

LING 331 First Language Acquisition

Days & Time: MWF 12:00-12:50pm

Room: ST 131

Instructor: Dr. Kyumin Kim

Office: SS 804

Telephone: 403-220-6986

Office hour: Mondays 3:00- 4:00pm or by appointment at other times.

E-mail: kmkim@ucalgary.ca

TA: Kelly Burkinshaw

Office: SS 815

Telephone: 403-220-6122

Office hour: tba

E-mail: k24kdb@mun.ca

Course description

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 become familiar with (learning how to read, understand, and synthesize) original research papers by presenting and discussing assigned readings.

Required Course Text

- Berko Gleason, J, and Nan Bernstein Ratner. The Development of Language, 8th edition

Course Website on Blackboard

- This is where class notes, announcements and other course materials will be posted.

The lectures will be organized around the topics discussed in the text, and I may at times depart from the book, omitting, expanding upon, or taking issue with certain material. New contents not in the textbook can be added in the lecture notes. Therefore, it is expected that with some chapters, there will be some mismatch or omission. It is advised to follow the lecture notes when such cases arise.

- All up-to-date information about the course is posted on Blackboard. It is your responsibility to check the site regularly for changes and addition.

Please make sure to **update your email address on Blackboard**. During the course of the semester, I will send emails regarding various course matters so that you do not have disadvantages of not getting necessary updates or news etc. in time.

Course requirements

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|-----|------------------------|
| Group presentation | (1x15%) | 15% | See schedule for dates |
| Quizzes | (total 6) | 25% | See schedule for dates |
| Midterm | | 25% | |
| Final Exam | | 35% | |

Group presentation

You will form a group of 5 or 6 people (total of 14 groups), and present one of the assigned readings in the class. Please form a group **as early as possible (by the end of January if you are presenting in Feb, by early Feb at latest)**, so that your group work on the presentation early on. Guidelines and lists of readings will be posted on Blackboard and discussed in the class.

Midterm and Final Exam

There will be **one midterm in class** (see the dates in course schedule) and Final exam covering the material presented in class. Both are cumulative.

In class quizzes (total of 6)

Quizzes will be taken in the class from 12:05 for 5 or 7 minutes. Please **don't be late**. There will be **NO extra time given** in case you are late. The scope/range/format that each quiz will cover/have will be announced as the course progresses.

Missed exams or class quizzes

If you **miss** the midterms or class quizzes for a valid reason (illness, birth, family affliction, marriage etc.), you must submit an official documentation (e.g., doctor's note).

There will be **NO make-up exam or quizzes**. At the instructor's discretion, students who miss exam or quizzes for a valid reason (as indicated above) have the weighting normally assigned to them transferred to the final examination.

No alternative to group presentation

You **cannot change a date for your group presentation**, once your group set a date (please see the course outline below for dates). No presentation is not acceptable. If some members of a group cannot appear on the presentation day, please inform me as early as possible (before the presentation) for a valid reason as specified above. We will discuss more details on this issue.

Absence and late work

It is your responsibility to attend class and complete all course work on time. There is no opportunity to make up for missing work or acquire extra credit. Reading the assigned papers and the lecture notes is not a substitute for attending lecture; although attendance is not required, in my experience poor attendance almost always results in poor grades. **You are responsible for any materials you miss, if you miss class, I and the TA are happy to help you understand the missed parts,: e.g., you go over the materials, and ask us the parts that you cannot follow, but the help does not mean to recreate the whole lectures during office hour.**

Use of electronic devices in class

Please turn off all cell phones before coming to class. The use of laptops for note taking in class is discouraged.

E-mail communication

You must register your official **University of Calgary email account** in order to receive e-mail messages regarding the course. All email correspondence with me and the TA must be sent from your University of Calgary email address. **The subject line should begin with “Ling 331,”** and the body of the message should **include your full name**. Anonymous messages or messages sent from an account other than a University of Calgary e-mail address will be **ignored**.

Email should be used primarily for administrative purposes, to schedule appointments or to inform me of illness or late work. Questions about the content of the course are usually best raised before, in, or after class, in office hours, or in a scheduled appointment. You are welcome to send me questions by e-mail, but depending on the type of question, I may reply with a suggestion that you come to office hours or schedule an appointment. E-mail will generally be answered within two working days.

GRADING SCHEME:

| | | | |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| A+ = 97 – 100 | B+ = 81 – 85 | C+ = 68 – 71 | D+ = 55 – 59 |
| A = 92 – 96 | B = 76 – 80 | C = 64 – 67 | D = 50 – 54 |
| A- = 86 – 91 | B- = 72 – 75 | C- = 60 – 63 | F = 0 – 49 |

