

# EDS/LIGN 119: First and Second Language Learning: from Childhood through Adolescence

MWF 11:00-11:50 CENTR 216

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W and F 12:00-12:50  
APM 2432

## Course catalog description

An examination of how human language learning ability develops and changes over the first two decades of life, including discussion of factors that may affect this ability. **Prerequisite:** upper-division standing or consent of instructor.

## Course learning objectives

At the end of the course you will

- be familiar with the main issues concerning first and second language acquisition.
- be able to describe and analyze the characteristics of L1 and L2 speech.
- understand how factors such as age and input affect the development of L1 and L2.
- evaluate some aspects of L2 teaching materials.

## Readings

Accessible on TED <https://ted.ucsd.edu>

## Grading

Midterm I	22%
Midterm II	22%
Homework	14%
Experiment participation	2%
Final	40%

## Course requirements

### *Attendance and participation*

Class attendance is essential for the successful completion of the course. If you miss a class, you are responsible for the material covered. When in class, feel free to ask questions. Participation in the class is always encouraged.

## ***Homework***

There will be 5 homework assignments this quarter. Please, turn all your homework through ted.ucsd.edu. No late homework will be accepted unless you have a documented excuse.

## ***Readings***

You are expected to complete the readings for each week. The readings will help you better understand the content of lecture, and also expand the knowledge you acquire during class. Some aspects of the readings may not be covered in class, but may be tested in the midterm and/or final exam.

## ***Experiment participation***

Most of the content of this class is based on experimental research. We want you to be familiar with the research done at UCSD and with the different methodologies used. To sign up, visit <http://ucsd.sona-systems.com> and enroll for 2 credits. For more information on how to sign up and get credit for your participation visit <http://psychology.ucsd.edu/undergraduate-program/undergraduate-resources/Sona-folder/Index.html>

## **Academic dishonesty policy**

Cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated in the class and will result in no credit for the assignment or exam. Please check the UCSD Policy on Academic Integrity at <http://academicintegrity.ucsd.edu/>. If you work together with a classmate in a homework assignment, acknowledge his/her name in your homework. When working together, collaboration should be limited to discussing the questions. All written work should be your own.

## Class schedule

Note: Schedule is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class and updated in TED

Week	Topic	Readings	Tests and homework
1	Child language acquisition. An overview of the issues	Gleitman and Newport (1995) 'The Invention of Language by Children: Environmental and Biological Influences on the Acquisition of Language' Saffran (2003) 'Statistical Language Learning: Mechanisms and constraints'	
2	The development of speech perception and production	Werker and Tees (1992) 'The organization and reorganization of human speech perception' Kuhl et al. (2003) 'Foreign-language experience in infancy: Effects of short term exposure and social interaction on phonetic learning'	Homework 1 due 1/15
3 No class on 1/20	The acquisition of morphology	Pinker (1995) 'Why the child holds the baby rabbits' McClelland and Patterson (2002) 'Rules or connections in past-tense inflections: what does the evidence rule out?'	Homework 2 due 1/22
4	The acquisition of morphology (cont.) Acquisition with inconsistent and/or restricted input	Singleton and Newport (2004) 'When learners surpass their models: The acquisition of American Sign Language from inconsistent input'	Homework 3 due 1/29
5	Bilingualism Attrition	Bialystok (2008) 'Bilingualism: The good, the bad, and the indifferent' Oh et al. (2003) 'Holding on to childhood language memory'	Midterm 1 (Monday 2/3)
6	Attrition (cont.) Heritage languages	Au et al. (2008) 'Salvaging a childhood language' Polinsky and Kagan (2007) 'Heritage Languages: In the 'Wild' and in the Classroom'	
7 No class on 2/17	Second language acquisition and the critical period The acquisition of L2 speech perception and production	Hakuta, Bialystok and Wiley (2003) 'Critical Evidence: A Test of the Critical-Period Hypothesis for Second-Language Acquisition' Oh et al. (2010) 'A one year longitudinal study of English and Japanese vowel production by Japanese adults and children in an English-speaking setting'	
8	Input and output in L2 acquisition The developing L2 grammar	Gass (2007) 'Input and Interaction' Dyson (2009) 'Processability Theory and the Role of Morphology in English as a Second Language Development'	Homework 5 part 1 due 2/26 Midterm 2 (Friday 2/28)
9	Implicit and explicit L2 knowledge	Cook (2003) 'The poverty-of-the stimulus argument and structure dependency in L2 users of English' Schmidt (2010) 'Attention, awareness and individual differences in language learning'	Homework 4 due 3/7 Experiment participation due
10	SLA and the classroom	Rogers (2001) 'Language Teaching Methodology'	Homework 5 part 2 due 3/14
Final		Monday March 17th, 11:30-2:30	