OBJECTIVE: This course provides an introduction to the biological basis of language by addressing some fundamental questions regarding human language, such as how language is (i) represented in our minds, (ii) acquired by children, and (iii) processed by adults. Ultimately, this course will explore the relationship between language and cognition, from conceptual-theoretical perspectives as well as from the viewpoint of psycholinguistics. Students will develop the necessary skills to tackle more advanced topics in theoretical linguistics, language development, and psycholinguistics; they will also develop the ability to frame questions about the relationship between language and mind.
## COURSE OUTLINE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LECTURE 1</th>
<th>Language in the mind/brain. Language and culture. Language and cognition.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LECTURE 2</td>
<td>What language pathology reveals.</td>
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<td>LECTURE 3</td>
<td>The Competence-Performance distinction: consequences and applications.</td>
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<td>LECTURE 4</td>
<td>Lexical processing</td>
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<td>LECTURE 5</td>
<td>Syntactic processing: parsing</td>
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<td>LECTURE 6</td>
<td>What is language acquisition? First and Second Language Acquisition.</td>
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<tr>
<td>LECTURE 7</td>
<td>Theories of language acquisition. Poverty of stimulus.</td>
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<td>LECTURE 8</td>
<td>Environment and biology in language acquisition. The critical period.</td>
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<td>LECTURE 9</td>
<td>Aspects of language acquisition: learning.</td>
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<td>LECTURE 10</td>
<td>Aspects of language acquisition: rules.</td>
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<tr>
<td>LECTURE 11</td>
<td>Language acquisition, dialects, language change.</td>
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<tr>
<td>LECTURE 12</td>
<td>REVISION</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## TEXTBOOKS

- Victoria Fromkin, Robert Rodman, Nina Hyams. *An introduction to language.* (the LATEST EDITION)
- Barbara Lust. *Child language: acquisition and growth.* CUP
READING LIST

Φοίβος Παναγιωτίδης
Μίλα μου για γλώσσα: μικρή εισαγωγή στη γλωσσολογία
P121.P363 2013

Steven Pinker
The language instinct
P106.P476 1994

Ray Jackendoff
Patterns in the mind: language and human nature
P37.J33 1993

Stephen R. Anderson, David W. Lightfoot
The language organ: linguistics as cognitive physiology
P132.A53 2002

Maria Teresa Guasti
Language acquisition: the growth of grammar
P118.G83 2002

Paul Bloom (ed.)
Language acquisition: core readings
P118.L2536 1993

Barbara C. Lust and Claire Foley (eds.)
First language acquisition: the essential readings
P118.F577 200

Tom Roeper
The prism of grammar: how child language illuminates humanism
P151.R725 2007
Stephen Crain and Diane Lillo-Martin
*An introduction to linguistic theory and language acquisition*
P118.C6747 1999

Gleitman, Lila & Liberman, Mark (eds.)
*An invitation to cognitive science. Volume 1 Language.*
BF311.I68

Paul Bloom
*How children learn the meanings of words*
P118.B623 2000

Patsy M. Lightbown and Nina Spada
*How languages are learned*
P118.H69 2006

David Lightfoot
*How new languages emerge*
P142.L545 2006

Dorothy Bishop and Kay Mogford (eds.)
*Language development in exceptional circumstances*
P118.L265 1993

Peter W. Jusczyk
*The discovery of spoken language*
BF720.S67J87 1997

**ASSESSMENT**

Final Examination: 60%
Quizzes: 30%
Class Participation: 10%