

Language Acquisition

Winter 2011 - Thursday 11am-1pm

Bancroft 1.15a

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Assessments

Exam [50% of mark]

There will be a final exam during exam term that will cover content from the entire semester.

Homeworks [50% of mark]

Weekly Assignments: 45% of Mark

There will be homework project assigned almost every week. Students should do all these weekly assignments in order to keep up with the module material and get feedback on their progress.

If you wish to get feedback on an assignment, it must be submitted in class on the day it is due. No late assignments will be given feedback during term time.

In class during week 11, we will tell you which 3 of these weekly assignments you have to submit to get credit for this assessment. Each of the three assignments will be worth 15% of your final mark. It is expected that you will revise your homework assignments on the basis of the feedback you recieved during the semester.

Extra Assignment: 5% of Mark

Each student must be a participant in a Linguistics or Psychology research experiment, and produce a 250 word report on their experience. A list of currently running experiments that you can sign up for will be provided. A template for the report will be available on Blackboard.

All work submitted for assessment must be submitted both by paper copy with orange cover & via Blackboard pdf file upload. The Blackboard upload will constitute the definitive timestamp. Only pdf files will count - no .doc or .docx files under any circumstances.

Readings

There is no textbook for this module. Required readings will be made available on Blackboard. Students are responsible for downloading all readings and ensuring they have the software required to read and print pdf files.

Schedule

Week	Topic	Reading	Assignment
1	Introduction/Overview		
2	Infant/Child development Overview	Pinker 1995	HW1
3	Critical Period Hypothesis	Aislin & Newport	HW2
4	Infant Speech Perception	Werker 1995	HW3
5	Speech Segmentation	Juszyk 1999	HW4
6	Word Meanings	none	HW5
7	READING WEEK		
8	Child Phonology	none	HW6
9	Sentence Comprehension	Golinkoff & Hirsh- Pasek 1996	HW7
10	Atypical Development	none	HW8
11	Acquisition of Questions	T.B.A.	none
12	Summary/Exam Review	none	Experiment Report Due, Homeworks Due
Exam Term	Final Exam		

Extensions/Late Work

If you are unable to meet an assessed coursework deadline owing to extenuating circumstances you may apply for an extension. This should be at least ONE WEEK in advance of the deadline. This applies even if a deadline falls at the very beginning of a semester. You should make an appointment by e-mail with the relevant Senior Tutor (First Year students: Dr Robert Gillett (Arts 203; r.m.gillett@qmul.ac.uk); Second Year and Erasmus students: Professor Omar Garcia (Arts 1.34; o.a.garcia@qmul.ac.uk); Final Year and Year Abroad students: Professor Peter Evans (Arts 1.40b; p.w.evans@qmul.ac.uk)). The reasons for the request must be explained by you at your appointment and should be accompanied by supporting documentation, e.g. a medical certificate or equivalent.

If you have missed a deadline owing to extenuating circumstances on the day of the deadline, you should contact the Senior Tutor as soon as you can. In such cases, it is acceptable to seek an extension after the event.

Extension of a deadline will ONLY be granted in cases of genuine extenuating circumstances; it is not an automatic right. You will not be granted an extension for foreseeable problems, such as conflicting deadlines, difficulty in obtaining books from the Library, or having to take paid work. Remember that, unless an extension has been agreed, a late assignment will receive a mark of **no more than 40% (a bare pass)** if submitted within two weeks, and a mark of **zero** if submitted more than two weeks late.