

Linguistics 244a:
Second Language Acquisition
Fall 2007

Lecture: Mondays 12:30 – 1:30pm (TC 205)
Wednesdays 9:30 – 11:30am (TC 205)

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 2:00-3:00pm; by appointment

Course Content and Aims:

This course aims to provide students with a foundation in second language acquisition research. The course will consider various issues concerning first and second language acquisition which affect second language grammar. Some of the issues to be discussed are the effect of the age at which a second language is learned on the learner's ultimate attainment in the second language, input, context of acquisition, the extent to which the first language may influence the acquisition of a second language, bilingualism, etc. Students also gain first-hand experience of second language research through a small-scale study they conduct into an area of second language knowledge. The course provides students with a solid background in second language acquisition theory and training on some of the latest methodological tools in the field. Prerequisite(s): Anthropology 027a/b, or Linguistics 288a/b, or the former French 288F/G, or French 295, or Spanish 303a, or permission of the program.

3 lecture hours, 0.5 course.

Required Course Materials:

Lightbown, Patsy & Nina Spada (1999). *How Languages are Learned*. Second Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Other materials will be made available online on the course WebCT site.

Breakdown of Marks:

- Term Test 1 (October) 20%
- Term Test 2 (November) 20%
- Course Project 25%
- WebCT discussions 5%
- Final Exam 30%

Term Tests: For these tests, unless otherwise noted, you will be responsible for all of the material in the readings and lectures for the units indicated by the instructor. The tests will include mainly the following types of questions: multiple choice, identification of terms giving examples, applying concepts to data, and short essay.

WebCT Discussions: Throughout the course (approximately 5 times), the professor will post study questions on the course website. Students will be required to actively participate in these online discussions, using the bulletin-board-like discussion feature of WebCT. It is expected that every student will participate in each discussion with at least one post.

Course Project: A final project will involve research conducted either by an individual student or by a team of two to four students. You will be gathering and analyzing data on a topic related to second language acquisition. The work you submit for this requirement of the course will be in the form of a report plus tables or charts illustrating your data. Project instructions will be handed out in late September.

Plagiarism and other Scholastic Offenses: Collaboration is normal in linguistics as in other sciences; plagiarism is a serious academic offence at UWO and elsewhere, punishable by penalties up to and including permanent expulsion from the University. The 2005 Western Academic Calendar quotes, on page 39, the following definition of plagiarism: "The act of appropriating the literary composition of another, or parts or passages of his writings, or the ideas or language of the same, and passing them off as the product of one's own mind." If you have any uncertainty about whether or not a certain way of completing work for the course constitutes plagiarism, be sure to consult the instructor. University regulations on scholastic offences will be strictly enforced in this course.

Prerequisite: In order to enroll in this course, you must have successfully completed one of the following courses or have obtained permission from the Linguistics Program and the Dean's Office of your Faculty or College of registration to waive the prerequisite: Anthropology 027a/b, Linguistics 288a/b, French 295, or permission of the Linguistics Program. Unless you have either the prerequisite for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Attendance, Late Penalties and Accommodation for Medical and Compassionate Circumstances: Students are expected to attend every class unless medical or other valid circumstances prevent them from doing so. If you miss class for an extended period of time or if you miss a term test, accommodation will only be possible if appropriate documentation of medical or compassionate circumstances is submitted to the academic counselling office of your Faculty or College of registration.