

Department of Linguistics
University of Calgary
Winter 2011

LING 633.02: SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

Days and Time: Mondays 14:00-17:00

Room: CHE 110

Instructor: Professor S.E. Carroll, Canada Research Chair for Studies in Second Language

Office: SS846

Telephone: 403-220-5492

E-mail: carrolls@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours: Thursdays 12:00-14:00 or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a graduate seminar that will introduce students to some current models of speech and language processing and relate them to language acquisition, in general, and second language acquisition in particular. We will compare processing models that conceptualize sentence processing as symbolic, “top-down”, and knowledge-based (deductive in nature) to models that conceptualize it as non-symbolic, “bottom-up” and/or inductive. We will then relate these models to facts from the L2 acquisition literature.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Assignments:

Type	% of grade	Due date	Comments
3 class presentations of a reading + handout or powerpoint	30%	TBD	10% each
Outline of poster presentation/paper (concept + initial bibliography)	10%	March 4 th (noon)	Maximum 3 pages (including bibliography)
Draft of paper	25%	March 11 th (noon)	20-30 pages
Draft of poster + handout	10%	March 18 th (noon)	
Final version of paper	15%	April 1 st (noon)	
Final version of poster + handout	10%	April 8 th (noon)	

Please note: The Language Research Centre intends to organize a day of student poster presentations in April or May 2011. My intention is that the posters you prepare for this class can be presented at this event. Presentation is, however, not compulsory for the course nor does your grade depend on your willingness to participate.

Department of Linguistics
University of Calgary
Winter 2011

GRADING SCHEDULE

A+ = 97-100 %	B+ = 83-87%	C+ = 68-72%	D+ = 53-57%
A = 93-96 %	B = 78-82%	C = 63-67%	D = 50-52%
A- = 88-92 %	B- = 73-77%	C- = 58-62%	F = 0-49%

(See the University Calendar for broader interpretation of the letter grades.)

Prerequisites:

This course requires prior training in linguistics. I will assume that students are comfortable with the metalanguage of morphology and syntax and have more than basic knowledge of sentence structure. The seminar does **not** require training in any particular theory of grammar. Successful completion of any one of LING601 *Advanced Syntactic Analysis I*, LING511 *Syntactic Analysis II*, or LING401 *Syntactic Analysis I* (or the equivalent from another university or program) will be sufficient to meet the prerequisites. The equivalent might be a basic introduction to the syntax of another language, e.g. LANG599.06/LING551.08 *French Syntax ---Introduction à la syntaxe du français*.

Students who have taken only LING301 *English Syntax* (or the equivalent) will need Departmental permission to take the course.

Students with no background in linguistics are advised to audit the undergraduate language acquisition course LING311.

ABSENCE AND LATE WORK

Written assignments submitted late due to illness must be accompanied by appropriate medical documentation which specifies

- (i) that you were unable to work due to a precise medical problem, and,
- (ii) (ii) that you were unable to work on the day the assignment was due *and a relevant period leading up to the due date*.

Should a note from your physician state merely that you had, e.g., a cold or the flu on the due date, I will construe this as saying that you were in a position to hand in the assignment on the following day. In short, if you have been incapacitated for several days, please be sure to communicate this to your physician. (And it wouldn't hurt to let me know either...).

Other problems (death in the family, pregnancy, other personal problems) which interfere with your ability to carry out your work should be brought to my attention *well before the deadline*. I am not interested in prying into your private affairs. Everyone has problems from time to time which interfere with work. The university expects you to find adult ways of coping. I expect you to recognise that you cannot hide the fact that you won't make a deadline, so don't try.

In the absence of proper communication regarding such matters, I will invoke the academic equivalent of on-the-job penalties, namely,

- assigning an "F" (fail) grade for any work not submitted, and
- deducting one letter grade for each week of 5 workdays or part thereof that an activity is late.

Department of Linguistics
University of Calgary
Winter 2011

In other words, if you would normally get a “B” on a written assignment but submit it 3 days late, you will get a “B-”; if you submit it 6 working days late, you will get a “C+”; if you submit it 11 workdays late, you will get a “C”, and so on.

COURSE SCHEDULE

See attached reading list.

REQUIRED TESTS

There is no official text. We will be reading several chapters from a new book that is currently in press by J.M. Meisel, *First and second language acquisition: Parallels and differences*. Cambridge, U.K: Cambridge University Press.

Other readings will be assigned by theme and will mostly be drawn from second language acquisition journals. See Blackboard.

Please note that this will be a *reading-intensive course*. Students will be expected to read 40 to 60 pages per week.

Other important dates:

February 20-27th: Reading week, no classes

April 15th: Lectures end

April 26th: Grades due to FGS