

# ***ENG 552: LANGUAGE ACQUISITION AND LANGUAGE DISORDERS***

*Linguistics Section • Department of English Studies • University of Cyprus*

Fall Semester 2018: Mondays & Thursdays, 10.30–12.00 @ Room XΩΔ2 016

**ONLINE COURSE MATERIALS:** <http://blackboard.ucy.ac.cy>

**Prof. Kleanthes K. Grohmann (M104 / [www.kleanthes.biolinguistics.org](http://www.kleanthes.biolinguistics.org))**

**Office Hours: Mon & Thu 9.30–10.30 by appointment (in class / [kleanthi@ucy.ac.cy](mailto:kleanthi@ucy.ac.cy))**

## **DESCRIPTION**

This course deals with research issues in the linguistic study of early language development. It offers a broad overview of Universal Grammar and the biolinguistic principles of language, proceeds to specific interests in the morphosyntax of first language acquisition, and extends its purview via bi-/multilingualism and heritage speakers to developmental language impairments. Students will be able to assess language variation from the vantage point of the Principles & Parameters framework and its contemporary version with special reference to language acquisition and development. They will also become familiar with basic notions of first language acquisition and language disorders along the way. The theoretical framework will help students appreciate the linguistic basis for much of the research over the past three decades.

## **ASSESSMENT**

Regular attendance is strongly advised! Besides the class lectures, you will be graded as follows:

1. **short article review**      *20% of the final grade*      [ca. 1,000 words; see syllabus]
2. **critical presentation**      *30% of the final grade*      [ca. 15 minutes; weeks 11–13]
3. **final term paper**      *50% of the final grade*      [ca. 3,000 words; December 21]
4. presence & active **participation** in class throughout + presentations (± x grade points)

Don't forget: This is a small class and if you miss one, it will be noticed. If you miss more than once, notice will be taken more than once too—and if you're not around, you can't participate actively. I take a tough stance on plagiarism, so familiarize yourselves with the dangers (and read my Manifesto).

Short article review: By the end of week 3 (September 20), every student must have picked an article which they will briefly summarize and critically assess in no more than 1,000 words. These reviews will be shared with the class and serve as input for your presentations towards the end of the course.

Critical presentation: You will give an in-class presentation of the published article you had already summarized, concentrating on a critical assessment. Since all students will have access to all reviews beforehand, each presentation should be followed by a more well-informed discussion.

Final term paper: You should start thinking about your term paper early on. The topic is completely your choice but it should be related to the course; you should also check with me for approval and additional readings. Alternatively you may analyze data already collected, sketch an experiment of your own, or even carry out a small research study. All details will be discussed in the first classes.

## **READINGS**

We will follow one textbook and discuss relevant articles throughout the semester. You should also make an effort to read beyond the assigned readings! You can ask me for more.

M. Teresa Guasti (2017). *Language Acquisition*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. [= G17]

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Original version (3 September 2018)

## **SCHEDULE**

|                      |                    |   |
|----------------------|--------------------|---|
| <u>WEEK 1:</u>       | September 3        | <i>course overview &amp; introduction to biolinguistics</i>       |
|                      | September 6        | Foundations, Developments, and Challenges (slides)                |
| <u>WEEK 2:</u>       | September 10       | Bilectalism and Developmental Multilingualism (slides)            |
|                      | September 13       | The Socio-Syntax of Language Development (slides)                 |
| <u>WEEK 3:</u>       | September 17       | Language Pathology, the Faculty of Language, and UG (slides)      |
|                      | September 20       | <i>first quarter summary &amp; continuation of slides</i>         |
|                      |                    | <b>PICK REVIEW ARTICLE</b>  |
| <u>WEEK 4:</u>       | September 24       | Introduction to First Language Acquisition (G16: ch. 1)           |
|                      | September 27       | Phonetics & Phonology in L1A (G16: ch. 2)                         |
| <u>WEEK 5:</u>       | <b>October 1</b>   | <b>NO CLASS [BANK HOLIDAY]</b>                                    |
|                      | October 4          | Lexicon & Morphology in L1A (G16: ch. 3)                          |
| <u>WEEK 6:</u>       | October 8          | Some Issues in Developmental Language Impairments (readings)      |
|                      | October 11         | Verbal Syntax in L1A (G16: ch. 4)                                 |
| <u>WEEK 7:</u>       | October 15         | Nominal Syntax in L1A (G16: ch. 5)                                |
|                      | October 18         | Early Syntax in DLIs (readings)                                   |
| <u>WEEK 8:</u>       | October 22         | A'-Movement in L1A (G16: ch. 6)                                   |
|                      | October 25         | A'-Movement in DLIs (G16: ch. 6)                                  |
| <u>WEEK 9:</u>       | October 29         | A-Movement in L1A (G16: ch. 7)                                    |
|                      | November 1         | A-Movement in DLIs (readings)                                     |
| <u>WEEK 10:</u>      | November 5         | Binding Theory in L1A (G16: ch. 8)                                |
|                      | November 8         | Binding Theory in DLIs (readings)                                 |
| <u>WEEK 11:</u>      | November 12        | <b>Student in-class presentations 1–2</b>                         |
|                      | November 15        | <b>Student in-class presentations 3–4</b>                         |
| <u>WEEK 12:</u>      | November 19        | <b>Student in-class presentations 5–6</b>                         |
|                      | November 22        | <b>Student in-class presentations 7–8</b>                         |
| <u>WEEK 13:</u>      | November 26        | <b>Student in-class presentations 9–10</b>                        |
|                      | November 29        | The Locus Preservation Hypothesis (slides)                        |
| <b><u>FINAL:</u></b> | <b>December 21</b> | <b>term paper on any approved topic of your choice (by email)</b> |