

# Introduction to Studies in Second Language Acquisition (LING 270)

Term 2

Instructor: Claire Moore-Cantwell

MW 3:00 - 4:30

[Buchanan D222](#)

## General Info

INSTRUCTOR: Claire Moore-Cantwell

EMAIL: [claire.moore-cantwell@ubc.ca](mailto:claire.moore-cantwell@ubc.ca)

OFFICE HOURS: MW 11:00 - 12:00 Totem Field Studios rm. 228

The course runs 2 January - 4 April. Finals run 8-26 April.

**Course website:** There is a Canvas website for this course, which you can access through your student account. This website will contain readings, lecture notes, and assignment instructions. Additionally, you will submit most of your assignments through the Canvas course.

**Textbook:** Ellis, Rod. (2015) *Understanding Second Language Acquisition*, 2nd edition. Oxford. \$52 at the UBC bookstore, \$72 new on Amazon, \$30 used on Amazon.

## Description

In this course we will discuss the acquisition of a second, third, fourth, or additional language by both adults and children. We will discuss how learners acquire the sound system, sentence structure, and words in a new language after they already know one or more languages. This process will be compared and contrasted to the process of acquiring a first language. Cognitive, social, and psychological factors influencing the process of acquiring an additional language will be discussed, and both classroom and non-classroom contexts will be covered.

**Prerequisites:** *To take this course, you must have taken one of LING 100, LING 101, LING 140, LING 170.*

## Requirements

- Exams: 60%

There will be two exams in this course, one Midterm worth 25% of your final grade, and one Final worth 35% of your final grade. The Midterm will be in class on **Wednesday, 13 February**. The date and time of the Final will be determined mid-February. Finals run between 8 April and 26 April. Make-up exams will be given at the instructor's discretion (except in cases where required by university policy). If you will miss either exam date and will require a make-up exam, please contact me at least **two weeks** in advance to make arrangements.

- Journal Articles: 35%

Reading original research in Second Language Acquisition is a big part of this course. You will read a total of six articles throughout the course, and turn in **write-ups** for them. Your lowest grade out of the six will be dropped, and each of the remaining five write-up grades will count for 7% of your final grade in the course.

Write-ups should summarize the article, as well as addressing specific questions that will be given with each article. They should each be between **300 - 500** words long, and should contain your full name and student ID number with the submission. Otherwise, formatting does not matter as long as the write-up is easily readable. Write-ups should be submitted via Canvas by **5:00 pm** on the day they are due.

- Meeting: 5%

For 5% of your final grade in this course, you must have a short meeting with me at some point during the semester. This can be early in the semester to discuss your interest in Second Language Acquisition and what you'd like to get out of the course, or it can be later in the semester to discuss questions you have about readings or other course material. To fulfill this requirement, you can come to my office hours, which are **Monday and Wednesday, 11:00-12:00**, in Totem Field Studios, room 228. You do not need to make an appointment to see me during this time. If you cannot make my office hours, please email me to set up an alternative time. I will be on campus Mondays and Wednesdays, and may be available other days via Skype or other videoconferencing service.

## Academic honesty

The academic enterprise is founded on honesty, civility, and integrity. As members of this enterprise, all students are expected to know, understand, and follow the codes of conduct regarding academic integrity. At the most basic level, this means submitting only original work done by you and acknowledging all sources of information or ideas and attributing them to others as required. This also means you should not cheat, copy, or mislead others about what is your work. Violations of academic integrity (i.e., misconduct) lead to the breakdown

of the academic enterprise, and therefore serious consequences arise and harsh sanctions are imposed. For example, incidences of plagiarism or cheating may result in a mark of zero on the assignment or exam and more serious consequences may apply if the matter is referred to the Presidents Advisory Committee on Student Discipline. Careful records are kept in order to monitor and prevent recurrences.

The UBC Faculty of Arts' policies on academic honesty can be found online at <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,286,0,0>. I encourage all students to visit this website and familiarize themselves with the university's policies regarding academic honesty. Nothing in this syllabus is intended to contradict the university's policies, and material provided here is simply for your convenience. A very good guide for avoiding problems can also be found at <http://learningcommons.ubc.ca/resource-guides/avoiding-plagiarism/>.

UBC's policy on Academic Freedom can be found at <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,33,86,0>, and its commitment that students be able to engage in their studies free from harassment and discrimination can be found at <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,33,87,0>

## Accommodations

If you have a disability or ongoing medical condition, and require accommodations for this course, you will need to provide an Academic Accommodation Letter. If you need more information or support, please contact the Centre for Accessibility:

Website: <https://students.ubc.ca/about-student-services/centre-for-accessibility>  
Phone: +1 604 822 5844  
Email: [accessibility@ubc.ca](mailto:accessibility@ubc.ca)  
Physical Location: Brock Hall, room 1203

## Other Academic Concessions

Other concessions can be made in this course in order to fully support you as a student and as a person. **Please let me know as soon as possible** if you need to miss class or assignments because of reasons such as physical illness or injury, mental health concerns, religious observance, obligations to UBC or the Canadian government, work to support yourself or a family member, or caretaking responsibilities. For foreseeable conflicts, such as religious observance, you must notify me in advance, preferably at least one week in advance. For unforeseeable conflicts, like illness, injury, mental health concerns, or sudden changes in job/caretaking schedule, let me know as soon as possible. **For all conflicts you must notify me by email, even if you also mention it to me in person!**

The university's full policy on academic concessions can be found here <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,48,0,0>. You may find this document useful for

specific policies on things like religious observances, as well as for information about what to do in case of ongoing concerns like long-term illness or serious injury that might impact your academic life over several weeks or months.

