

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
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## Language (ALS) and linguistics : First language acquisition (2AN1109)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
<b>Pilier principal B A - langue et littérature anglaises</b>	<b>Séminaire: 2 ph</b>	<b>cont. continu</b>	5
<b>Pilier principal M A - sciences du langage et de la communication</b>	<b>Séminaire: 2 ph</b>	<b>cont. continu</b>	5
<b>Pilier secondaire B A - langue et littérature anglaises</b>	<b>Séminaire: 2</b>	<b>cont. continu</b>	5
<b>Pilier secondaire M A - sciences du langage et de la communication</b>	<b>Séminaire: 2 ph</b>	<b>cont. continu</b>	5

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

### Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Printemps

### Equipe enseignante:

Martin Hilpert

### Objectifs:

The three goals of this course are the following: (i) students will discover how young children learn a first language (ii) students will learn to read academic literature on language acquisition; and (iii) students will develop the skills to carry out an independent research project on language acquisition in linguistics.

### Contenu:

How do children learn to talk? In this class, we will talk about the developmental milestones that babies and children go through when they first learn language. We will discuss key differences between first and second language learning, and we will be concerned with hotly debated questions surrounding the very nature of language learning ('Are children better language learners than adults?' 'Is there a critical time window for the acquisition process?' 'Do children work out their native language by means of innate linguistic knowledge?'). These questions will require us to familiarize ourselves with different methods for studying learner language, from studying child language in so-called corpora (transcribed electronic text collections) to experimental techniques.

### Forme de l'évaluation:

There are two main tasks that will be evaluated. The first task is a group research project which students will carry out in small groups (4-5) and which will be presented orally at the end of the class (40%). The second task is a written exam at the end of the semester (60%). In order to pass the course as a whole, both the homework assignments and the final exam need to be passable. Failure in either the homework assignments or the final paper will incur a rattrapage of a longer term paper (approx. 8,000 words, 100%).

### Documentation:

Students are asked to buy the following textbook: Michael Tomasello: Constructing a language. 2003. Harvard University Press.

### Pré-requis:

Lecture: Introduction to English Linguistics

### Forme de l'enseignement:

The class will consist of lectures, group project work, and group discussions. This class requires a good amount of reading and a good amount of data analysis.