ePsy 630 Theories of Child Language Acquisition
Winter 1995

Professor: Ron Channell PhD, 128 TLRB, 378-6457 (office), 225-1526 (home).

Office Hours: 2:30-4:30 T. & Th., or by appointment (call my extension and leave (your) name, number, and message), or drop by (except on Wednesdays).

Textbook

Course Overview
This graduate course is to study the process of learning the English language, as that language is characterized by SGEL. Along with studying this text, we will describe language samples of children at several ages between 5 and 15. This will foster learning the material in SGEL as well as learning about developmental language change.

Class Participation
We will work through the SGEL text sequentially. Complete the assigned reading before each class to be ready to present and discuss it.

I expect attendance and class participation. If you can't attend this class you should not be enrolled for it. Hire a babysitter for your children; don't bring them to class. Watching the class from the observation hall does not count as attending the class. I'll lower your grade if you're absent more than two times by the percentage of class time you've missed. Borrowing notes is a nuisance to other students and is no substitute for your own encoding and discussion of class material. 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 totally gauche.

Exams
We will have two midterm exams and the final; the final will be comprehensive. The exams will assess your learning to apply the grammar model described in SGEL. For example, given some grammatical structure(s), create an original sentence which contains that structure or those structures, or, conversely, given a sentence, say which grammatical structures it contains, and whether or not it contains a particular structure.

The exams will be "closed book/ closed note." Exams will feature objective,
short-answer and fill-in questions. Each exam is 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.

**Paper**

Each student will write a paper on the development of a different grammatical structure. Possible structures will be discussed in class. Use both published articles and data from the CHILDES database to support your developmental description. Use APA style for referencing.

I'm willing to read, critique, and assign a tentative grade to one draft of your paper (as well as to the finished version). Turning in this draft is optional but must be no less than one week before the final draft is due; expect 3 school days for turn-around time. The final draft is due by 5 p.m. on April 13 (Thursday). In class on Tuesday April 18, class members will share synopses of the findings and summaries made and of the conclusions they've reached.

I'll grade the papers using the scale at the end of the G. E. booklet *Standards for Student Papers*, with extra weight placed on completeness of content.

**Honor Code**

I expect you to adhere to the Honor Code. Too many qualified people are not admitted to BYU because of enrollment ceilings to allow a space to be wasted on someone who isn't keeping their commitment to obey the Code. Remember that the code applies to your behavior both on- and off-campus. Contents of exams are confidential and you must not share them until the exam has been passed back and is thus public information. This would include giving hints as to which areas to study or not study as well as reciting or paraphrasing specific questions from the exam.

**Semester Grading**

Semester grades will be based \( \geq 60-70\% \) on the exams, 20-30\% on the paper, and \( \leq 10\% \) on class participation (which includes class attendance & preparation and involvement in discussion). No exam scores will be dropped. 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.