## Sexual misconduct

UBC does not tolerate any form of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or any other form of sexual misconduct. You can review the full policy at [https://universitycounsel.ubc.ca/files/2017/05/policy131\\_final.pdf](https://universitycounsel.ubc.ca/files/2017/05/policy131_final.pdf).

If you or anyone you know has been the victim of sexual assault, or if you would like to know more about resources for preventing sexual violence, please visit <https://svpro.ubc.ca/>

## Communication and Office Hours

I encourage all of you to drop by my office hours for any course-related reason. This is time I have set aside to discuss your questions about material covered in class or related material, one-on-one or in a small group. You can also use this time to get additional review of course material, discuss your progress in the course, or to raise any concerns you have about any aspect of the course. I am available between 11:00-12:00 Mondays and Wednesdays, in Totem Field Studios, room 228. You do not need an appointment to come by during this time. If you want to talk to me at a different time, email me to make an appointment. I will be on campus Mondays and Wednesdays, and may be available other days to meet over Skype or other videoconferencing system.

**Email:** Email is also a good way to communicate with me, but I will generally not answer emails outside of business hours (Monday-Friday, 9-5), except in case of emergency. Please ensure that your email registered to Canvas is up-to-date and that you check it regularly as I will periodically send email announcements this way. You are responsible for all communication sent via Canvas, so make sure you get them!

It's not always easy to figure out how to actually write an email to a professor, especially if you are not sure how they'll respond to your request or question. A straightforward approach is usually best, and will hopefully save you time and energy. I've included a few sample emails on Canvas to guide you. I prefer to be addressed by my first name (Claire) in emails, but if you want to be more formal please address me as Dr. Moore-Cantwell or Dr. Claire Moore-Cantwell, or even Dr. Claire. Please don't use Miss, Ms., or Mrs.

## Course Outline

Readings should be completed **before** the class date listed.

| Week  | Day | Date    | Topic   | Reading                                | Due  |
|-------|-----|---------|---|--|--|
| 1     | Wed | 2 Jan.  | Introduction                                    |  |  |
| 2     | Mon | 7 Jan.  | SLA Data<br>Development of a<br>second language | Ellis, Chapter 4                       |  |
|       | Wed | 9 Jan.  | Development of a<br>second language             |  |  |
| 3     | Mon | 14 Jan. | Theories of SLA                                 |  | <b>Article 1</b> write-up<br>due at 5:00 pm via Canvas |
|       | Wed | 16 Jan. | Theories of SLA                                 |  |  |
| 4     | Mon | 21 Jan. | Input and Interaction                           | Ellis, Chapter 7                       |  |
|       | Wed | 23 Jan. | Input and Interaction                           |  | <b>Article 2</b> write-up<br>due at 5:00 pm via Canvas |
| 5     | Mon | 28 Jan. | Variability in learner speech                   | Ellis, Chapter 5                       |  |
|       | Wed | 30 Jan. | Variability in learner speech                   |  |  |
| 6     | Mon | 4 Feb.  | Age of Acquisition                              | Ellis, Chapter 2                       |  |
|       | Wed | 6 Feb.  | Age of Acquisition                              |  | <b>Article 3</b> write-up<br>due at 5:00 pm via Canvas |
| 7     | Mon | 11 Feb. | Child SLA                                       |  |  |
|       | Wed | 13 Feb. | <b>MIDTERM</b>                                  |  |  |
| BREAK |     |         |   |  |  |
| 8     | Mon | 25 Feb. | L1 Transfer                                     | Ellis, Chapter 6                       |  |
|       | Wed | 27 Feb. | L1 Transfer                                     |  |  |
| 9     | Mon | 4 Mar.  | L1 Transfer                                     |  |  |
|       | Wed | 6 Mar.  | L1 Transfer                                     |  | <b>Article 4</b> write-up<br>due at 5:00 pm via Canvas |
| 10    | Mon | 11 Mar. | Instruction/Pedagogy                            | Ellis, Chapter 10<br>Ellis, Chapter 11 |  |
|       | Wed | 13 Mar. | Instruction/Pedagogy                            |  |  |

| Week | Day | Date    | Topic                 | Reading          | Due  |
|------|-----|---------|-----------------------|------------------|--|
| 11   | Mon | 18 Mar. | Instruction/Pedagogy  |                  |  |
|      | Wed | 20 Mar. | Instruction/Pedagogy  |                  | <b>Article 5</b> write-up<br>due at 5:00 pm via Canvas |
| 12   | Mon | 25 Mar. | Cognitive factors     | Ellis, Chapter 8 |  |
|      | Wed | 27 Mar. | Psychological factors | Ellis, Chapter 3 |  |
| 13   | Mon | 1 Apr.  | Social Factors        | Ellis, Chapter 9 |  |
|      | Wed | 3 Apr.  | Social Factors        |                  | <b>Article 6</b> write-up<br>due at 5:00 pm via Canvas |