LING6030 - Second Language Acquisition

Course Outline

Course Co-ordinator: Dr Christo Moskovsky
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Email: Christo.Moskovsky@newcastle.edu.au
Consultation hours: Monday, 5-6 pm

Course Overview
Semester Semester 1 - 2007
Unit Weighting 10
Teaching Methods Lecture

Brief Course Description
This course will provide students with psychological, sociological and linguistic perspectives on the acquisition of a second language, with particular emphasis on English as a Second/Foreign language.

Contact Hours
Lecture for 3 Hours per Week for 13 Weeks
(or equivalent by distance mode)

Learning Materials/Texts

Course Objectives
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate:
1. an understanding of the psychological and social processes underlying acquisition and use of a second language;
2. an understanding of the contribution to SLA of prior linguistic knowledge (“transfer” from native language; linguistic universals);
3. the ability to identify, and to interpret the significance of, “errors” in learners’

Course Outline Issued and Correct as at: Week 1, Semester 1 - 2007

CTS Download Date: 31 January 2007
language output;
4. the ability to identify and evaluate the learner's use of communicative strategies;
5. skills in critical reading of relevant literature and presentation of ideas.

**Course Content**
Topics to be covered include:
* the learning process - theories of language learning; differences between first and second language learning
* the learning environment - sociolinguistic factors affecting language acquisition
* what makes a "good" language learner - psychological, attitudinal and maturational factors; Krashen's "monitor"; the "critical period" hypothesis
* the input - role of linguistic universals, first language, target language
* the nature of the output - approximation to target (error analysis) vs developing system (interlanguage); acquisition order, development stages

**Assessment Items**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Essays / Written Assignments</th>
<th>Callaghan: Analysis of learner English (equivalent to approx. 1000 words) 20% Essay (approx. 2500 words) = 40%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other: (please specify)</td>
<td>Callaghan: Poster presentation = 40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Assumed Knowledge**
Foundations of Linguistics (LING6910) or equivalent.

**Callaghan Campus Timetable**
LING6030
SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION
Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science
Semester 1 - 2007
Lecture Monday 13:00 - 15:00 [MCG28C] with LING3120. Course also offered by Distance Education.
and Seminar Tuesday 12:00 - 13:00 [MCLG59]
and Seminar Tuesday 10:30 - 13:00 [MCG28C]

Distance Education - Callaghan Timetable
LING6030
SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION
Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science
Semester 1 - 2007
Dist. Learn Tuesday 80:00 - 90:00 Also offered at Callaghan
Plagiarism

University policy prohibits students plagiarising any material under any circumstances. A student plagiarises if he or she presents the thoughts or works of another as one’s own. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it may include:

- copying or paraphrasing material from any source without due acknowledgment;
- using another’s ideas without due acknowledgment;
- working with others without permission and presenting the resulting work as though it was completed independently.

Plagiarism is not only related to written works, but also to material such as data, images, music, formulae, websites and computer programs.

Aiding another student to plagiarise is also a violation of the Plagiarism Policy and may invoke a penalty.

For further information on the University policy on plagiarism, please refer to the Policy on Student Academic Integrity at the following link -


The University has established a software plagiarism detection system called Turnitin. When you submit assessment items please be aware that for the purpose of assessing any assessment item the University may -

- Reproduce this assessment item and provide a copy to another member of the University; and/or
- Communicate a copy of this assessment item to a plagiarism checking service (which may then retain a copy of the item on its database for the purpose of future plagiarism checking).
- Submit the assessment item to other forms of plagiarism checking

Written Assessment Items

Students may be required to provide written assessment items in electronic form as well as hard copy.

Extension of Time for Assessment Items, Deferred Assessment and Special Consideration for Assessment Items or Formal Written Examinations

Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date, as advised in the Course Outline, unless the Course Coordinator approves an extension of time for submission of the item. University policy is that an assessment item submitted after the due date, without an approved extension, will be penalised.

Any student:

1. who is applying for an extension of time for submission of an assessment item on the basis of medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment; or
2. whose attendance at or performance in an assessment item or formal written examination has been or will be affected by medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment;

must report the circumstances, with supporting documentation, to the appropriate officer on the prescribed form.

Please go to the Policy and the on-line form for further information, particularly for information on the options available to you, at:


Students should be aware of the following important deadlines:

- **Requests for Special Consideration** must be lodged no later than 3 working days after the date of submission or examination.

- **Requests for Extensions of Time on Assessment Items** must be lodged no later than the due date of the item.

- **Requests for Rescheduling Exams** must be lodged no later than 5 working days before the date of the examination.

Your application may not be accepted if it is received after the deadline. Students who are unable to meet the above deadlines due to extenuating circumstances should speak to their Program Officer in the first instance.

**Changing your Enrolment**

The last dates to withdraw without financial or academic penalty (called the HECS Census Dates) are:

For semester 1 courses: 31 March 2007

For semester 2 courses: 31 August 2007

For Trimester 1 courses: 17 February 2007

For Trimester 2 courses: 9 June 2007


Students may withdraw from a course without academic penalty on or before the last day of semester and prior to the commencement of the formal exam period. Any withdrawal from a course after the last day of semester will result in a fail grade.

