Department of Linguistics
Fall Term 2014 (1147)

LINGUISTICS 810-4: Day  
Topics in Linguistics I: Child Phonological Acquisition

Instructor: Dr Ashley Farris-Trimble  
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will focus on theoretical, descriptive, experimental, and methodological issues in phonological acquisition. Findings from the current literature will be examined with the intent of establishing the empirical characteristics of developing systems, evaluating theoretical proposals, refining methodological skills, and identifying potential applications. Topics will include: the nature of children’s underlying representations, the role of the input, opacity effects, covert contrasts, learning algorithms, the continuity hypothesis and disparities between developing and fully-developed phonologies, developmental norms, and conspiracies. The problems and concepts in first-language phonological acquisition will be used to introduce a theoretical phonological model that is learnable and explanatorily adequate. Students taking this course will read, present, and discuss primary literature, both from a theoretical and an empirical perspective, and will complete a final paper/project synthesizing and extending current research findings. Students will be graded on their ability to synthesize across course materials and to extend the breadth or depth of the current state of the field.

READING:

Readings will be drawn from book chapters and journal articles which are either available on-line or will be made available through a reserve system.

GRADING:

Presentation of required readings: 30%  
Homeworks: 20%  
Project proposal: 40%  
Class participation: 10%

Students should familiarize themselves with the Department's Standards on Class Management and Student Responsibilities at http://www.sfu.ca/linguistics/undergraduate/student-resources/department-standards.html#main_content_text

Please note that a grade of “FD” may be assigned as a penalty for academic dishonesty.

All student requests for accommodations for their religious practices must be made in writing by the end of the first week of classes or no later than one week after a student adds a course.

Students requiring accommodations as a result of a disability must contact the Centre for Students with Disabilities (778-782-3112 or csdo@sfu.ca).