

SPA 251: Normal Language Development

Fall 2003
MWF: 10:00-10:50 a.m.
Location: Barkley Center, #130
Office Hours: MWTh: 11:00-12:00

Instructor: Dr. Cynthia Cress
Office: 202G Barkley
Telephone: 472-4431
GA: Michele Schmerbauch

1. **Course Prerequisites:** None
2. **Course Description:** This is an introductory course on the subject of language acquisition. It will cover approximately 13 different topics (see table of contents). Students will be expected to read the assigned text, attend and participate in all classes, take the scheduled exams, and complete a final project. The instructor's lectures will supplement the assigned readings, and students will be expected to discuss information presented in the text and classroom activities. Students should recognize that not all information from the text will be covered during class and should assume the responsibility for being familiar with the material.
3. **Course Objective:** Explain normal language development in children, including developmental patterns in infants, preschool and school-aged children. Lectures will also focus on language theories, cognition, the social basis of language, language learning cultural differences in learning language, delayed language development, and application of language development to school and therapy situations. Emphasis in this course will be on infant and preschool language development, with school-aged development covered more thoroughly in the course SPA 452.
4. **Required Text:** Owens, R. (2001). Language Development: An Introduction (Fifth Edition). New York: MacMillan Publishing Company. Available at University Bookstore, East & Central Campus.

5. Class Expectations

- a. Students are responsible for all information presented in class lectures including guest lectures, the assigned readings, handouts, and other assigned information or videotapes. This information will be reflected in the four tests and classroom assignments or activities. Students should recognize that not all information from the readings will be covered during class and should be responsible for being familiar with the material.
 - b. Regular class attendance is required. After 3 absences, two percentage points will be subtracted from the final grade for each absence. Consideration of absences will only be possible with a written explanation of illness from the Student Health Center or a family physician for all relevant absences. See attached policy.
 - c. Daily participation in class discussions is expected. There will be ample opportunities for contributing to regular discussion activities such as thought questions. For consistently poor participation after reminders, a maximum of 3 percentage points will be subtracted from the final grade.
 - d. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the professor for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, students must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration, 472-3787 voice or TTY.
 - e. Name and telephone number of at least two classmates, for class notes and handouts:
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7. Major Assignments

- a. Four Exams. For each of the 4 units, an exam covering the material for that unit will be given. Exams will be objective (true/false, multiple choice, short answer). Each exam is scheduled for a full class period. There are no provisions for make-up tests. If an exam is missed, that test grade will be recorded as "F" and that day will count as an absence. Students will be able to drop the lowest score because only three scores will be considered when determining the final course grade. Each of those three scores will count 25% towards the final grade (total = 75% of final grade).
2. Language Analysis Activities: You will be given access to a videotaped language sample from a normally developing child between 24 and 48 months of age. You will transcribe the language sample and analyze various aspects of the child's emerging language. All of these activities may be completed as group projects of no more than 4 people. There will be at least one additional individual language activity addressing dialect differences. The combination of these graded tasks will account for 25% of your final grade (see chart on the next page for breakdown). Language analysis assignments must be turned in at the beginning of class on the due date. There will be no exceptions to due dates (see schedule page). More details about project will be provided in class.
3. There will be at least one or two extra credit questions on each of the exams. You will also receive up to 4 bonus points on your first exam for scheduled "journal" exercises that will be announced in class and must be turned in the next class. There will be no other allowances for extra credit work.

8. Grading System. Final grades will reflect performance on all course requirements and adherence to established dates of completion of various tests and projects, with adjustments for poor attendance or participation if necessary. Percentage scores are mathematical realities and are not subject to discussion.

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Final Course Average</u>
A+	97-100
A	93-96
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	0-59

9. Policy Regarding P/NP, I, and W Marks

- a. Students will be assigned a final grade varying from A+ to F depending upon their scores unless they have signed up for the P/NP option. The P (Pass) mark will be assigned only if the final course average is C or higher. The P/NP option is not available for students planning to major in SLP/A.
- b. The I (Incomplete) mark will be assigned only if there is an extraordinary condition, such as illness, and the student plans to finish the course by a specified time. The I mark does not stay on the transcript for more than 2 years. It will change to a letter grade specified by the instructor when the I contract is written.
- c. The W mark means that a student has withdrawn from the course with a passing grade. Check the schedule of classes for deadlines on Withdrawals and other variations in your enrollment. Note that an academic advisor must sign all forms leading to a change in course enrollment.

10. Journal Activities:

There will be four journal activities that you will hand in for credit/no credit grading. Each of these journal activities demonstrates ways to think critically about the class information, and demonstrates strategies for: notetaking, integrating book and lecture information, processing book information, and learning from your test results. For each of these credited activities, you will receive one bonus point on the first exam, or a maximum of four points. Even though you are encouraged to continue journal activities and may hand in examples of these activities as makeup assignments for class participation, there will be no further use of the journals for extra credit or bonus points, and no extra credit activities other than those listed in the syllabus. Due dates for journal activities will be announced in class, and will be due the class after the announcement. You may hand in journal activities at any time, but will only be given credit for submission on the assigned dates.

