

**EDUC 5362: Neuroscience and Language**  
Spring 2012

**Instructor(s):** Dr. Jodi Tommerdahl and Dr. Evie Malaia

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**Office Hours:** Considering that the majority of students for this class are employed full time during the day, meetings can be arranged by appointment.

**Time and Place of Class Meetings:** COBA 147, Tuesdays, 5:00 p.m. – 7:50 p.m.

**Description of Course Content:** This course will examine the many levels of language including phonetics, phonology, semantics, syntax and pragmatics from both functional and neuroscientific perspectives. This will be closely tied to language acquisition and early language development. The focus on the pre-reading years will provide a solid basis for further study of literacy-related skills and overall learning.

Classes taught by Dr. Tommerdahl will consist of three relatively independent sections. The first section will be dedicated to becoming a foreign language learner, the second will consist of learning the structure of the English language and the third will vary according to the topic of the session.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** At the end of this class, students should be able to do the following:

1. Label sentences at the clause and phrase levels.
2. Show a basic knowledge of a new foreign language
3. Display their understanding in several areas related to the acquisition of L1 and L2.
4. Display a strong understanding of the structure of the English language.
5. Write resumés of academic articles showing comprehension of their content.
6. Display an understanding of current theories of mathematical reasoning.

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT FOR CLASS (to be prepared before class)	ASSESSMENT
Week 1 Jan. 17	Monkeys, music and language  <b>TOMMERDAHL</b>		
Week 2 Jan. 24	Typical language acquisition  <b>TOMMERDAHL</b>	Black & Chiat p. 21-26  Berko Gleason Chapter 2  Keyser, R. (2000) The Robustness of Critical Period Effects in Second Language Acquisition <a href="http://rucss.rutgers.edu/~karin/550.READINGS/SYNTAX/CRITICAL.PERIOD/DeKeyser.pdf">http://rucss.rutgers.edu/~karin/550.READINGS/SYNTAX/CRITICAL.PERIOD/DeKeyser.pdf</a>	
Week 3 Jan. 31	The sounds of language  <b>TOMMERDAHL</b>	Black & Chiat Chapter 3  Berko Gleason Chapter 3	Syntax quiz (10%)
Week 4 Feb. 7	Semantics  <b>TOMMERDAHL</b>	Black & Chiat Chapter 4 up to p. 68  Berko Gleason Chapter 4	
Week 5 Feb. 14	Guest speaker  <b>TOMMERDAHL</b>	Black & Chiat rest of Chapter 4	Foreign language quiz (10%)
Week 6 Feb. 21	Syntax  <b>TOMMERDAHL</b>	Black & Chiat 102-119  Berko Gleason Chapter 5	Syntax quiz (10%)
Week 7 Feb. 28	Bilingualism  <b>MALAIA</b>		
Week 8 Mar. 4	Pragmatics  <b>TOMMERDAHL</b>	Berko-Gleason  Berko Gleason Chapter 6	Foreign language quiz (10%)
Week 9 Mar. 13	SPRING BREAK		
Week 10 Mar. 20	Embodiment as a theory for math and language <b>MALAIA</b>		
Week 11 Mar. 27	READING WEEK	NB:	
Week 12 Apr. 3	Neuroanatomy of language  <b>TOMMERDAHL</b>		Syntax quiz (10%)

Week 13 Apr. 10	When language falls apart  <b>TOMMERDAHL</b>		Article synopses due electronically by April 13 <sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. (20%)
Week 14 Apr. 17	Neural bases of math  <b>MALAIA</b>		
Week 15 Apr. 24	Students present articles  <b>TOMMERDAHL</b>		Syntax quiz (10%)
Week 16 May 2	In class essay (A choice of questions will be offered.)  <b>TOMMERDAHL</b>		(20%)

**Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials:** Two books are required for this class.

1. Linguistics for Clinicians by Maria Black and Shula Chiat (2003). ISBN: 0 340 758 96 1 (pb)  
0 340 758 95 3 (hb)
2. Development of Language by Jean Berko Gleason and Nan Bernstein Ratner (7<sup>th</sup> Edition) (2008). ISBN-10: 0205593038 | ISBN-13: 978-0205593033

Further readings will be assigned during the course, mainly from academic journals.

**Descriptions of major assignments and examinations:**

Practical syntax quizzes	40%	(4x10%)
Foreign language quizzes	20%	
Article synopses	20%	
In-class essay	20%	

**Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory. Make-up exams will only be allowed with a doctor's note.

<b>Grading:</b>	90 – 100%	A
	80 – 89%	B
	70 – 79%	C
	60 – 69%	D

0 – 59% F

**Drop Policy:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering.

**Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://www.uta.edu/ses/fao>).

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Academic Integrity:** At UT Arlington, academic dishonesty is completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated in any form, including (but not limited to) "cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts" (UT System Regents' Rule 50101, §2.2). Suspected violations of academic integrity standards will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

**Student Support Services:** UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may contact the Maverick Resource Hotline by calling 817-272-6107, sending a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or visiting [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

**Electronic Communication:** UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory will be asked to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS) about the course and how it was taught. Instructions on how to access the SFS system will be sent directly to students through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. UT

Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback data is required by state law; student participation in the SFS program is voluntary.

**Final Review Week:** A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**Librarian to Contact:** Andy Herzog ([amherzog@uta.edu](mailto:amherzog@uta.edu))

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