- **Course Schedule (subject to change)**

| | Topic | Readings | Assignments/exams/quizzes |
|---------------------|--|---|----------------------------------|
| Jan 8/10 | Introduction Syllabus | Chapter 1 | |
| Jan 13/15/17 | Before words: Early vocalization | Chapter 2 | |
| Jan 20/22/24/27 | Phonological development: Learning sounds and sounds patterns | Chapter 3 | Quiz 1 Jan 22 |
| Jan 29/31; Feb 3 | Semantic development | Chapter 4 | |
| Feb 5/7/10 | Morpho-syntactic development | Chapter 5 | Quiz 2 Feb 5 |
| Feb 12/14 | Class presentation (15%) | 1 group on Feb 12; 2 groups on Feb 14 | |
| Feb 17-Feb 21 | Reading break: no class | | |
| Feb 24 | Midterm Review | | |
| Feb 26 | Midterm (25%) | | |
| Feb 28; March 3 | Syntactic development | Chapter 5 | |
| March 5 | Discussion of midterm I | | |
| March 7 | Syntactic development | Chapter 5 | |
| March 10/12 | Theoretical approaches to language acquisition | Chapter 7 | Quiz 3 March 10 |
| March 14/17/19 | Class presentation (15%) | 2 groups on March 14; 1 group on March 17; 2 groups on March 19 | |
| March 21 | Theoretical approaches to language acquisition | Chapter 7 | |
| March 24/26 | Variation in language development | Chapter 8 | Quiz 4 March 21 |
| March 28/31 | Class presentation (15%) | 2 groups on March 28; 1 group on March 31 | |
| March April 2/4 | Atypical language development | Chapter 9 | Quiz 5 March 31 |
| April 7/9 | Class presentation (15%) | 1 group on April 7; 2 groups on April 9 | |
| April 11/14 | Bilingual acquisition | | Quiz 6 April 11 |
| April 16 | Review | | |
| Register scheduled | Final exam | | |

GENERAL COURSE/UNIVERSITY INFORMATION FOR ALL STUDENTS

LINGUISTICS STUDENT ADVISING

For any questions regarding the undergraduate or graduate program in linguistics, the organization of your program, or the selection of courses, contact the appropriate advisor as follows:

| | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|--------|--|
| Undergraduate Advisor | Dr Robert Murray | SS 824 | lingadv@ucalgary.ca |
| Graduate Program Director | Dr Steve Winters | SS 814 | linggrad@ucalgary.ca |

FACULTY of ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING and STUDENT INFORMATION

The Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) 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 that they require. The PIC is located in the Social Sciences Building (SS 102), please contact them by phone 220-3580, or email artsads@ucalgary.ca, or visit the website <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>.

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (SSC). Degree advisors assist undergraduate students in planning their overall degree programs along with providing broad educational planning, learning support, assistance with academic difficulties, academic program guidance, writing support, success seminars and peer support. The SSC is on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library, you can contact them at 220-5881, by email success@ucalgary.ca, or visit their website <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/>.

For registration issues, contact Enrolment Services who will also be able to help you with questions about fee payments, awards, financial aid, admissions questions, visiting and exchange students, open studies, transcripts, deferred exams. Enrolment Services are in the MacKimmie Library Block, Room 117, or you can contact them at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit their website <http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/>.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation, and have not registered with **Student Accessibility Services** (formerly the Disability Resource Centre), please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with **Student Accessibility Services** are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. **You are required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.**

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY ACT (FOIP)

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act was enacted by the Alberta Legislature on June 1, 1994. The Act is intended first of all to allow any person the right of access to the records in the custody and under the control of a public body although this right is subject to limited and specific exceptions. The Act also includes a strong right to privacy component, allowing individuals to control the manner in which a public body collects personal information, to control the use that a public body may make of the information, and to control the disclosure of that information by a public body.

It also allows individuals the right of access to personal information about themselves held by a public body and the right to request corrections to that information.

For more information on FOIP, visit the website <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/>, or contact Jo-Anne Munn Gafuik at 403-220-3602 or by email [munngafu@ucalgary.ca](mailto:munnngafu@ucalgary.ca)

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:

1. 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);
2. parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,;
3. the whole work (e.g. an essay) is copied from another source; and/or
4. 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. Students are often encouraged to work together in preparing homework assignments, but check with your instructor beforehand. However, 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.

For more information on academic misconduct and related UofC regulations please consult the Student Misconduct pages found in the current on-line University Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION AND ASSEMBLY POINTS

The University of Calgary is committed to creating a safe and healthy living and learning environment. The health and safety of our employees, students and the general public are the highest priority of the University of Calgary's Emergency Management Program. During times of emergency, Assembly Points have been identified across campus. These areas have been selected as they are large enough to hold a significant number of people and will provide an evacuated population access to washroom facilities and protection from the elements. Assembly points are also designed to establish a location for information updates:

- from the emergency responders to the evacuees; and
- from the evacuated population to the emergency responders.

Please familiarize yourself with the following:

Emergency Assembly Points: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>
Emergency Instructions: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/node/28>

SAFEWALK INFORMATION

Twenty four hours a day and seven days a week, Safewalk volunteers walk people safely to their destination on campus. This service is free and available to students, staff and campus visitors. Requesting Safewalk volunteers to walk with you is easy:

- Call 403-220-5333 (24 hours a day/seven days a week, 365 days a year)
- Use the Help Phones (they are not just for emergencies)
- Approach an on-duty Safewalker and request a walk

For more information, contact the Safewalk main office at 403-220-4750, by email safewalk@ucalgary.ca or visit their website <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE INFORMATION

The Students' Union and the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) in partnership with the University of Calgary offers students a key advocacy resource to assist in addressing concerns and issues they encounter at the University with the Student Ombuds Office.

Students in an undergraduate program, contact the Student's Union in the MacEwan Student Centre, MSC 251, by phone at 403-220-6551, by email arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, or visit their website <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>.

Students in a graduate program, contact the GSA in the MacKimmie Library Tower, MLT 214, by phone at 403-220-5997, by email ask@gsa.ucalgary.ca, or visit their website: <http://gsa.ucalgary.ca/>.

The Student Ombuds Office offers a safe place for undergraduate and graduate students of the University of Calgary to discuss student related issues, interpersonal conflict, academic and non-academic concerns, and many other problems. The office is in the Admin. Building, Room A166, or you can contact them at 220-6420, by email ombuds@ucalgary.ca, or visit the website <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>.