

TOPICS IN SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION

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Linguistics

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Wednesday, Periods 8 through 10 [3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. with one break]

Classroom: CBD 0238

Office Hours: Tuesday, 3 to 4 p.m.; Wednesday, 1:30 to 2:45 or by appointment.

Required Text books: available at the University of Florida Bookstore

Pragmatic Development in a Second Language by Gabriele Kasper and Kenneth R. Rose
2002. Oxford: Blackwell.

In addition: Course packet or eReserve TBD.

Course description

The course is designed to advance student knowledge of second language acquisition and the development of pragmatic competence. We will read a survey textbook that includes topics on these two overlapping subject areas. Second, we will read a series of articles on theories, research methodologies, and in particular, more recent studies done by other scholars in the field. The purpose of the course is to enable the participants to acquire subject and methodological knowledge of this important field of research in applied linguistics and to put the knowledge into practice in the context of an actual empirical study.

Course Objectives: Participants should attain:

- (1) a knowledge of key concepts embedded in the topics for the course, sufficient to evaluate relevant issues related to pragmatic competence development by second or foreign language learners;
- (2) a knowledge of principles and terminology of the subject area;
- (3) an understanding of the macro processes, both cognitive and sociolinguistic that affect pragmatic competence;
- (4) a basic understanding of relevant underlying theories and methodologies used by researchers in the topic areas;
- (5) a practical knowledge of the topic areas and issues that confront the discipline;
- (6) the ability to communicate knowledge of the focal areas to others both in writing and through the oral mode.

Prerequisites: LIN 6720 or permission of the instructor.

SCHEDULE

This schedule is tentative and subject to change.

Abbreviations: K & R = Kasper and Rose; TBD= To be determined [Readings]

WEEKS	WEEK OF:	TOPICS	ASSIGNMENTS
1	8/24	Introduction to the course: Second Language Acquisition and Pragmatics	Kasper & Rose 1
2	8/31	Theories of SL Pragmatic Development	K & R 2
3	9/7	Approaches to Pragmatic Development Research	K & R 3
4	9/14	Developmental Patterns in SL Pragmatics	K & R 4
5	9/21	Development Patterns cont.	TBD
6	9/28	Pragmatics and Grammar	K & R 5
7	10/5	Pragmatics and Grammar cont.	TBD
8	10/12	Learning Context and Opportunities	K & R 6
9	10/19	Context and Opportunities cont.	TBD
10	10/26	Role of Instruction	K & R 7
11	11/2	Individual Differences	K & R 8
12	11/9	Individual Differences, cont.	TBD
13	11/16	Special topics	TBD
14	11/23	Special topics	TBD
15	11/30	Special topics	TBD
16	12/7	Coming together	TBD

ASSESSMENT

The final course grade will be based on the following criteria:

1. Attendance, active participation in class discussions, evidence of having done the required readings, bringing materials to class, participation in pair or group activities in class, etc. 15%
2. Two 750-1000 word written summaries/ critical analyses of a relevant outside reading. 10% each
3. Presentation: responsibility for leading the class discussion of an assigned reading for 30 minutes 20%
4. Proposal for empirical study: 10%
5. Project: an empirical study of pragmatic development 35%

The forms of assessment provide opportunities for participants to demonstrate a body of knowledge of the subject matter, explore individual interests related to the course topics and, at the same time, work on improving their academic writing and presentation skills. The due dates for the written summaries/critical analyses may be negotiated individually with the instructor. Note that one of the two summaries/critical analysis papers may be rewritten, after receiving feedback from the professor, for a better grade.

In addition, note that there will be NO opportunities to obtain extra credit. Any late or missed assignments must be discussed in advance with the teacher.

Grading criteria

I will be following the new grading system of the university.

Make-ups/Late work

In general, there are no make-up exams or submission of late work. Negotiation is possible only with prior consultation and/or for emergencies.

Class Participation

To create a learning environment where all can benefit from time spent in class, the instructor expects ALL the participants to have read the assigned materials for each class **BEFORE** the class meeting. Evidence of not having done so will result in a lower grade.

Note on Attendance

Attendance is required. A lot of learning happens during the class sessions between and among students and teachers. However, you may have to be absent for personal reasons. My policy has been that, for a three-credit course, if you don't come to class for three hours during the semester, I won't ask any questions unless you are expected to do some pre-arranged task. If you have more than three hours of unexcused absences, then your final grade will be lowered.

Classroom demeanor

Students are expected to arrive for class on time; a consistent pattern of lateness will result in a lower final grade for the course. Laptops are not allowed for regular classroom use and cell phones should be turned off during class time. No texting or other use of cell phones is considered to be acceptable behavior. No eating is allowed in the classroom although beverages may be consumed. Mutual respect for all members of the class is expected at all times to create and maintain an appropriate learning environment for everyone.

Academic honesty

Any evidence of cheating on assignments will result in a failing grade for the course. Where applicable, students must clearly note all sources of information and appropriately reference all outside sources, for all forms of media used in work for the course. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Please see the UF website for the policy regarding plagiarism and academic honesty in general: see "Academic Honesty" or <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/academicguide.php>

Students with disabilities

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

Final Note: Whenever you have a question or some problem, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me via email and/or visit my office and/or make an appointment to see me. You can email me questions; if the question applies to the whole class, then send the

question a couple of days before class so I can prepare an answer or reorganize what I intend to teach for the day, if necessary.