



Faculty of Arts

School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

LING 431.01

Child Language Acquisition Syntax and Morphology

Lectures: MWF 3 – 3:50 PM

Location: ST129

COURSE OUTLINE - Fall 2016

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Dr. Teresa Merrells

OFFICE LOCATION: C128

OFFICE HOURS: Fridays 2 – 3 PM

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DESCRIPTION

This course will discuss the developmental stages observed in children acquiring the morphology and syntax of their first language using different theoretical perspectives (e.g. Universal Grammar, Emergentism, and Constructivism).

Prerequisites: Linguistics 201 and Linguistics 301

DISTRIBUTION OF GRADES

Final Examination:

- Assignments (3 @ 10%) 30%
- Midterm Exam 20%
- Group Paper 15%
- Group Presentation 5%
- Paper Proposal 5%
- Paper 25%

There will be no final exam

OBJECTIVE

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to...

- Demonstrate their understanding of the syntactic and morphological knowledge that children learn when acquiring their first language.
- Use their knowledge of syntactic and morphological acquisition to analyze child language data using the different theoretical perspectives discussed in the course.
- Use their knowledge of different theoretical perspectives to read, understand, and synthesize original research papers on syntactic and morphological acquisition.

REQUIRED TEXTS

*Please note: The University of Calgary bookstore is organized by AUTHOR LAST NAME.



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Ambridge, Ben and Elena M. Lieven. 2011. *Child Language Acquisition: Contrasting Theoretical Approaches*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

ISBN: 0521745239

Guasti, Maria Teresa. 2004. *Language Acquisition: The Growth of Grammar*. Cambridge: MIT Press.

ISBN: 0262572200

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

O'Grady, William. 1997. *Syntactic Development*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Rowland, Catherine. 2014. *Understanding Child Language Acquisition*. New York: Routledge

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Attendance:

It is important to attend class, as course work (e.g. assignments, midterm exam, and papers) will focus on the material covered in class. The texts are an excellent reference, however, so make good use of them. Students who attend class regularly tend to do much better than those who do not.

You are responsible for all information, notes, assignments, and tests that are presented in class. Absence from class is not an excuse for missing class proceedings. Please note that office hours/appointments are not for re-lecturing class topics.

Missed Exam/Presentation:

Absence for the midterm exam or group presentation will result in a grade of zero unless the absence is a valid one. Valid excuses are those that are of an extreme and unforeseen nature such as health or personal crisis. You will be expected to provide appropriate documentation. If you are able to supply appropriate documentation, the weighting of the exam will be transferred to either the group paper (for a missed group presentation) or the final paper (for a missed exam).

Holiday plans **do not** constitute a valid excuse. Absence from class is not an excuse for missing an assignment or exam.

Late Assignments/Papers:

Assignments and the paper proposal and progress reports are due at the beginning of class on the designated due date (TBD). Late work (without proper documentation that confirms extenuating circumstances) will be penalized 5% per day late for a maximum of 3 days. There are no make-up assignments.

Assignments/Group Work/Paper

Assignments will be based on content from the texts and may require you to analyze child language data. Group Work (project and presentation) will require you to provide a summary and evaluation of a research paper. The paper will require you to survey existing research on a specific topic.



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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 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.

DISABILITIES AND ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. Students with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre should contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Students also required to discuss their needs with the instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION ASSEMBLY POINTS

Craigie Hall: Professional Faculties food court (alternate: Education Block food court)
Education Block and Tower: Scurfield Hall atrium (alternate: Professional Faculties food court)
Kinesiology: north courtyard, MacEwan Student Centre (alternate: University Theatres lobby)
For the complete list of assembly points please consult
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at



Faculty of Arts

School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- 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 Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

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 <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

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.

SAFEWALK

To request a Safewalk escort anywhere on campus, 24 hours a day and seven days a week, please call 403-220-5333 or use one of the Help Phones.

Web: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>

STUDENT UNION INFORMATION

Representatives and contact details: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/home/contact.html>

Student Ombudsman: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Writing skills should cross all disciplines. Students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their courses and, where appropriate, instructors can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Centre in the Effective Writing Office (<http://www.efwr.ucalgary.ca/>) can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.