

SPLH 566 – Language Development

Professor: Annie Olmstead, Email: anne.j.olmstead@ku.edu

Office hours: Wednesday 3:30 – 4:30 & Thursday 11:30-12:30; Dole 3018 – also by appointment

Email contact:

Email is an excellent way to communicate with me. However, I have a lot of students! To ensure that our email exchange is fruitful please make sure you include the following:

1. your full name and the class in which you are a student
2. a brief description of the situation/topic/issue you are writing about
3. a signature

Course Objectives

In a matter of a few years, most children will progress from communicating with crying to being fluent users of a natural language. One of the great questions of behavioral science is: how do they do it? While a large part of this course is devoted to understanding the sequence of language development, we will also focus on theories of language development, research techniques used in the study of language development, and the characteristics of certain child language disorders. Upon completion of the class, students will be able to:

- Describe research paradigms associated with the study of language development
- Describe language development from birth through adulthood
- Describe the distinction between language differences and language disorders
- Describe the characteristics of several child language disorders

This course is designed to meet the requirements of the American Speech-Language- Hearing Association's (ASHA) Knowledge Standard I and III in the areas of Articulation and Phonology and Receptive and Expressive Language. It also meets Standard I only in the area of Social and the area of Modalities.

Required Text

Hoff, Erika. (2014) Language Development. 5th ed. Wadsworth: California, USA.

ISBN: 1-133-93909-0 Additional reading assignments may be posted on Blackboard.

Grades: The final grade will be broken down as follows.

- In-class discussion – 10 %
- Blackboard discussion posts – 15%
- Quizzes – 15%
- Exam 1 – 20%
- Exam 2 – 20%
- Final – 20%

In-class discussion: At the beginning of each class period, we will have a brief review of the previous class's material. Your in-class discussion grade will be based on your participation in and attentiveness during this review.

Blackboard discussion posts: At regular intervals, there will be a blackboard discussion about class material. To keep the discussion manageable, 1/2 of the class will participate in a given week. For each discussion, students will post a question about class material by Tuesday and will make their responses to classmates by Thursday. Posts are expected to be organized, well-written, and substantive.

Please see Blackboard for more detailed instructions.

Quizzes: Quizzes will be made available 5 days before they are due on blackboard. Quizzes will include questions from the lecture, but please remember that your understanding of lecture material will be helped by reading the assigned pages. You are expected to complete each quiz before 11:59 pm on the day they are due. Please note, quizzes are timed, therefore, you should prepare for the quiz before beginning it.

Exams: We will have two exams throughout the semester as well as a cumulative final exam. These exams will be comprised of fill-in-the-blank and short answer questions that will test your understanding of concepts we cover as well as the significance of these concepts.

Exam and quiz make-up policy:

Exam and quiz make-ups will be available to those persons who 1) have a university sanctioned absence and have made arrangements with me *before* the scheduled exam and 2) those persons who are ill at the time of the exam and present a doctor’s note.

Students who have other reasons to request an exam or quiz make-up are encouraged to do so, but make-ups will only be given at my discretion.

Attendance and participation: You are expected, but not required, to attend every class. The textbook for this class is supplementary and cannot replace the notes you will take during lecture. While in class you are expected to be attentive and engaged.

Readings: Readings can be completed before or after the class for which they are assigned.

Blackboard policy: It is your responsibility to keep up with information posted on blackboard. This includes changes to the schedule. These changes may not be announced in class.

Electronic device policy: Electronic devices are often distracting if used during lecture. Therefore, *please do not use laptops or cell phones during class.*

Letter grade	Percentage grade
A	92.5-100%
A-	90.0-92.5%
B+	87.5-90.0%
B	82.5-87.5%
B-	80.0-82.5%
C+	77.5-80.0%
C	72.5-77.5%
C-	70.0-72.5%
D+	67.5-70.0%
D	62.5-67.5%
D-	60.0-62.5%
F	below 60.0

Academic Misconduct

Students are expected to observe all University guidelines pertaining to academic misconduct. As stated in the University Senate Rules and Regulations (2.6.1):

“Academic misconduct by a student shall include, but not be limited to, disruption of classes; threatening an instructor or fellow student in an academic setting; giving or receiving of unauthorized aid on examinations or in the preparation of notebooks, themes, reports or other assignments; knowingly misrepresenting the source of any academic work; unauthorized changing of grades; unauthorized use of University approvals or forging of signatures; falsification of research results; plagiarizing of another’s work; violation of regulations or ethical codes for treatment of human and animal subjects; or otherwise acting dishonestly in research.” Academic misconduct will not be tolerated and will be dealt with in accordance with all University rules and regulations.

Accommodations

The Academic Achievement and Access Center (AAAC) coordinates academic accommodations and services for all eligible KU students with disabilities. If you have a disability for which you wish to request accommodations and have not contacted the AAAC, please do so as soon as possible. They are located in 22 Strong Hall and can be reached at 785-864-4064 (V/TTY). Information about their services can be found at <http://www.disability.ku.edu>. Please contact me privately in regard to your needs in this course within one week of receiving this syllabus so that appropriate accommodations for this course can be discussed.

If a scheduled requirement is in conflict with a religious observance, you must notify the instructor by email at least 3 weeks before the conflict so that accommodations can be made.