



Language Development and Literacy

University of Nicosia, Cyprus

Course Code PSYM-636	Course Title Language Development and Literacy	Credits (ECTS) 10
Department Social Sciences	Semester Fall 2013	Prerequisites
Type of Course Elective	Field Educational Psychology	Language of Instruction English
Level of Course 2 nd Cycle	Year of Study 2nd	Lecturer Dr. Elli Doukanari
Mode of Delivery Face-to-face	Work Placement N/A	Co-requisites None

Objectives of the Course:

This course aims at providing students with a foundational critical perspective of the theories, methods and applications relevant to language development and literacy. By using a more interdisciplinary and holistic approach to the field, the course draws information from various disciplines such as psychology, psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics, discourse analysis, anthropology, sociology, and philosophy. Issues such as the following will be discussed which are central to language development and literacy:

- Linguistic knowledge and linguistic processes
- Cognitive components such as memory, perception and action
- Individual, social and cultural factors

Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of the course the students will be able to

- identify and explain major issues and theories in the field of language development and literacy;

- analyze critically data relevant to language and literacy development (e.g. actual interactions between children-caretakers and students-teachers, teaching materials, tests and assessment methods);
- show an understanding of the relationship between language and the brain and the ways humans comprehend, produce and acquire language;
- know the types of linguistic knowledge children display at given points of development;
- show familiarity with methods of data collection for the investigation of language and literacy development;
- review and discuss critically additional readings in the field.

Course Contents:

1. Language Development and Literacy: An Overview
2. The nature of language
3. The structure of language (phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics)
4. Biological bases of language
5. Language and the brain
6. Linguistic competence, linguistic performance and communicative competence
7. Knowledge of Language: Tacit and Explicit
8. Language Knowledge and Language Processes
9. Cognitive Processes: Perception, Memory, Thinking
10. Studies on child language: Language development in the first three years and the preschool years.
11. Theories on L1 Development (the Behaviorist, the Innatist and the Interactionist/Developmental perspectives)
12. The critical period hypothesis
13. Child directed speech: Input and interaction
14. Language and Literacy in the school years
15. Individual Differences
 - a. Who is a good language learner?
 - b. Learner characteristics (e.g. motivation, attitudes, identity and ethnic group affiliation, age and the critical period hypothesis)
 - c. Atypical language development
 - d. Bilingualism
16. Social and cultural differences
17. Metalinguistic development
 - Reading
 - Writing
 - Second Language Learning
18. Language development in the adult years

Teaching Methods:

Lectures, Discussion with Class Participation and Assignments

Required Textbooks:

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Berko Gleason, J.	<i>The Development of Language</i>	Pearson Education	2005	0-205-39414-0
Doukanari, Elli	<i>Reading Packet with a selection of scientific articles on language and literacy compiled by the professor</i>			

Recommended Textbooks/Reading:

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Aitchison, J.	<i>Words in the Mind: An Introduction to the Mental Lexicon (3rd ed.)</i>	Blackwell	2003	0-631-23244-3
Carroll, David W.	<i>Psychology of Language (5th Edition)</i>	Thomson/Wadsworth	2008	13:978-0-495-09971-0
Dickinson, D.K. & Tabors, P.O. (Eds.)	<i>Beginning Literacy with Language</i>	Brookes Publishing	2001	
Fischer, B. & Medvic, E.F.	<i>For Reading Out Loud: Planning and Practice</i>	Heinemann	2003	
Gass, S. M. and L. Selinker	<i>Second Language Acquisition: An Introductory Course (3rd ed.)</i>	Routledge	2008	978-0-203-93284-1
Lust, B.C. and C. Foley (Eds.)	<i>First Language Acquisition: The Essential Readings</i>	Blackwell	2004	0-631-23254-0

Newman, S.B., Cople, C. & Bredekamp, S.	<i>Learning to Read and Write: Developmentally Appropriate Practices for Young Children</i>	National Association for the Education of Young Children	2000	
Peccei, J. S.	<i>Child Language</i>	Routledge	2006	0-415-28102-4
Saxton, M.	<i>Child Language: Acquisition and Development</i>	Sage	2010	