

# ENG 565: SECOND LANGUAGE MORPHOSYNTAX

Linguistics Section • Department of English Studies • University of Cyprus

Spring Semester 2019: Mondays & Thursdays, 12.00 – 13.30 @ Room A107

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

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Office Hours: Mondays 13.30–17.30 or by appointment ([kleanthi@ucy.ac.cy](mailto:kleanthi@ucy.ac.cy))

## DESCRIPTION

This course reviews some of the key concepts and findings from research on the acquisition of the grammar—morphology and syntax—of a second language (L2), that is, the study of second language acquisition (SLA). The study of L2 grammatical development proceeds from a core assumption shared by nearly all formal acquisitionists that an understanding of exactly what is to be acquired and how it is mentally represented is necessary in order to understand how it could come to be acquired. For this reason, most researchers who study L2 grammatical development in depth rely at least to some extent on highly articulated theoretical models of language form and its relation to meaning. This means that along the way, we will consider the architecture of the grammar, the Principles and Parameters framework, basic notions of first language acquisition, and some advanced topics on the interfaces and processing along the way. The theoretical framework will help students appreciate the linguistic basis for much of the work done in L2 morphosyntax over the past three decades.

## ASSESSMENT

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

1. **homework sets** 40% of the final grade throughout semester (see syllabus)
2. **presentation** 20% of the final grade May 8 (ca. 10–15 minutes: in class)
3. **term paper** 40% of the final grade May 24 (ca. 3,000 words: by email)
4. presence & active **participation** in class throughout ( $\pm$  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 one, notice will be taken more than once too, and if you're not around, you can't participate actively! As you may know, **I take a tough stance on plagiarism**, so familiarize yourselves with the dangers.

Homework: I will give out **two sets of homework exercises** throughout the semester (see syllabus); each counts 20% of the final grade (40% total). Exercises are to be completed alone; they must always be typewritten. Cheating in any way will result in a failed course grade (**see my Manifesto!**).

Presentation: You will give an **in-class presentation of a topic of your choice** (which may but need not be related to your term paper) of around 10 minutes, with team work welcome. Your presentation should address a topic **relevant to the course** but does not have to be restricted to L2 morphosyntax.

Paper: You should **start thinking about your term paper early on**, since I will need to approve the topic. Again, your paper is not restricted to L2 morphosyntax but it should **relate to the course**.

## READINGS

We'll use a textbook as well as discuss relevant articles and book chapters throughout the semester. **You should also make an effort to read beyond the assigned readings!** You can ask me for more.

Roumyana Slabakova (2016). *Second Language Acquisition*. Oxford: OUP. [abbreviated SLA]

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Original version (14 January 2019)

## SCHEDULE

<u>WEEK 1:</u>	January 14 January 17	<i>course overview &amp; introduction</i> Language Architecture (SLA: ch. 1)	
<u>WEEK 2:</u>	January 21 <b>January 24</b>	Language Variation (SLA: ch. 2) <b>NO CLASS (MAKE-UP CLASS: MAY 8)</b>	
<u>WEEK 3:</u>	January 28 January 31	Principles and Parameters (SLA: ch. 2) Language in Use (SLA: ch. 3)	
<u>WEEK 4:</u>	February 4 February 7	Language Processing (SLA: ch. 3) Critical Period Hypothesis (SLA: ch. 4)	
<u>WEEK 5:</u>	February 11 February 14	Effects of Bilingualism (SLA: ch. 4) First Language Acquisition (SLA: ch. 5)	
<u>WEEK 6:</u>	February 18 February 21	Two First Languages (SLA: ch. 5) Second Language Acquisition (SLA: ch. 6)	<b>HWK 1: FEB 28</b>
<u>WEEK 7:</u>	February 25 February 28	Heritage Languages & Attrition (SLA: ch. 6) L2 Morphology (SLA: ch. 7)	
<u>WEEK 8:</u>	March 4 <b>March 7</b>	Different Hypotheses (SLA: ch. 7) <b>NO CLASS (MAKE-UP CLASS: MAY 8)</b>	
<u>WEEK 9:</u>	<b>March 11</b> March 14	<b>NO CLASS – BANK HOLIDAY</b> L2 Syntax (SLA: ch. 8)	
<u>WEEK 10:</u>	March 18 March 21	Word Order (SLA: ch. 8) V- & Wh-Movement (SLA: ch. 8)	
<u>WEEK 11:</u>	<b>March 25</b> March 28	<b>NO CLASS – BANK HOLIDAY</b> L2 Mental Lexicon (SLA: ch. 9)	<b>HWK 2: APR 4</b>
<u>WEEK 12:</u>	<b>April 1</b> April 4	<b>NO CLASS – BANK HOLIDAY</b> Argument Structure (SLA: ch. 9)	
<u>WEEK 13:</u>	April 8 April 11	L2 Syntax–Semantics Interface (SLA: ch. 10) L2 Syntax–Discourse Interface (SLA: ch. 11)	
<u>WEEK 14:</u>	April 15 April 18	Second Language Processing (SLA: ch. 12) The Second Language Classroom (SLA: ch. 13)	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>May 8</b>	<b><i>student presentations</i> [LONG MAKE-UP]</b>	
<b><u>FINAL:</u></b>	<b>May 24</b>	<b>term paper on any approved topic of your choice (by email)</b>	