

Language Development (Ling 130)

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Office hours: Tuesday 3:00pm - 5:00pm

Course Description:

This course is concerned with the question of how children naturally acquire their native language. The primary focus is on children's development of grammatical knowledge and the various stages that they pass through on the way to adult competence. We will look at development in the various components of grammar – phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics – and discuss some theories of language development that account for different developmental stages. You will be introduced to child language data – what children perceive, say, and comprehend in the course of development – and learn how to analyze that data. The course focuses on typical populations, but the course will also offer an overview of language development in special populations (e.g. bilingualism and child L2, acquisition beyond the “critical period”, and children with language disorders).

Lecture and sections:

Lectures are held on **Monday** and **Wednesday, 10:00pm - 11:50am** in **Bunche Hall 3211**. You must also attend the discussion/lab section. The section meetings will be Thursday 9:00am - 9:50pm in Bunche Hall 3123 and 2:00pm - 2:50pm in Public Affairs Building 1264, and they will give you hands-on experience with actual child language data and will be devoted in part to the preparation and discussion of your term project, which is described below.

Assigned readings: Weekly readings are assigned and posted on the course website:

<https://ccle.ucla.edu/course/view/18F-LING130-1>

Some of the readings are required, others optional. They will be specified on the lecture handouts. You are responsible for the content of the required readings whether or not I discuss them in class.

Course requirements:

- **Term Project:** Each student is required to complete a term paper/project. You will work with a partner. You will select a specific topic for investigation and conduct a small-scale pilot study using data that you collect or that you find on the different available corpora (e.g. CHILDES). The term paper is due **Monday 12/10 by 3:00pm**. You will also be required to **present** your paper at a mini-conference we will hold during class on **Wednesday 12/5** (Part I) and during the allocated Final exam time, **Monday 12/10 3:00-6:00pm** (Part II).
- **Exams:** There are 2 non-cumulative exams that cover material from lectures and readings.
Exam dates: #1: Monday, October 29 (week 5)
#2: Monday, December 3 (week 10) – *Open book*
- **Homework assignments** in section will also contribute to your final grade.
- **Attendance:** Attendance *and* participation in lecture and section constitute 5% of your final grade.

Final Grade: The breakdown of the final grade is as follows:

Term paper	25%
Presentation	5%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Homework	25%
Participation	5%

- You may earn up to 2 extra credits by participating in experiments through the Psychology Department Subject Pool (SONA). Serving as a subject in an experiment provides students with direct exposure to psychological research. One credit is given for every hour of experiment participation. If you complete 2 hours of experiments, you will have 2% added to your final grade at the end of the quarter.
- The posting and scheduling of experiments is handled by the Psychology Department Subject Pool system at <http://ucla.sona-systems.com/>. More information on how to use the system can be found at <http://www.psych.ucla.edu/undergraduate/subject-pool-experiment-participation>.

Class syllabus:

*Mandatory readings

Week	Date	Topic
1	10/1	Introduction: Basic issues and questions <i>Viewing: Acquiring the Human Language</i> <i>Reading: *Gleitman & Newport (1995); O'Grady (2005): Ch. 1 & 7</i>
1-2	10/3-8	Phonetics: Early perception and production of speech <i>Readings: *Eimas (1985); Jusczyk (2001); O'Grady (2005): Ch. 2, Sections 1-2</i>
2	10/10	Phonology: Acquiring the sound system <i>Readings: *Pye, Ingram, & List (1988); O'Grady (2005): Ch. 6, Sections 3-4</i>
3	10/15	Morphology: Learning morphological rules <i>Readings: *Pinker (1999)</i>
3-4	10/17-22	Syntax: The early stages <i>Readings: *Rizzi 1993; *Orfitelli & Hyams (2008); O'Grady (2005): Ch. 4</i>
4	10/24	Discussion and Review
5	10/29	Exam 1
5-6	10/31-11/5	Syntax: The later stages <i>Readings: O'Grady (2005): Ch. 5; *Mateu (2016)</i>
6	11/7	Semantics: Learning the meaning of words <i>Readings: *Naigles (1990); O'Grady (2005): Ch. 3</i>
7	11/12	NO LECTURE: Veteran's Day
	11/14	Pragmatics: Scalar implicatures and binding theory <i>Readings: *Papafragou & Tantalou (2004); Chien & Wexler (1988)</i>
8	11/19-21	Bilingualism and child L2 acquisition <i>Readings: *De Houwer (1995); *Haznedar (1997)</i>
9	11/26	Language in atypical populations <i>Readings: *Stromswold (2000: 913-925)</i>

	11/28	Discussion and Review
10	12/3	“Exam” 2 (open book)
	12/5	Conference presentations: Part I
Finals	12/10	Conference presentations: Part II; Papers due