

**LING 331**  
**First Language Acquisition**

**Instructor:** Jennifer Mah

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**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Required Text:** Berko Gleason, J. The Development of Language, 6th edition.

**Course Overview:**

This course examines the developmental stages observed in children acquiring their first language, and discusses the role linguistic theory plays in allowing researchers to account for the observed patterns. Students are also given the opportunity to collect and analyze new child language data.

**Topics:**

Introductory topics	Chapter 1
Before words: Early vocalizations	Chapter 2, 3
Phonological development	Chapter 3
Semantic development	Chapter 4
Morphosyntactic development	Chapter 5
Pragmatic and Sociolinguistic development	Chapter 6
Theories of acquisition	Chapter 7
Individual differences	Chapter 8
Atypical development	Chapter 9

**Evaluation**

<u>Task</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Research Reports (3 throughout term, 10% each)	30%
Midterm Test	30%
Final Exam (Registrar scheduled)	40%

## Grading Schedule

A+	96 – 100	B+	80 – 84	C+	65 – 69	D+	53 – 54
A	90 – 95	B	75 – 79	C	60 – 64	D	50 – 52
A-	85 – 89	B-	70 – 74	C-	55 – 59	F	0 – 49

## Missed in-class tests

It will not be possible to make up a missed test. In the case of an excused absence from a test, the test will not be counted, and the value of the final exam will be increased. Valid excuses for test absences are: birth, death, marriage, and serious illness. These apply to yourself and members of your immediate family on the day of the test. All excuses must be substantiated by the appropriate documentation. Unexcused absences from a test will result in a test grade of zero.

## Late assignments

Assignments that are handed in late (without appropriate documentation of excuse) will be penalized. The assignment in question will be marked, graded normally, and then have **one full grade** subtracted for **each week** or **part of week** that the assignment is late. For example, an assignment that was due on April 7<sup>th</sup> is handed in on April 8<sup>th</sup>. The assignment is marked and given a B. Then **one full grade** will be subtracted and the student will be assigned a C.

## Academic Misconduct

The student should be familiar with the content of the University Calendar which deal with Academic Misconduct. Any misconduct (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) will be dealt with immediately in accordance with actions specified in the University Calendar.

## Prerequisites

Students must have achieved a grade of C- in the prerequisite for this course. Acceptable prerequisites are: LING 201/203; LING 205/207; PSYC 205. Please note that students who have not completed LING 201/203 or LING 205/207 will be required to complete some additional readings in phonetics:

O'Grady, W., & J. Archibald (eds.). 2004. *Contemporary Linguistic Analysis*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Chapter 2: Phonetics. On reserve at the MacKimmie Library.

## **Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct**

Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course, when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:

- a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),
- b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
- c) the whole work (e.g. an essay) is copied from another source, and/or
- d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Some course assignments call for students to work in groups. Unless noted otherwise in writing, students must write up their own answers for submission of the assignment. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism.

Plagiarism is an extremely serious academic offence. Possible penalties for plagiarism include: failing the assignment, failing the course, disciplinary probation, suspension, or expulsion.

Any student who voluntarily and consciously aids another student in the commission of plagiarism is also guilty of academic misconduct.