

Course Name	How We Learn Languages		
Semester, Year	First Semester, 2019	Number of Credits	2 credits
Course level	1000	Course Number	027058
Instructor(s) (Institution)	Peter RICHARDSON 大学院メディア・コミュニケーション研究院		
Course Objectives	The purpose of this course is to explore some of the key issues in first and second language acquisition. The course will focus on theories about how we learn languages, the key differences between learning a first and a second language, and many of the important issues relating to language study. These issues will include a look at controversial topics such as what role the first language should have in the learning of a second language, as well as a critical evaluation of the different teaching and study methods that second language learners are exposed to.		
Course Goals	<p>1) Develop the students' listening and reading skills in order to allow them to engage with complex topics.</p> <p>2) Develop the students' ability to think critically and to make connections between the study of language learning in general and their own experience of learning English.</p> <p>3) Encourage students to speak out, share and listen to the ideas of others.</p>		
Course Schedule	<p>The schedule listed below is a provisional guide to the topics that will be covered during the course.</p> <p>Week 1 Course introduction</p> <p>Week 2 What is language and are humans the only ones who can use it?</p> <p>Week 3 How we learn our first language</p> <p>Week 4 Do we have a Language Acquisition Device inside our brains?</p> <p>Week 5 Similarities and differences between first and second language acquisition, part one</p> <p>Week 6 Similarities and differences between first and second language acquisition, part two</p> <p>Week 7 Individual differences in second language learning</p> <p>Week 8 Midterm short presentations</p> <p>Week 9 Connectionism and socio-cognitive development approaches, part one</p> <p>Week 10 Connectionism and socio-cognitive development approaches, part two</p> <p>Week 11 The crucial importance of constructions in language development, part one</p> <p>Week 12 The crucial importance of constructions in language development, part two + student presentations, part one</p> <p>Week 13 Student presentations, part two</p> <p>Week 14 Student presentations, part three</p> <p>Week 15 Completing student presentations and final test</p>		
Homework	Students will be expected to positively engage in preparation for and review of lesson material. In addition to a general explanation regarding preparations for the course to be given at the beginning of the semester, instructors will be providing specific instructions at appropriate times throughout the semester regarding preparation for individual classes. Students will additionally be expected to proactively establish their own goals and learning plans and to autonomously engage therein. If students do not prepare adequately, they may fail to master the content and consequently there is a possibility that they be unable to gain credit for the course. It is therefore heartily recommended that students earnestly and systematically engage in preparation for classes.		
Grading System	Grades will be awarded according to the following framework: participation (level of participation in class activities and discussions): 25%; presentations on topics provided by the instructor: 25%; final test related based on the material discussed in class: 50%.		
Textbooks / Reading List			
Websites			
Website of Laboratory			
Additional Information	<p>There is no assigned textbook for this course. Students will be provided with handouts at the beginning of each class.</p> <p>This course is open to students with an Intermediate English ability (a score of 420-500 on the TOEFL-ITP), and will be also opened as a code-shared subject of "International Exchange Program".</p>		