



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

LING 633.01
 First Language Acquisition
 Winter 2020
 T/R 16:00 - 17:15, CHD 428

REVISED COURSE OUTLINE – March 2020

INSTRUCTOR’S NAME: Angeliki Athanasopoulou

OFFICE LOCATION: CHD 513

OFFICE HOURS: by appointment

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DESCRIPTION

Prosody is an important and unique part of our language. It plays a role in different parts of our grammar (phonology, syntax, etc.), but it also conveys pragmatic meaning and non-linguistic information such as emotion, gender, age, etc. In this course, we will discuss some of these phenomena in the context of first language acquisition. Prosody is the first information about their language babies are exposed to, even before they are born, but its development is not complete until the early teen years. We will explore some of the factors and discuss the role of prosody at the very beginning of language acquisition, its role in the development of other parts of the grammar, its interaction with developing meaning and pragmatic systems, as well as some of the social aspects of prosody. We will discuss the development of prosody with respect to the perceptual and production abilities of children and how the two interact while we look at different methodologies used in the field.

OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Methods
Students will familiarize themselves with relevant background, including theories, frameworks, and major debates in the acquisition of prosody.	Online discussion participation, in-class discussion participation, in-class presentation of readings
Students will construct experimental designs and use available data on publically available databases to test hypotheses connected to theories of prosodic acquisition.	HW assignments, final paper
Students will synthesize ideas and background covered to hold informed discussions on the predictions and implications of theories as well as the evidence necessary to support one over the other.	Online discussion participation, in-class discussion participation, research proposal, in-class presentation of readings
Students will critically evaluate primary research journal articles and propose questions for future study.	Online discussion participation, in-class discussion, in-class presentation of readings, final paper
Students will write a motivated and plausible research proposal that is grounded in a brief literature review and proposes an experiment to test a clearly-defined hypothesis	Final paper



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DISTRIBUTION OF GRADES

Discussion questions (10 assignments) and paper summaries (4 assignments) 10%
Presentation 20%
Homework (5 assignments) 30%
Final Project 40%

(There will be no final exam for this course.)

Discussion questions: A substantial part of the course will focus on discussing the readings from a critical perspective. To facilitate this, students have to add a comment about the readings for that day to the Discussion Forum on D2L, at the latest 4 hours before class and discuss those questions in class. Students will be assessed on their participation level, on a weekly basis.

Paper summaries: For each paper reading, you have to submit a one-page summary of the paper by 5:00pm of the day we are discussing the paper.

Presentation assignments: Students will be asked to prepare and present summaries of the readings. Students will be assessed on understanding of the material, and their critical thinking in evaluating the studies. Students have the opportunity to submit a video recording of their presentation if they cannot present in class.

HW (homework) assignments: Students will be asked to read papers and critically assess the theories discussed in class as well as the experimental design of the studies. Students will be assessed on their understanding of the theories, methods, and arguments of different position. Assignments will be submitted through D2L by 5pm the day they are due. The HW due dates are tentative and subject to change to a later date (you will be notified of any revisions to the due dates on D2L, via email, and in class). Without prior approval by the instructor, late assignments will incur a full letter grade of penalty for the first day after the due date and another full letter grade of penalty for every day thereafter.

Final paper: The final paper will be a short paper (maximum 4,000 words, not including references) in which the students propose in some detail an experiment designed to investigate a question in the acquisition of prosody. Students will be assessed on the quality of the entire proposal in both form and content: a) The background and theoretical motivation for the study; b) the soundness and impact of the question that will be investigated; c) the methods proposed to collect the data necessary to answer the question; d) the interpretation of the possible results. APA format is required. The write-up will be submitted through D2L by 5pm on the due date. Without prior approval by the instructor, late submission of the research proposal will not be accepted.

Extra Research Participation Course Credit is Not Offered for this Course.

GRADING SCALE

A+ 96-100%	B+ 80-84%	C+ 67-71%	D+ 54-58%
A 90-95%	B 76-79%	C 63-66%	D 50-53%
A- 85-89%	B- 72-75%	C- 59-62%	F 0-49%

As stated in the University Calendar, it is at the instructor's discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between two letter grades.



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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.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- 1) Available at the library: Prieto, P., & Esteve-Gibert, N. (2018). The development of prosody in first language acquisition. John Benjamins. https://ucalgary-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/mtt0p8/01UCALG_ALMA51725706020004336
- 2) Papers and chapters posted throughout the semester on D2L

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

1. **Plagiarism** is a serious offence, the penalty for which is an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. 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."

Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

2. **Cheating** at tests or examinations includes but is not limited to dishonest or attempted dishonest conduct such as speaking to other candidates or communicating with them under any circumstances whatsoever; bringing into the examination room any textbook, notebook, memorandum, other written material or



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mechanical or electronic device not authorized by the examiner; writing an examination or part of it, or consulting any person or materials outside the confines of the examination room without permission to do so, or leaving answer papers exposed to view, or persistent attempts to read other students' examination papers.

3. **Other academic misconduct** includes, but is not limited to, tampering or attempts to tamper with examination scripts, class work, grades and/or class records; failure to abide by directions by an instructor regarding the individuality of work handed in; the acquisition, attempted acquisition, possession, and/or distribution of examination materials or information not authorized by the instructor; the impersonation of another student in an examination or other class assignment; the falsification or fabrication of clinical or laboratory reports; the non-authorized tape recording of lectures.

4. Any student who voluntarily and consciously aids another student in the commission of one of these offences is also guilty of academic misconduct.

COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf>) 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/legalservices/foip> 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://www.ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy>.

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/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>).

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?

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



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Location: Social Sciences Room 102
Phone: 403-220-3580
Email: ascarts@ucalgary.ca
Website: arts.ucalgary.ca/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 Block.

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, palmtops and smartbooks 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

A link to required 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>.