

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

**MLCS 620 B1: APPLIED LINGUISTICS – SECOND  
LANGUAGE ACQUISITION AND BILINGUALISM  
WINTER TERM 2017**

Instructor: Dr. Yvonne Lam  
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Time: R 2:00-4:50  
Place: TBA  
Office Hours: by appointment

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**Course Prerequisite:**

LING 101 or equivalent, and consent of department

**Course Description and Objectives:**

This course (cross-listed as LING 620) introduces students to major theories and issues in past and current research on second language acquisition and bilingualism. Through class readings and discussion, we will come to understand the complexities of being bilingual/multilingual.

Four broad questions guide our discussions:

- What does learning a second language entail?
- What is needed to learn a second language?
- What factors affect success in second language learning?
- How do we research second language learning?

The course will be conducted as a seminar. Each session will be based on the critical reading and discussion of the assigned readings. The course project will involve the design of an empirical study on a student-selected topic in second language learning and bilingualism.

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- describe various theoretical approaches to second language acquisition and bilingualism, as well as evaluate their strengths and weaknesses
- identify linguistic, cognitive, psychological, social, and contextual factors that influence the learning and the use of a second language
- compare different methods used in collecting and analyzing second language data
- design an original study on second language acquisition and write a detailed research proposal

**Texts:**

See reading list posted on eClass. Readings are accessible online or in print at the library.

**Additional Mandatory Instructional Fees (approved by Board of Governors):**

Yes       No

**Grade Distribution:**

Component	Value	Due date
Presentation 1	20%	Feb 16
Presentation 2	20%	Apr 6
Term paper	50%	Apr 18 4:00pm
Discussion leader	10%	see sign-up sheet

**Explanatory Notes on Assignments:**

PRESENTATIONS AND TERM PAPER

The project for this course involves the design of an original study on a topic in second language acquisition of your choice. You will not collect the actual data for the study; you will simply go through the process of designing an original project from scratch and writing a detailed research proposal.

Presentation 1 (15-20 minutes): Tell us about the topic you wish to study. What is your proposed research question(s)? Why is this an interesting question(s)? How does it fit in with previous research on this topic? Describe briefly what your intended methodology will be. Do not present your instruments at this point; just give us an idea of what you're thinking so that we can give you feedback.

Presentation 2 (20 minutes): Describe the proposed methodology of your study. Who are your intended participants? Why did you choose them? What instruments will you use, and why did you choose these particular instruments? Show us a copy of each instrument (or a sample of the questions). If the instruments are to be applied in a particular order, describe. How do you plan to analyze the data you collect?

Term paper (approx. 15-20 pages, double-spaced): Write a research proposal detailing your intended study. Use any citation format you wish (e.g. *MLA*, *APA*), as long as citations are complete and consistently formatted. Include the following components:

- Research question(s)
- Rationale for the study (i.e. why is this topic interesting?)
- Literature review (only cite previous research that is relevant to your study)
- Methodology (participants, instruments, procedure for data analysis)
- Ethical considerations (answer the questions distributed in class)

DISCUSSION LEADER

You will be asked to lead the discussion in one class. Your task will be to provide an introduction to the topic (consult the introductory books on second language acquisition on the

reading list), then facilitate a discussion among your classmates on the assigned reading(s) (excluding readings on research methods). As you are all teachers, I challenge you to think of creative ways to present the material and engage your classmates in discussion, rather than using the traditional lecture and question-answer format.

## Grading:

Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#)). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student's level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

Grade	Percentages	Descriptor
A+	97-100	Excellent
A	93-96	Excellent
A-	90-92	Excellent
B+	87-89	Good
B	79-86	Good
B-	74-78	Satisfactory
C+	68-73	Satisfactory
C	63-67	Failure
C-	58-62	Failure
D+	54-57	Failure
D	50-53	Failure
F	00-49	Failure

**Course-based Ethics Approval** in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

- Yes       No, not needed, no such projects approved

**Community Service Learning Component:**

- Required     Optional     None

**Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available:**

- Exam registry – Students' Union  
<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exams>
- See explanations below
- Document distributed in class or posted on eClass
- Other
- N/A

## Required Notes:

Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar.

### *Academic Integrity*

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at <http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx>) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

### *Learning and Working Environment*

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students, faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment safe and free of discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels this policy is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the [Office of the Student Ombuds](#). Information about the [University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures](#) is described in [UAPPOL](#).

## Academic Honesty:

All students should consult the information provided by the [Office of Judicial Affairs](#) regarding avoiding cheating and plagiarism in particular and academic dishonesty in general (see the [Academic Integrity Graduate Handbook](#)). If in doubt about what is permitted in this class, ask the instructor.

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that on-line “translation engines” produce very dubious and unreliable “translations.” Students should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, **excessive editorial and creative help** in assignments is considered a form of “cheating” that violates the code of student conduct with dire consequences.

Students must also note that assignments that have been submitted or are being submitted for credit in a course may not be submitted for credit in another course and constitutes a form of "cheating", with resulting negative consequences (Code of Student Behaviour, section 30.3.2(2)d).

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

### **Recording of Lectures:**

Audio or video recording of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the content author(s) or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

### **Attendance and Absences:**

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections [Attendance](#) and [Examinations](#) of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences may result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed in or completed as a result.

### **Policy for Late Assignments:**

All assignments must be submitted on the scheduled due date unless arrangements have been made **in advance** with the instructor. In cases of medical or other emergency, the student is responsible for notifying the instructor by email within two days, and written documentation may be requested. The instructor reserves the right not to accept a late assignment or to deduct up to 5% per day of lateness.

### **Student Accessibility Services:**

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let the instructor know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with [Student Accessibility Services](#), contact their office immediately (1-800 SUB; email [sasrec@ualberta.ca](mailto:sasrec@ualberta.ca); phone 780-492-3381).