Students cannot enrol in a new course after the second week of semester/trimester, except under exceptional circumstances. Any application to add a course after the second week of semester/trimester must be on the appropriate form, and should be discussed with the Student Enquiry Centre.

To change your enrolment online, please refer to

http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/enrolment/changingenrolment.html
Contact Details

Faculty Student Service Offices

Faculty of Science and Information Technology
Room V19 (Mathematics Building)
Phone: 02 4921 5562

The Faculty of Education and Arts
Room: Level 3, Shortland Union
Phone: 02 4921 5000

The Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment
Room: EF101 (EF Building)
Phone: 02 4921 6065

The Faculty of Health
Level 2 (Student Services Building)
Phone: 02 4921 7140

The Faculty of Business and Law
Room: SRS130 (Social Sciences Building)
Phone: 02 4921 5983

Ourimbah Focus
Room: AB1.01 (Administration Building)
Phone: 02 4348 4030

The Dean of Students
Dr Michael Hannaford
Phone: 02 4921 5806
Fax: 02 4921 7151
resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au

Deputy Dean of Students (Ourimbah)
Dr Bill Gladstone
Phone: 02 4348 4123
Fax: 02 4348 4145

Various services are offered by the University Student Support Unit: http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/studentsupport/index.html

Alteration of this Course Outline

No change to this course outline will be permitted after the end of the second week of the term except in exceptional circumstances and with Head of School approval. Students will be notified in advance of any approved changes to this outline.

Web Address for Rules Governing Undergraduate Academic Awards

School of Humanities & Social Science
STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR CHRONIC ILLNESS

The University is committed to providing a range of support services for students with a disability or chronic illness.

If you have a disability or chronic illness which you feel may impact on your studies, please feel free to discuss your support needs with your lecturer or course coordinator.

Disability Support may also be provided by the Student Support Service (Disability). Students must be registered to receive this type of support. To register please contact the Disability Liaison Officer on 02 4921 5766, or via email at: student-disability@newcastle.edu.au

As some forms of support can take a few weeks to implement it is extremely important that you discuss your needs with your lecturer, course coordinator or Student Support Service staff at the beginning of each semester.

For more information related to confidentiality and documentation please visit the Student Support Service (Disability) website at: www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability

------------------------------------ End of CTS Entry ------------------------------------

Online Tutorial Registration:

Students are required to register in the Seminar or Lecture and a specific Tutorial time for this course via the Online Registration system:


Registrations close at the end of week 2 of semester.

Studentmail and Blackboard: www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/

This course uses Blackboard and studentmail to contact students, so you are advised to keep your email accounts within the quota to ensure you receive essential messages. To receive an expedited response to queries, post questions on the Blackboard discussion forum if there is one, or if emailing staff directly use the course code in the subject line of your email. Students are advised to check their studentmail and the course Blackboard site on a weekly basis.

Written Assignment Presentation and Submission Details

Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date. Late assignments will be subject to the penalties described below.

Hard copy submission:

- **Type your assignments:** All work must be typewritten in 11 or 12 point black font. Leave a wide margin for marker’s comments, use 1.5 or double spacing, and include page numbers.
Word length: The word limit of all assessment items should be strictly followed – 10% above or below is acceptable, otherwise penalties may apply.

Proof read your work because spelling, grammatical and referencing mistakes will be penalised.

Staple the pages of your assignment together (do not use pins or paper clips).

University Assessment Item Coversheet: All assignments must be submitted with the University coversheet available at:

By arrangement with the relevant lecturer, assignments may be submitted at any Student Hub located at:
- Level 3, Shortland Union, Callaghan
- Level 2, Student Services Centre, Callaghan
- Ground Floor, University House, City
- Ground Floor, Administration Building, Ourimbah

Date-stamping assignments: All students must date-stamp their own assignments using the machine provided at each Student Hub. If mailing an assignment, this should be addressed to the relevant School. If the course is listed with the Hub then replace “relevant School” with “Relevant Hub”. Mailed assignments are accepted from the date posted, confirmed by a Post Office date-stamp; they are also date-stamped upon receipt by Schools.

Do not fax or email assignments: Only hard copies of assignments will be considered for assessment. Inability to physically submit a hard copy of an assignment by the deadline due to other commitments or distance from campus is an unacceptable excuse.

Keep a copy of all assignments: It is the student’s responsibility to produce a copy of their work if the assignment goes astray after submission. Students are advised to keep updated back-ups in electronic and hard copy formats.

Online copy submission to Turnitin
In addition to hard copy submission, students are required to submit an electronic version of the following assignments to Turnitin via the course Blackboard website:
- SLA Essay: worth 40% of overall assessment

Prior to final submission, all students have the opportunity to submit one draft of their assignment to Turnitin to self-check their referencing. Assignments will not be marked until both hard copy and online versions have been submitted. Marks may be deducted for late submission of either version.

