

Language Development (Lx 130)

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Office hours: Wednesday 12:00-1:50PM

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 and semantics/pragmatics - and we will also discuss some theories of language development. 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. We will also look at language acquisition in English and other languages and in special populations and circumstances (e.g. bilingualism, acquisition beyond the "critical period").

Lecture and sections:

Lectures are held on Monday and Wednesday, 2:00PM - 3:50PM in Bunche Hall 3157. You must also attend the discussion/lab section. The section meetings will be Fridays 9:00AM - 9:50PM in Public Affairs 2238 and 10:00AM - 10:50AM in Public Affairs 2284, 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 reading: Weekly readings are assigned and posted on the course website:

<https://ccle.ucla.edu/course/view/17W-LING130-1>

Some of the readings are required, others optional. They will be specified on the 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 naturalistic speech that either you collect or child language samples from the CHILDES computerized database. The term paper is due Tuesday 3/21 by 8:00AM. You will also be required to **present** your paper at a mini-conference we will hold on the official final exam day and time.
- **Exams:** There are 2 non-cumulative exams that cover material from lectures and readings.
Exam dates: #1: Wednesday, Feb. 8 (week 5)
#2: Wednesday, Mar. 15 (week 10)
- **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%

Class syllabus:

Class syllabus				
Week	Dates	Topic	Readings (*required)	Other
1	1/09	Introduction: Basic issues and questions	*Gleitman & Newport (1995) O'Grady (2005): Ch. 1 & 7	Film: Acquiring the Human Language
	1/11	Phonetics: Early perception and production of speech	*Eimas (1985) Jusczyk (2001) O'Grady (2005): Ch. 2, Sections 1-2	
2	1/16	<i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday</i>		
	1/18	cont'd: Phonetics: Early perception and production of speech	*Pye, Ingram, & List (1988) O'Grady (2005): Ch. 6, Sections 3-4	
3	1/23	Phonology: Acquiring the sound system		
	1/25	Morphology: Learning morphological rules	*Pinker (1999)	
4	1/30	Syntax: the early stages	*Rizzi 1993 *Orfitelli & Hyams (2008) O'Grady (2005): Ch. 4	
	2/01			
5	2/06	Discussion and Review		
	2/08	EXAM 1		Covers weeks 1-4
6	2/13	Syntax: the later stages (A'-movement and A-movement)	O'Grady (2005): Ch. 5 *Mateu (2016)	
	2/15			
7	2/20	<i>President's Day Holiday</i>		
	2/22	Bilingualism and child L2 acquisition	*De Houwer (1995) *Haznedar (1997)	
8	2/27			

	3/01	Semantics: Learning words; constraints on word meaning	*Naigles (1990) O'Grady (2005): Ch. 3	
9	3/06	Pragmatics: Learning to use articles and scalar terms	*Papafragou & Tantalou (2004)	
	3/08	Language and non-language cognition	*Stromswold (2000: 913-925)	
10	3/13	Discussion and Review		
	3/15	EXAM 2		Covers Weeks 6-9