



**Advanced Topics in Cognition
Psychology 623 - Winter 2008
COURSE OUTLINE**

Instructor	Dr. Suzanne Curtin	Office/Phone	Admin 260/220-7670	Lecture time	M 14:00-16:50
Office Hours	By appointment	E-mail	scurtin@ucalgary.ca	Lecture room	ADM 248A

Description

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, words, and basic sentence structure. We will discuss perceptual and conceptual development over this time period as well as the mechanisms available to the infant to learn the ambient language. If there is interest, we can also discuss atypical learning situations, such as bilingualism and language impairments.

Reading

The course materials will be comprised of a series of pre-selected articles that will be available on the course website (<https://blackboard.ucalgary.ca>). If you have a particular article that you would like to discuss, let me know and we can incorporate it into the course.

Requirements

- 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.

Grade Scale

A	94-100%	B+	85-88%	B-	76-79%	C	68-70%	D+	58-62%	F	0-49%
A-	89-93%	B	80-84%	C+	71-75%	C-	63-67%	D	50-57%		

Schedule

Date	Topic	Presenters
Jan 14	Introduction	Suzanne
Jan 21	Basics of Language	Suzanne
Jan 28	Biases – speech, rhythm	
Feb 4	Perceptual Development	
Feb 11	Language-Specific Categories	
Feb 17/24	Reading Week – No class	
Feb 25	Phonotactics	
Mar 3	Word Segmentation	
Mar 10	Early Syntax	
Mar 17	Statistical Learning	
Mar 24	Associative Learning	
Mar 31	Word Learning	
Apr 7	Proposal Presentations	
Apr 14	Proposal Presentations	

Reappraisal of Grades

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (term paper, essay, test, etc.) 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 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.

Important Dates

The last day to drop this course and still *receive a fee refund* is January 25, 2008. The last day to withdraw from this course is April 18, 2008.