

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
- www.unine.ch/lettres

Lecture course 1: Advanced Linguistics: First language acquisition (2AN1190)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Pilier principal B A - langue et littérature anglaises	Cours: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier secondaire B A - langue et littérature anglaises	Cours: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5

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

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Automne

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 and how linguists study first language acquisition (ii) students will learn to read academic literature on language acquisition; and (iii) students will learn to give a poster presentation of an existing study on first language acquisition.

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 digital corpora (transcribed electronic text collections) to experimental techniques and their statistical evaluation.

Forme de l'évaluation:

There are four main tasks that will be evaluated. The first task is oral participation in the classroom discussions (10%). The second task consists of regular reading homework (10%). The third task is a written exam at the end of the class (60%). The fourth task is a poster presentation of an existing research article on first language acquisition (20%). For the poster presentation, students will form small groups (4-5) who will select a research article, design a poster that displays its results, and present that poster in a presentation session.

In order to pass the class, all three evaluated tasks need to be passable. Failure to pass in one or more of them will lead to a rattrapage of a longer, comprehensive written exam (100%).

Documentation:

Students are asked to buy a copy of the following textbook:
Tomasello, Michael. 2003. Constructing a Language. Harvard: Harvard University Press.
ISBN: 978-0674017641

Additional readings will be distributed electronically via moodle.

Pré-requis:

Lecture: Introduction to English Linguistics

Forme de l'enseignement:

The class will consist of lectures, group project work, and group discussions.