

TESL 220: Language & Acquisition

Spring 2005

Tuesday, Thursday 3:05-4:20

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Course Goals:

To provide participants with the opportunity to explore the foundations of human language as well as the foundations of language acquisition.

Specifically, participants will explore and work with information germane to the study applied linguistics, including key components of human language (syntax, phonology, morphology, semantics, phonetics). Furthermore, participants will follow and analyze the development of second language acquisition. Finally, participants will not only participate in class readings and discussions, but they will also demonstrate their understanding of the information through tests as well as conduct a case study of a nonnative English speaking student.

Textbooks:

American Psychological Association. (2002). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association*. 5th ed. Washington, DC: APA.

Fromkin, V., Rodman, R., & Hyams, N. (2003). *An introduction to language*. 7th ed. Thomson/Heinle.

Lightbrown, P. M., & Spada, N. (2003). *How languages are learned*. Oxford UP.

Course Requirements:

20% Class Participation. This includes discussion, group work, exercises, possible quizzes, attending relevant presentations, etc. As a student in this course, you are expected to take advantage of the assignments and subsequent class meetings to investigate, question, discover, analyze, etc. You must make the investment in the course. Although you will be expected to complete the tasks assigned to you in order to better grasp the information in this course, it is actually your amount of investment in this course that will ultimately determine its value to you in your future.

25% Case Study. For this assignment you will spend the semester with a second language speaker on this campus, interviewing her/him, observing them in various contexts as a means of illustrating one person's experiences learning a second language. In this paper you will present your initial research questions, your methods of data collection (including a researcher's journal), your findings, and an analysis of these findings in light of information explored in this class and other classes if applicable. You will also share your research in a round-table format with your peers toward the end of the semester. APA documentation required.

- ✓ Accurate use of APA documentation
- ✓ Accurate presentation of information about language assessment
- ✓ Thoroughness
- ✓ Clarity of information, communication
- ✓ Organization

25% Midterm Exam. Exam based on course readings and discussion covering the first half of the semester, employing a variety of formats of assessment.

30% Final Exam. Comprehensive exam based on course readings and discussion, employing a variety of formats of assessment.

Course Policies:

Because this is a workshop course, your attendance is expected and vital to your performance on other assignments. Excessive unexcused absences will result in a significant negative impact on your class participation grade.

Academic misconduct of any type will result in failure of the course and will be reported to the Provost's office.

Failure to complete any of the major assignments will result in failure of the course.

Assignments are due on time. Late submissions will be penalized one letter grade for every twenty-four hours beyond the due date.

This syllabus and accompanying course plan may be subject to reasonable adjustment based on a number of factors.