



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

LING 316
Language Acquisition I
Fall 2022
TR 15:30 – 16:45 in person in SS 109

COURSE OUTLINE

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Dimitrios Skordos

OFFICE HOURS: by appt. on Zoom or in person in CHD413

E-MAIL: dimitrios.skordos@ucalgary.ca - response within 48 hrs during weekdays

TELEPHONE NUMBER: N/A

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.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

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.

RECOMMENDED COURSE MATERIALS

N/A

COURSE NOTES

All course activities will be in class and necessarily synchronous with the exception of assessments which are online, asynchronous and detailed below.

Class discussion and practice will be an essential part of the course, therefore you are required to complete all readings before coming to 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. Neither the instructor nor the TA(s) will be responsible to share materials or class notes with students who miss class, outside of what will be routinely shared on D2L.



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Any accommodation for late assignments will only be considered in cases where unavoidable circumstances of sufficient gravity played an important role. Please see D2L for an exhaustive list of class policies and expectations.

ASSESSMENT

- Homework Assignments: 30% (3 x 10%)
- Discussion Questions: 10%
- Midterm Exam: 30% due Oct 25th
- Final Exam: 30% due Dec 6th
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All assessments contribute to successfully pass the course. Assessment is going to take place online through D2L and is going to be asynchronous. That is, the assessment materials (including exams) will be made available to the students ahead of time and the students will have deadlines by which to submit their responses. Students will be able to work on those on their own time (i.e., over several days or a week) and will not have timed assessments or examinations. Allowed aids include the textbook, lecture slides, and course notes. Due dates for the Midterm and Final exam will be finalized after consultation with the class but are tentatively set as seen above.

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+ = 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%

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-).



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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.

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?



Faculty of Arts
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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: <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/current-students/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 Tower.

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 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>.