11. Absence Policies - Dr. Cress

1. If you know that you will be absent on a particular day, you can plan to make up for the participation aspects of the class you will miss if you contact me ahead of time. You need to talk with me at least one class before the one you will miss, receive a participation assignment for the interaction you will miss, and turn in that assignment the next class you attend. If you plan to do an assignment but don't complete it, the class still counts as an absence even if you have talked to me about it.
2. If you miss a class for an unplanned emergency, you can talk to me the next class you attend and discuss options. If we agree it is an emergency, you can plan to complete a participation assignment to be turned in at the next available class. Anything that is a choice, such as needing to study for another test or having to work extra hours, doesn't tend to count as an emergency. Medical reasons may require doctor's notes or receipts. If you plan to do an assignment but don't complete it, the class still counts as a regular absence even if you have talked to me about it. Any absence discussed more than one or two classes after you return is not open to discussion as an emergency.
3. You are allowed three regular (ie. no make-up allowed) absences that don't count off the final grade. If you tell me that you missed a class and need handouts, I will assume that this is a regular absence and you didn't have an emergency reason to miss, so you don't have to explain reasons for being gone.
4. Having more than three regular absences counts 2% off your final grade for each additional absence. For instance, if you have 4 regular absences and your final grade is an 88 for the course, your grade will be adjusted to an 86. Remember that even one extra absence may make a letter grade difference.
5. If you start to have several extra absences above the allowance, I may drop you a note to see if I can help. At this point, there is nothing to be done to make up for past absences, but we can try to problem-solve together to see if we can keep from adding any more to the list.
6. This policy is subject to change if excessive absences or other circumstances occur that should be accounted for. Any adaptations will be announced and applicable to the whole class.

Tentative 251 Class Schedule: Fall 2003

Aug 25: Class Syllabus & Policies, Administrative Issues

Aug. 27-Sept 3: Chapter 1: Language Definitions and Principles

Sept. 5-12: Chapter 3: Child Development (Checklists & Sequences)

Sept. 12-15: Ch. 2: Language Development Models

Sept. 17: Test Review & Questions

Sept. 19: Test 1 - Chs. 1 - 4

Sept. 22: Language Transcripts & Procedures: Ch. 14

Sept. 24- 29: Ch. 4: Neurolinguistics, Ch. 5: Cognitive and Perceptual Bases, also Ch. 7: 228-230

Oct. 1-6: Ch. 6: Social & Communicative Bases of Early Language,

Oct. 8: Transcripts & Intelligibility Analysis (Yellow Sheet) Due

Oct. 8-13: Ch. 7: Language Learning Processes in Young Children, pp. 199-228, 230-234

Oct 15: Pragmatic Analysis Due (Purple Sheet)

Oct. 15: Test Review and Questions

Oct. 17: Test 2 - Ch. 5-7, 14

Oct. 22-27: Ch. 8: A First Language, Oct. 22 - Semantic Analysis demo.

Oct. 29-Nov. 5: Ch. 9: Preschool Pragmatic and Semantic Development, Emergent Literacy

Oct 31: Semantic Analysis Due (Blue Sheet) Morphological analysis demo.

Nov. 7-12: Ch. 10: Phonological Devel. pp. 267-271, 340-345, Ch. 12: Literacy & Writing Development

Nov. 10: Morphological Analysis Due (Pink Sheet)

Nov. 12 (guest lecture on literacy)

Nov. 14: No Class, ASHA conference,

Nov. 17: Test review

Nov. 19: Test 3: Ch. 8-10, plus Literacy sections of Ch. 12

Nov. 21: Test Feedback, Dialect Ex. Demo, Ch. 15, Interpretation of Language Samples

Nov. 24: Ch. 15: Delays & Disabilities, Syntax anal. demo

Nov. 26-28: Thanksgiving break

Dec. 1-5: Ch. 10: Preschool Form, Ch. 11/12: School-Aged lang. (parts), Nov. 28:

Dec. 3: Dialect Exercise Due

Dec 8-10: Chapter 13: Bidialectism & Bilingualism

Dec. 10: Syntactic Analysis Due (Green Sheet)

Dec. 12: In-Class Language Sample

Exam Week: Test 4: Ch. 11-13 & 15, on Wed., Dec. 17, 10:00-12:00 (includes 33% take-home paper)

Small Group Activity: 251 Syllabus Highlights

Find someone you don't know with the same color sheet you have and answer the following questions together:

Their Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Other Fun Facts _____

From the Syllabus: What is the required text? _____ Do you have it yet? Y N

How much of the text will we read? _____ Will lectures cover everything in the book? Y N ?

What days are the exams in this class? _____ Are they cumulative? Y N

What happens if you miss an exam? _____ How much do exams count for final grades? _____

What happens to your worst exam score in the class? _____ Can you drop the final? Y N

Is attendance required? Y N Why? (speculate) _____

What happens if you oversleep or just miss class? _____ How often won't this affect grades? _____

What do you do if you missed class for an emergency? _____ When do you do this? _____

What do you do for officially excused absences like sporting obligations? _____ When? _____

What happens if you plan a make-up activity but don't turn it in? _____

Now find someone you don't know with a different colored paper and complete these questions:

Their Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Other Fun Facts _____

From the Syllabus What is the final grade range for an A? _____ A-? _____ B+? _____ B? _____ C+? _____

What are other graded activities? _____ When are they due? _____

How long will you have to work on the transcript? _____ The analysis activities? _____

How are final grades calculated? _____ Will you get to see this estimated before the final? Y N

What is your grade if your estimated final is a 91% but you miss your 4th regular absence after that? _____

How else can points be deducted from your final grade? _____ How can you avoid this? _____

Where is extra credit possible? _____ What's your grade if your final score is 89.4%? _____