Theories of Language Intervention

Course Overview

This course discusses current major theories & models pertaining to the description of language and its development and, by extension, to language intervention. This year we'll cover Government-Binding theory, the Competition model, Learnability theory, and Teachability issues.

Relationship to Area Model: Science, assessment, & treatment of language.

Textbooks/Other Readings


Examinations

We'll have two exams and a final exam. The exams will be "closed book/ closed note." Exams will be essay type, calling on you to write one or more paragraphs per question. A single question may have several parts, such as asking for brief definitions of several related words. The relative weight of each question will be given. Essay-type questions are scored with 0 - 4 points, based on my rating of its correctness, completeness, and clarity. I will divide all score totals by the highest exam score. This division yields a percentage which will represent the point value recorded for the exam; each exam is thus worth a possible 100 points. Unless you give me written evidence of serious illness, death, etc., late exams are subject to -15% per day penalty.

The final exam will be given Monday, April 22 from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. It will consist of the same type of questions as the exams; half will be over the Competition model and half will be comprehensive. The final will be worth a possible 200 points. University policy does
not permit early finals and requires incompletes to be given for make-up finals.

Class Participation

Attendance and class participation are expected. No unexcused absences are allowed; more than one such absence during the semester will cause grade lowering of one step per two absences. If you can't attend this class you should not be enrolled for it. Borrowing notes is a nuisance to other students and is a poor substitute for your own encoding and discussion of class material. No taping of lectures is allowed. Hire a babysitter for your children; don't bring them to class. Eating and drinking in class is okay except for noisy or odiferous things such as Corn Nuts or Fritos. Sleeping in class or privately conversing with a friend is not permitted.

If you find you are having difficulty in the course, meet immediately with the instructor to go over your class and reading notes and to obtain direction for supplemental readings and reference works.

Semester Grading

Semester grades will be based no less than 90% on the exams and no more than 10% on class participation (which includes pop-quizzes on assigned reading and contributory attendance). No exam scores will be dropped. All in all, 400 points are possible (2 exams @ 100 each, the final @200 points). The grading scale used is: 95-100% A, 90-94% A-, 87-89% B+, 83-86% B, 80-82% B-, 77-79% C+, 73-76% C, 70-72% C-, 67-69% D+, 63-66% D, 60-62% D-, 59% & below E. No extra credit is possible.

Calendar

January
F 18 Last day to drop classes without receiving a "W"
M 21 Martin Luther King Holiday (no classes held)

February
M 11 Last day to drop classes for academic reasons
M 18 President's Day Holiday (no classes held)
T 19 Monday classes held

April
M 15 Term paper due at 2 p.m.
T 16 Last day of Winter '91 classes
M 22 Final Exam 2:30-5:30 pm

Supporting References


