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Academic Year/course: 2023/24

## 32361 - Cognition and language acquisition

### Teaching Guide Information

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**Academic Course:** 2023/24

**Academic Center:** 803 - Masters Centre of the Department of Translation and Language Sciences

**Study:** 8037 - Theoretical and Applied Linguistics - MA

**Subject:** 32361 - Cognition and language acquisition

**Credits:** 5.0

**Course:** 1

**Teaching languages:**

Theory: Group 1: English

**Teachers:** Silvia Perpiñan Hinarejos

**Teaching Period:** Second Quarter

### Presentation

This elective course belongs to the Language Acquisition track. The two subjects in this area address key theoretical and applied issues of the acquisition process of one or more first, second, and additional languages, all in different bi/multilingual contexts, both early and late language development. The main goal of this course will be to provide a general overview of the key issues in language acquisition research, with a special focus on minority settings.

### Associated skills

#### BASIC COMPETENCES

(CB6) Possess and understand knowledge that provides a for the development and/or application of ideas, often in a research context.

(CB7) Know how to apply the acquired knowledge to solve problems in new or little-known environments within broader (or multidisciplinary) contexts related to their area of study.

(CB8) Integrate knowledge and face the complexity of making judgments based on information that, even though it is incomplete or limited, includes reflections on social responsibilities and labels linked to the application of their knowledge and judgments.

(CB9) Communicate results and conclusions –and the ultimate knowledge and reasons that support them- to specialized and non-specialized audiences in a clear and unambiguous way.

(CB10) Learn in a largely self-directed and autonomous way

(CG1) Creativity for postgraduate research and professional practice

(CG2) Advanced ability to apply scientific skepticism and critical analysis (own and others' work)

(CG3) Ability to apply creativity to research

(CG4) Ability to adapt to new situations

## SPECIFIC COMPETENCES

(CE2) Understand scientific texts about language.

(CE3) Identify, describe and classify linguistic phenomena for specific purposes for various applications.

(CE4) Formulate analyzes to solve problems of linguistic theory or applied linguistics, using for this purpose, if appropriate, the appropriate formalization.

(CE7) Critically evaluate advanced analysis and theoretical concepts in the field of linguistics

## Learning outcomes

The course will enable students to:

- Gain an understanding of the nature of language acquisition cognitive processes and outcomes from a psycholinguistic perspective.
- Relate social and cognitive processes and outcomes to general learning theories.
- Relate processes and outcomes to instructed language acquisition.
- Identify linguistic, i.e., cognitive, and non-linguistic, i.e., social and psychological, individual differences in language learners, and learn how they explain variation in language learning outcomes on the basis of such variables.
- Accomplish practical research by designing (not carrying out) a psycholinguistic research study based on empirical data.

## Contents

This course will devoted to the discussion of linguistic and cognitive factors in language acquisition in different situations and contexts (L1, L2, L3, 2L1 in child language acquisition, adult language acquisition, multilingualism.). The main goal of the course will be to gain an understanding of the nature of language acquisition processes and factors and to relate them to general theories of language acquisition, by also identifying cognitive and linguistic variations.

## Sustainable Development Goals

ODS 4: Quality Education. Ensure inclusive, equitable and quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for everyone

ODS 5: Gender Equality. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

SDG 17A. Cultural and linguistic diversity for Sustainable Development

## Evaluation and grading system

### Attendance and Active Participation (20%)

Every week, you will have to submit a comment / question regarding the obligatory readings that will be covered in class. We will openly discuss the questions submitted by all classmates and generate a forum with the topics raised.

### Critical Literature Review on one specific topic (30%)

You will focus on one topic of your choice discussed in class (i.e.: age effects, literacy skills, language status, sociolinguistic context, individual differences, etc.) and write a 5-page critical literature review, revising the key concepts and the most relevant studies published in the last 20 years regarding that topic.

### Case Study (50%)

You will carry out a **case study project** for this course, which implies some data collection and/or analysis. It will be presented at the end of the course orally.