study; b) the soundness and impact of the question that will be investigated; c) the methods proposed to collect the data necessary to answer the question. APA format is required. The write-up will be submitted through D2L by 5pm on due date. Unexcused late submissions without advance notice will not be accepted.



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GRADING SCALE

Criteria for Letter Grades

A+ grade: Exceptional Performance. An A+ grade indicates near perfect performance on multiple choice and short answer exams. For research papers/essays/course projects/presentations, an A+ grade is awarded for exceptional work deserving of special recognition and is therefore not a common grade.

A, A- Range: Excellent Performance. Superior understanding of course material. Written work is very strong in terms of critical and original thinking, content, organization, and the expression of ideas, and demonstrates student’s thorough knowledge of subject matter.

B Range: Good Performance. Above average understanding of course material. Written work shows evidence of critical thinking and attention to organization and editing but could be improved in form and/or content.

C Range: Satisfactory Performance. Adequate understanding of course material. Knowledge of basic concepts and terminology is demonstrated. Written work is satisfactory and meets essential requirements but could be improved significantly in form and content. Note: All prerequisites for courses offered by the Faculty of Arts must be met with a minimum grade of C-.

D range: Marginally meets standards. Minimal understanding of subject matter. Written work is marginally acceptable and meets basic requirements but requires substantial improvements in form and content. Student has not mastered course material at a level sufficient for advancement into more senior courses in the same or related subjects.

F grade: Course standards not met. Inadequate understanding of subject matter. Written work does not meet basic requirements. Student has not demonstrated knowledge of course material at a level sufficient for course credit.

Grading Scale

A+	97-100%	B+	84-88%	C+	69-73%	D+	54-58%
A	93-96%	B	79-83%	C	64-68%	D	50-53%
A-	89-92%	B-	74-78%	C-	59-63%	F	0-49%

As stated in the University Calendar, it is at the instructor’s discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades.

To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (e.g., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90% = A, but 89.4% will be rounded down to 89% = A-).

INTEGRITY AND CONDUCT

All members of the University community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the Statement on Principles of Conduct, and to comply with the University of Calgary Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures (available at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>).

Academic misconduct

Academic Misconduct refers to student behaviour which compromises proper assessment of a student’s academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor’s expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.



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For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-policy>

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>

**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION**

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may not be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy>) 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.

**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/legal-services/access-information-privacy> 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://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations> .

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/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-accommodation-policy>

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](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca)

Website: <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate>



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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 Tower.

Contacts for the Students' Union Representative 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).

**INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES**

Devices such as laptops and tablets 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**

Links to 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>.