IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

*CmDis/Ling  471: Language Development*

TR 3:40 - 5:00 PM; FALL 2012; PEARSON 2131

INSTRUCTOR  H. S. Venkatagiri, Ph. D.  
3248 Pearson Hall 
Telephone: 294 –6476

OFFICE HOURS:  TWR 11 AM – 12 Noon  
By appointment at other times

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DESCRIPTION  The course provides a theoretical and factual account of how children acquire their first and second languages.

OBJECTIVES  After the successful completion of this course, you will be:

1. Familiar with the basic components of speech and language – phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics.
2. Aware of the genetic, anatomical, neurological, social, and cognitive bases of speech and language acquisition.
3. Able to describe the major milestones in the acquisition of English as a first language.
4. Acquainted with selected models of first and second language acquisition.
5. Familiar with the variables that may affect first and second language acquisition.
6. Aware of the theories and major findings related to the development of reading and writing.
7. Familiar with the basics of effective reading instruction.

COURSE WEBSITE: Log on to Blackboard (BBLearn) with your University user name and password and you will find a link to our course web site. Marks for tests and assignments and the midterm and final grades are found under “My Grades” on the web site. Course assignments, information on tests, overheads, tutorials, and study guides are also found on the web site.

GRADING  Grading is on a percentage basis as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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<td>B+</td>
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<td>D-</td>
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*Important*  Be sure to check the points and the grade you have received after each test and assignment and bring to the attention of the instructor any discrepancy by email. No changes can be made to your grade after the grade report is submitted at the end of the semester.

TEST FORMAT  The tests will consist of a set of multiple-choice questions. Tests will cover the assigned chapters in the textbook, class overheads, class lectures, and in-class exercises as well as any additional readings and exercises.

Make-up Tests:  Permission to make up tests will be given only for documented medical and family reasons only. There will be a 15 points penalty for each make-up test without proper documentation.

Assignments:  1. The course calendar below lists the chapters in the textbook that you should read by the dates indicated.
   2. You will complete three assignments on the Blackboard. The class will not meet on the days these assignments are due. Each assignment consists of a set of questions based on the information on a certain number of chapters in the book. You will need to read the chapters to answer these questions. Although the assignment is in the open book format (you may consult the book while completing it), there is a time limit for completing each assignment once it is started. You will not have enough time to look up answers for all the questions.

   1. Assignment #1: Questions are from Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 9.
   2. Assignment #2: Questions are from Chapters 4, 5, and 6.
   3. Assignment #3: Questions are from Chapters 7, 10, and 11.
CLASS ATTENDANCE
Throughout the semester, there will be several unannounced in-class exercises. Each exercise is worth three points. Two in-class exercises will be treated as extra credit so that if you miss only two, it will not lower your grade. **If you miss an in-class exercise for whatever reason, it cannot be made up later** (no exceptions).

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE
Please refrain from reading newspapers and other reading materials or making private conversations during class lectures. You are always most welcome to address any questions and comments to the instructor or the entire class.

DISABILITY STATEMENT
If you have a disability that requires special arrangements, please bring a SAAR form from the Disability Resources office (disabilityresources@iastate.edu; 515-294-7220; 1076 Student Services Building) specifying the accommodation(s) you will need.

NOTE:
The course calendar, assignments, and the number of tests and the points and dates for tests are subject to change (with notice!).

### COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

#### August
- **21** Course Description, calendar; tests, and grading; What is communication?
- **23, 28** What are the developmental milestones in language acquisition? (Chapters 1 and 2)
- **30** What are the bases of language acquisition? – hearing and vision (Chapter 9)

#### September
- **4, 6, 11** What are the bases of language acquisition? – neurological and motor development (Chapter 1)
- **13, 18** What are the bases of language acquisition? – cognitive and social development (Chapters 1 and 9)
- **20** What do children learn when they learn a language? – Phonology (Chapter 3)
- **25** Assignment #1 (Complete this assignment on Blackboard on or before this date; no class meeting)
- **27** What do children learn when they learn a language? – Phonology (Chapter 3) - continued

#### October
- **2** Test #1 (75 points) -- (Complete this test at the LAS Testing Center between Monday, October 1 – Friday, October 5; no class meeting on October 2)
- **4, 9** What do children learn when they learn a language? – Semantics (Chapter 4)
- **11, 16** What do children learn when they learn a language? – Morphology (Chapter 5)
- **18, 23** What do children learn when they learn a language? – Syntax (Chapter 5)
- **25** Assignment #2 (Complete this assignment on Blackboard on or before this date; no class meeting)
- **30** What do children learn when they learn a language? – Pragmatics (Chapter 6)

#### November
- **1** Test #2 (75 points) -- (Complete this test at the LAS Testing Center between Wednesday, October 31 – Monday, November 5; no class meeting on November 1)
- **6, 8** How do children acquire their first language? (Chapter 7)
- **13, 15** How do children and adults acquire a second language? (Chapter 11)

😊😊😊😊 Thanksgiving Recess 😊😊😊😊
- **27, 29** How do children learn to read? (Chapter 10)

#### December
- **4** Assignment #3 (Complete this assignment on Blackboard on or before this date; no class meeting)
- **6** How do children learn to write? (Chapter 10)
- **Test #3 (75 points) --** (Complete this test at the LAS Testing Center between Friday, December 7 – Thursday, December 13)