



PSYC 620/LING 633.01

Advanced Topics in B&CS/FLA

Instructor:	Suzanne Curtin	Lecture Location:	A051
Phone:	403-220-7670	Lecture Days/Time:	W 15:00-17:45
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Office:	A260		
Office Hours:	By appointment		

Course Description and Goals

This course will be an overview of language development during the first two years of life. You will learn about the basics of language, with a focus on sounds, categories, and words. We will discuss models, theories, and mechanisms focusing on perceptual and conceptual development over this time period.

Required Text

None required. Readings will be pre-selected articles available through the University of Calgary Library Electronic resources.

Evaluation

A. Article Leading (4 x 10% = 40%). You will lead the discussion of 4 articles. Your goal is to not simply summarize the articles, but to create interest and discussion. You can also integrate people's thought questions with your own ideas and questions. Guide us through key issues and some examples of relevant research, without rushing or cutting off useful discussion.

B. Research Proposal (30%). You will write a 15 page APA-formatted research proposal based (ideally) on a topic covered in one of the articles. Your goal is to come up with one or more experiments that you would like to carry out and that would make an important and original contribution to the literature on that topic. The proposal should include the following labeled sections: abstract, literature review, proposal, method, analyses, predictions, implications, and references.

C. Proposal Presentation (10%). You will present your proposal to us (ideally using PowerPoint) and will answer our questions.

D. Thought Questions (10 x 1% = 10%). You will post a thought question prior to each readings-based class on Blackboard. Your goal is to post an issue, criticism, or stimulating thought related to that week's readings. Try to keep these to a paragraph. You must post it no later than 10 pm the night before class. Be sure to read everyone's thought questions before coming to class.

E. Seminar Participation (10 x 1% = 10%). You are expected to contribute to discussions during each readings-based class.

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. To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (e.g., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90% = A but 89.4% will be rounded down to 89% = A-).

Important dates

[Fall 2012]

Date	
M Sep 9	Fall Term Lecture begins.
F Sep 21	Last day to drop a course with tuition refund.
M Sep 24	Last day for registration/change of registration.
Nov 10-13	Reading days. No lecture.
M Nov 11	Remembrance Day. University Closed
F Dec 7	Lecture ends.

Tentative Schedule

Date	Topic
W Sep 12	Lecture: Intro to Basic Linguistic Constructs: What babies ultimately need to do
W Sep 19	Lecture: Early Speech Perception and Word Learning: What babies are capable of doing
W Sep 26	Seminar: Initial Biases, Epigenetics, Innately Guided Learning
W Oct 3	Seminar: Mechanisms for learning & organization of phonetic categories
W Oct 10	Seminar: Representations - Emergent sound categories (phonemes)
W Oct 17	Seminar: Mechanisms for segmentation
W Oct 24	Seminar: Representations - Word forms
W Oct 31	Seminar: Mechanisms for Word learning
W Nov 7	Seminar: Basic Mechanisms: invariance detection, repetition, statistical, etc.
W Nov 14	Seminar: Basic Mechanisms: memory, attention, etc.
W Nov 21	Seminar: Connectionism
W Nov 28	Seminar: Bayesian Learning
W Dec 5	Wrap up and Research Proposal Due

Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., term paper, essay, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within 15 days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class. If not satisfied, the

student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next 15 days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within 15 days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. 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. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

Academic Accommodation

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

Absence From A Test/Exam

Students who miss a term test due to a valid and documented official University reason (illness, domestic affliction, or religious conviction) have 48 hours to contact AND schedule a makeup test with the instructor. The onus is on the student to have a makeup test approved and scheduled within 48 hours, or the makeup test option is forfeited. The same process applies to missed makeup tests. At the instructor's discretion, the makeup test may differ significantly in form and/or content from the missed test. However, the makeup test cannot differ in weight (% of final grade) from the missed test. Except in extenuating circumstances (a documented official University medical excuse), a makeup test must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test. Absence from a final exam, and deferral of a final exam, are handled by Enrolment Services (see http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/deferred_final). Students absent from a final exam must notify the instructor within 48 hours and must then apply for an official deferred final exam no later than the deadline indicated in the Examinations Schedule.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act

The FOIP legislation disallows the practice of having student's retrieve tests and assignments from a public place. Therefore, tests and assignments may be returned to students during class/lab, or during office hours, or via the Department Office (Admin 275), or will be made available only for viewing during exam review sessions scheduled by the Department. Tests and assignments will be shredded after one year. Instructors should take care to not link students' names with their grades, UCIDs, or other FOIP-sensitive information.

Evacuation Assembly Point

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

Student Ombudsman's Office

The Office of the Student Ombuds provides independent, impartial and confidential support for students who require assistance and advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. The office can be reached at 403-220-6420 or ombuds@ucalgary.ca (<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>).

Safewalk

The safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus. This service is free and available 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year.

Call 403-220-5333.

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund** is **September 21, 2012**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **September 24, 2012**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **December 7, 2012**.