Penalties for Late Assignments
Assignments submitted after the due date, without an approved extension of time will be penalised by the reduction of 5% of the possible maximum mark for the assessment item for each day or part day that the item is late. Weekends count as one day in determining the penalty. Assessment items submitted more than ten days after the due date will be awarded zero marks.

Special Circumstances
Students wishing to apply for Special Circumstances or Extension of Time should apply online @ http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html

No Assignment Re-submission
Students who have failed an assignment are not permitted to revise and resubmit it in this course. However, students are always welcome to contact their Tutor, Lecturer or Course Coordinator to make a consultation time to receive individual feedback on their assignments.
Remarks
Students can request to have their work re-marked by the Course Coordinator or Discipline Convenor (or their delegate); three outcomes are possible: the same grade, a lower grade, or a higher grade being awarded. Students may also appeal against their final result for a course. Please consult the University policy at:
http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/forms/

Return of Assignments
Students can collect assignments from a nominated Student Hub during office hours. Students will be informed during class which Hub to go to and the earliest date that assignments will be available for collection. Students must present their student identification card to collect their assignment.

Preferred Referencing Style
In this course, it is recommended that you use the use the Harvard in-text referencing system (similar to the APA system) for referencing sources of information used in assignments. Inadequate or incorrect reference to the work of others may be viewed as plagiarism and result in reduced marks or failure.

An in-text citation names the author of the source, gives the date of publication, and for a direct quote includes a page number, in parentheses. At the end of the paper, a list of references provides publication information about the source; the list is alphabetised by authors’ last names (or by titles for works without authors). Further information on referencing and general study skills can be obtained from:
- Infoskills:

Student Representatives
Student Representatives are a major channel of communication between students and the School. Contact details of Student Representatives can be found on School websites.

Student Communication
Students should discuss any course related matters with their Tutor, Lecturer, or Course Coordinator in the first instance and then the relevant Discipline or Program Convenor. If this proves unsatisfactory, they should then contact the Head of School if required. Contact details can be found on the School website.

Essential Online Information for Students
Information on Class and Exam Timetables, Tutorial Online Registration, Learning Support, Campus Maps, Careers information, Counselling, the Health Service and a range of free Student Support Services can be found at:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading guide</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>49% or less</td>
<td>Fail</td>
<td>(FF) An unacceptable effort, including non-completion. The student has not understood the basic principles of the subject matter and/or has been unable to express their understanding in a comprehensible way. Deficient in terms of answering the question, research, referencing and correct presentation (spelling, grammar etc). May include extensive plagiarism.</td>
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<tr>
<td>50% to 64%</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>(P) The work demonstrates a reasonable attempt to answer the question, shows some grasp of the basic principles of the subject matter and a basic knowledge of the required readings, is comprehensible, accurate and adequately referenced.</td>
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<tr>
<td>65% to 74%</td>
<td>Credit</td>
<td>(C) The work demonstrates a clear understanding of the question, a capacity to integrate research into the discussion, and a critical appreciation of a range of different theoretical perspectives. A deficiency in any of the above may be compensated by evidence of independent thought. The work is coherent and accurate.</td>
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<tr>
<td>75% to 84%</td>
<td>Distinction</td>
<td>(D) Evidence of substantial additional reading and/or research, and evidence of the ability to generalise from the theoretical content to develop an argument in an informed and original manner. The work is well organised, clearly expressed and shows a capacity for critical analysis.</td>
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<td>85% upwards</td>
<td>High Distinction</td>
<td>(HD) All of the above, plus a thorough understanding of the subject matter based on substantial additional reading and/or research. The work shows a high level of independent thought, presents informed and insightful discussion of the topic, particularly the theoretical issues involved, and demonstrates a well-developed capacity for critical analysis.</td>
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# SCHEDULE OF TOPICS

*(Note: This is a preliminary list: unforeseen events may necessitate changes in this schedule)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>week #</th>
<th>date</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>19 Feb</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>26 Feb</td>
<td>Overview</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>5 March</td>
<td>SLA + linguistic universals</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>12 March</td>
<td>The role of L1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>19 March</td>
<td>Error Analysis</td>
<td>Error Analysis Assignment given out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>27 March</td>
<td>IL: orders of acquisition</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>2 April</td>
<td>IL: variability</td>
<td>(Good Friday: 6 April 2007)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>16 April</td>
<td>Semester break</td>
<td>Error Analysis Assignment due: Thursday, 12 April 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>23 April</td>
<td>IL: Individual learner differences</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>30 May</td>
<td>IL: The age factor</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>7 May</td>
<td>IL: strategies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>14 May</td>
<td>fossilization</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>21 May</td>
<td>SLA: classroom</td>
<td>Sample exam questions given out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>4 June</td>
<td>Revision</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>11 June</td>
<td>exams</td>
<td>11 June → Queen’s birthday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>18 June</td>
<td>exams</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>25 June</td>
<td>exams</td>
<td></td>
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