

Language Acquisition in Young Children

English 375 – Section E25 and E26

Cross-listed w/ Modern & Classical Languages 375 - Section E25 and E26

2008 Syllabus

Summer Session B: July 7 – August 14, 2008

On-Line

Professor: Dr. Elena Tapia, Ph. D. Linguistics (Indiana University – Bloomington)

Office: Eastern Connecticut State University, Webb Hall 230

E-Mail: tapiae@easternct.edu (Use this e-mail if you have questions before July 7, 2008.)



I always respond to e-mail. It's the best way to reach me.

Once the course is activated, please contact me via Blackboard e-mail.

Virtual Office Hours: Tuesdays and Wednesdays 4:00 – 6 :00 p.m. (via Blackboard e-mail). These hours may be changed if I determine that different hours will better

accommodate those enrolled.

Course Objectives:

Students learn the major steps of linguistic development in human language. Students will be able to identify various stages of phonological, lexical, syntactic, and semantic development in infants and young children. Students will be able to intelligently discuss the major issues in acquisition theory such as the critical period hypothesis, parameter setting, and universal grammar. With the knowledge of linguistic principles and theories, students will be able to recognize various stages of development of linguistic competence and performance in children (birth to adolescence).

Grade Requirements:

Discussion Postings (Participation)	25%	125 points
Homework	30%	150 points
Midterm Examination	20 %	100 points
Final Examination (4-5 page paper)	<u>25 %</u>	<u>125 points</u>
	100%	500 points

Grading Scale: A = 94-100%; A- = 90-93%; B+ = 86-89%; B = 84-85%; B- = 80-83%; C+ = 76-79%; C = 74-75%; C- = 70-73%; D+ = 66-69%; D = 64-65%; F = 0-63%

Course Calendar:

- A more detailed course calendar will be available when class starts July 7. At that time, you'll be able to see due dates for all assignments.
- This class is interactive. There will be weekly graded homework assignments and graded discussion postings.
- There will be one mid-tern examination and one final examination.



Required Texts:

- 1) Pinker, Steven. The Language Instinct: How the Mind Creates Language. (Originally published - New York: William Morrow, 1995). New York: Perennial Classics, 2000.

ISBN 0-06-095833-2

OR

Publisher: HarperCollins Publishers Pub. Date: September 2007 ISBN-13: 9780061336461

Either is fine!

- 2) Other required readings will be available, free of charge, through Digital Reserves at Smith Library. The Digital Reserves will be accessible via Blackboard. They'll be in PDF format so you can read them on-line or print them to read hard copies.

Course Policies:

Posting Discussion and Homework

If you simply miss posting deadlines for homework, discussions or exams, you will not be allowed to make them up. If you are ill or for some other very good reason cannot complete an assignment in the specified time period, e-mail me AHEAD of time. I will arrange for you to do the work at another time. Failing to post to discussions will negatively affect your grade.

A Six-Week Summer Session Is Intensive!!!

This is a difficult class even when you have the whole 16-week semester to do it. I cannot emphasize enough that you need to read, read, read and study, study, study. Memorize terms and definitions as they arise (Consult the glossary and the chapters and pages I refer to as Reference.) Take notes! Ask questions! And as Mike Myers' mother-in-law character says, "Talk among yourselves!"

Exam Rules

You are not to discuss your specific answers with others in the class. These exams are not a group project. Obviously, you may use any other resources available to you, e.g., books, class notes, and handouts. Remember, however, that your explanations and analyses must follow the approach we take in this class and in our textbook and readings. Use the terminology we use in class and which appears in the textbook and readings. Exams must be typed, double-spaced, and uploaded in Word. Also see Plagiarism below.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is an act of academic dishonesty punishable by an F on the plagiarized paper, discussion posting, assignment, quiz, or take-home exam. If you plagiarize a second time, you'll receive an F for the course. Plagiarism involves presenting the work of others as your own. Presenting your own earlier work without proper documentation is also a form of plagiarism. See ECSU's Policy on Academic Misconduct: <http://www.easternct.edu/smithlibrary/library1/plagiarism/AcademicMisconduct.htm>

AccessAbility.

If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need special accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact the Office of AccessAbility Services (465-5573) as soon as possible. Please note that I cannot provide accommodations based upon disability until I have received an accommodation letter from the Office of AccessAbility Services.

Techno-Help: Center for Instructional Technology

You can familiarize yourself with Blackboard at Eastern, our on-line course format, at <http://www.easternct.edu/depts/its/webct/index.htm>. Throughout the course, you can receive competent technical support from webctsupport@easternct.edu