

LIN 4930
LANGUAGE ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

Spring Semester 2021

Classroom: Matherly 0117
ON ZOOM for the others
Time: MWF 4th period, (9:35-10:20 am)
Instructor: Dr. Eleonora Rossi
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Office Hours (in TUR 4107): F 11:45-12:45 and by email appointment.

Course rationale and objectives

The goal of this course is to address topics that are important to understand the foundations of how language processing develops and changes across the life-span from early infancy to older adulthood. We will take a cross-disciplinary perspective discussing data from linguistics, psycholinguistics, developmental psychology, and cognitive neuroscience. Throughout the semester we will cover these basics first to understand how language develops in speakers of one language alone. In the second part of the semester those basic principles will be applied to understand language processing across the life-span shapes in bilingualism.

- Introduction to basic linguistic principles and psycholinguistics phenomena
- Earliest language development in the womb and in the earliest stages of life
- Language development and processing during childhood
- Language processing during adolescence
- Language processing in adulthood
- Language processing in older age

Prerequisite: NA

Course website:

- elearning.ufl.edu
- Course materials (lecture notes, lecture recordings, syllabus, etc.) and exercises will be made available on the course website on E-learning (elearning.ufl.edu). Deadlines and grades will also be posted on the website. You are responsible for checking the site regularly and for letting the instructor know promptly if anything is unclear, or if your grade has been entered incorrectly.

Textbooks required:

There is no textbook required.

Reading assignments will be primary sources (book chapters and journal articles). The readings will vary quite a bit in level of difficulty; some will seem relatively straightforward and others will require that you work through technical information that may be unfamiliar. I will give you guidelines as we go along as to what I expect you to be getting out of particular reading assignments. The readings are all available electronically on Canvas.

Assessment:

-Group presentations	60% (20% each)
-Final paper	10%
-Post questions for discussions	25% (5% each)
-Active class participation	2%

Course grading scale:

- 92-100 = A
- 89-91.9 = A-
- 86-88.9 = B+
- 82-85.9 = B
- 79-81.9 = B-
- 76-78.9 = C+
- 72-75.9 = C
- 69-71.9 = C-
- 66-68.9 = D+
- 62-65.9 = D
- 58-61.9 = D-
- Below 58 = E

For UF grading policies for assigning grade points, see:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Details of assessments

Miscellaneous

Policy on working together: You are welcome to work together on homework assignments and the fieldwork project, but you should write up your answers independently from each other. No collaboration of any kind is allowed on any test. Remember you are bound by the UF honor pledge: "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." It is expected that all students will adhere to the full Honor code and academic honesty guidelines available at

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/student-honor-code.aspx>

Late Policy: Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

-Students are required to hand in all assignments before the beginning of the class period they are due. Please contact the instructor in advance if you need to skip a class, or cannot make a deadline, and provide a documented excuse.

-There will be no make-up exams, make-up assignments or extensions of deadlines without a documented medical or academic excuse.

-If you miss more than 15 minutes of more than three class periods without a documented medical or academic excuse, one point will be deducted from your final score for each additional time you are absent, leave early, or come late.

Cell phone and computer policy: Texting and other cell phone or computer activity is not allowed during class unless this is course-related (note-taking, assignments).

Respect for others: Students are expected to behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be held at minimum, if at all.

Accommodations for students with disabilities: Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Health and Wellness: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352-392-1575 so that a U Matter We Care team member can reach out to the student in distress. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

Course evaluations: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>

Schedule: The following schedule is an estimate of the course’s progress, with readings for the given week and approximate dates of the tests. The instructor will let you know when the tests and assignment deadlines are exactly as they approach, and will keep you updated if we go off track. Please regularly consult the schedule on the course website for updates.

WEEK	Date	Class Topic and activities	Readings and Assignments Due
Week 1			
WEEK 1	Monday 11 Jan	SYLLABUS DAY	-Read syllabus
	Wednesday 13 Jan	NO CLASS: Instead follow Pat Kuhl’s Inaugural Webinar	<i>PAT KUHL’S WEBINAR at ASA Thursday, 14 January 2021, 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. EST (If you can’t attend the webinar will be recorded. Info will be provided.</i>
	Friday 15 Jan	INTRO: LANGUAGE AND THE BRAIN https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-B_ONJIEcE	
Week 2			
WEEK 2	Monday 18 Jan	-NO CLASS VACATION	
	Wednesday 20 Jan	INTRO: LANGUAGE ACROSS THE LIFE-SPAN: A NEW PERSPECTIVE	Altmann: Chapter 1
	Friday 22 Jan	Discussion Altmann Chapter 1	Submit two discussion points on CANVAS
Week 3			
WEEK 3	Monday 25 Jan	Before birth: Language development in the womb	Altmann: Chapter 2
	Wednesday 27 Jan	Testing language in early infancy	
	Friday 29 Jan	GROUP PRESENTATIONS	Paper to discuss: May et al 2017 (short report Developmental science)
Week 4			
WEEK 4	Monday 1 Feb	Language during infancy DR. MATT MASAPOLLO (UF)	Masapollo et al., 2016 (Developmental Science)
	Wednesday 3 Feb	Discussion Dr. Masapollo’s talk.	Submit two discussion points on CANVAS
	Friday 5 Feb	GROUP PRESENTATIONS	Paper to discuss: Kuhl, 2004 (Nature Reviews)
Week 5			
WEEK 5	Monday 8 Feb	Language development in childhood and early adulthood (monolingualism)	
	Wednesday 10 Feb	CONT: Language processing during early childhood and early adulthood	

	Friday 12 Feb	GROUP PRESENTATIONS	Paper to discuss: TBA
Week 6			
WEEK 6	Monday 15 Feb	Language processing during middle-age (monolingualism)	Readings TBA
	Wednesday 17 Feb	<i>Intro: Cognitive aging and language</i>	
	Friday 19 Feb	GROUP PRESENTATIONS	Paper TBA
Week 7			
WEEK 7	Monday 22 Feb	Language and aging (in monolingualism) DR. MICHELE DIAZ (PSU)	
	Wednesday 24 Feb	Discussion Dr. Diaz's talk.	Submit two discussion points on CANVAS
	Friday 26 Feb	GROUP PRESENTATIONS	Paper to discuss: TBA
Week 8			
WEEK 8	Monday 1 March	INTRO TO BILINGUALISM	Readings: TBA
	Wednesday 3 March	INTRO TO BILINGUALISM	
	Friday 5 March	INTRO TO BILINGUALISM	
Week 9			
WEEK 9	Monday 8 March	Bilingual Language processing during infancy DR. ADRIAN GARCIA SIERRA (UCONN)	Readings; TBA
	Wednesday 10 March	Discussion Dr. Garcia Sierra's talk.	Submit two discussion points on CANVAS
	Friday 12 March	GROUP PRESENTATIONS	Paper to discuss: TBA
Week 10			
WEEK 10	Monday 15 March	Bilingual language processing during childhood DR. CARLA CONTEMORI (UTEP)	
	Wednesday 17 March	Discussion Dr. Contemori's talk.	Submit two discussion points on CANVAS
	Friday 19 March	GROUP PRESENTATIONS	Paper to discuss: TBA
Week 11			

WEEK 11	Monday 22 March	Week to start working on final paper (selected one-to-one meetings on Zoom)	
	Wednesday 24 March	REST DAY NO CLASS	
	Friday 26 March	Week to start working on final paper (selected one-to-one meetings on Zoom)	
Week 12			
WEEK 12	Monday 29 March	Bilingual Language processing during adolescence DR. SIBYLLA LEON GUERRERO (HARVARD)	
	Wednesday 31 March	Discussion Dr. Leon Guerrero's talk.	Submit two discussion points on CANVAS
	Friday 2 April	GROUP PRESENTATIONS	Paper to discuss: TBA
Week 13			
WEEK 13	Monday 5 April	Bilingualism and aging DR. MEREL KIJZER: TBC	
	Wednesday 7 April	Discussion Dr. Kijzer's talk.	Submit two discussion points on CANVAS
	Friday 9 April	GROUP PRESENTATIONS	Paper to discuss: TBA
Week 14			
WEEK 14	Monday 12 April	Bilingualism and aging and the intersection with neurocognition DR. TOMS VOITS (UNIVERSITY OF TROMSØ, NORWAY)	Voits et al., under review (see folder) Submit two discussion points on CANVAS
	Wednesday 14 April	GROUP PRESENTATIONS	Paper to discuss: Voits et al., 2020
	Friday 16 April	NO CLASS: ATTEND TALK BY PAT KUHL BRAIN AND LANGUAGE SERIES. INFO WILL BE SENT	
Week 15			
WEEK 15	Monday 19 April	IN CLASS DISCUSSION OF PAT KUHL'S TALK	
	Wednesday 21 April	FINAL COURSE REMARKS	SUBMIT PERSONAL REFLECTION ON PAT KUHL'S TALK.