

**ASLP 3035: Language Development  
Fall 2026**

**Instructor:** Katsura Aoyama, Ph.D.

**\*Primary communication method with the instructor is through Canvas.\* If you send me a message through Canvas, I will try to respond within 48 hours.**

**Course number:** ASLP 3035

**Class Time:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:55 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.

**Place:** Curry Hall 204

**Office:** Chilton Hall 238E

**Lab:** UNT Speech & Hearing Clinic, Room 232

**Email:** [Kat.Aoyama@unt.edu](mailto:Kat.Aoyama@unt.edu)

**Phone:** 940-369-7340

**Office Hours:**

Tuesdays, 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Chilton 238E (office)

Wednesdays, 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Speech and Hearing Clinic Room 232 (lab)

or by appointment (also available virtually by appointment)

**Course description**

This course will provide an overview of language development. The course is designed to teach the concepts and theories regarding typical language development and how language is learned, refined, and utilized throughout the different ages and stages of life.

**Learner Outcomes:**

At the conclusion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Explain the terms communication, language, and speech and discuss the relationship among these.
2. Understand the unique communication system that is human language.
3. Discuss current theories of language development.
4. Investigate the relationship between cognition and language, including the perceptual bases of early cognitive and language development.
5. Describe normal language development from birth through preschool years.
6. Discuss the acquisition of phonology, semantics, morphology, syntax, and pragmatics in emerging communication.
7. Construct an understanding of the development of language in the early school age and adolescent child including changes in the five areas of language as well as understanding the important interaction between the child's communication and their academic experience.

**Required Textbook:**

Owens, R. E. (2020). *Language Development: An Introduction* (10<sup>th</sup> ed.). Pearson.

- Students are expected to read the reading assignment prior to coming to the class.
- An outline for each chapter will be posted on Canvas. Students are expected to bring a copy of the outline for each chapter.

**Grading**

Your grade is determined by the total number of points you have earned during the semester divided by the total number of possible points. Course grades will be based on the cumulative points from:

A = 450-500 points (90.0-100%)

B = 400-449 points (80.0-89.9%)

C = 350-399 points (70.0-79.9%)

D = 300-349 points (60.0-69.9%)

F = below 299 points (< 59.9%)

- There will be NO rounding.
- There will be NO extra points.
- There will be NO extra credit opportunities.
- Your grade-to-date will be posted on Canvas.
- Your assignments and exams will be graded within two weeks after the due date or the day of the exam. If you see that your grade is not posted on Canvas, the assignment or exam has not been graded.

Homework (20 points each, 100 points total) – Due dates will be announced in class.

There will be five homework assignments. Satisfactory performance on each homework assignment will be worth up to 10 points. Points may be deducted if you do not complete the assignment. The due date for each homework assignment will be announced in class and Canvas.

Exams (200 points total)

- Dates will be announced in class.

Exam I – 100 points

Exam II – 100 points

Final exam (100 points) – The final exam will be *cumulative*.

Language sample project (100 points total) – Due dates will be announced in class.

- a. Transcription (40 points)

Students are required to obtain an audio language sample from a child between 2 and 5 years of age (minimum 50 utterances from the child). Students will write down word-for-word what each person says in the conversation (transcription).

b. Analysis (60 points)

Students will analyze their language sample. The summary of analysis should NOT be more than **2 pages**.

### **Attendance policy**

Regular attendance in class and active listening/participating in classroom discussion is necessary for optimal learning. Students are expected to come to class consistently.

Material presented in class will not be made up on an individual basis. If a student misses class, it is their personal responsibility to obtain the material missed.

**Electronic communication devices:** Electronic devices should be used for note-taking and learning purposes only during the class time. Please demonstrate your respect by not texting, checking messages, etc. during class time.

Class recordings are the intellectual property of the university or instructor and are reserved for use only by students in this class and only for educational purposes. Students may not post or otherwise share the recordings outside the class, or outside the Canvas Learning Management System, in any form. Failing to follow this restriction is a violation of the UNT Code of Student Conduct and could lead to disciplinary action.

### **Academic integrity**

Academic Integrity is defined in the UNT Policy on Student Standards for Academic Integrity. Any suspected case of Academic Dishonesty will be handled in accordance with the University Policy and procedures. Possible academic penalties range from a verbal or written admonition to a grade of “F” in the course. Further sanctions may apply to incidents involving major violations. You will find the policy and procedures at <https://vpaa.unt.edu/ss/integrity/index.html>

### **The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI):**

The use of generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT, GPT-3, GPT-4, BERT, or others) is prohibited for graded assignments in this course. You will transcribe and analyze speech and language data on your own. Examples of prohibited AI use include, but are not limited to: transcribing language data, preparing language sample, transcribing speech data using the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), and report writing. The exams will be in-person, and no electronic devices including smart phones and smart watches will be allowed. Any use of AI technologies in your work on graded assignments and exams will be considered as an [violation of UNT's academic integrity policy](#) and addressed accordingly.

## **Disability Accommodations**

The Department of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology cooperates with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to make reasonable accommodation for qualified students with disabilities (of American with Disabilities Act and Section 504, Rehabilitation Act). All students who have a specific disability that qualifies them for academic accommodations are encouraged to register with ODA. If you need any accommodations for a disability, please submit your written request to the instructor and provide certification from ODA on or before the 12<sup>th</sup> day of class.

The University of North Texas is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 – The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

## **Drop Information**

Please go to the Registrar's office for information regarding dropping a class.

## **Emergency Notification Procedures**

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

## **Succeed at UNT!**

<https://success.unt.edu/>

*Show up. Find support. Get advised. Be prepared. Get involved. Stay focused.*

## **Additional notes – Please read carefully.**

- Check Canvas consistently for messages from the instructor, announcements, assignment due dates, and current grades.
- Late assignments (homework or project) will NOT be accepted.
- If a student takes an exam on a later date than the scheduled date, 10% of the points earned will be deducted (e.g., if you get 100 points, 10 points will be deducted).
- Requests to reschedule an exam are considered only when there is a family or medical emergency with documentation (e.g., not for personal convenience).
- If a student has a legitimate excuse for missing a due date for an assignment or an exam, they can submit documentation, such as a doctor's note, to the instructor. Consideration may be given at the end of the semester at the instructor's discretion.

- Material presented in class will not be made up on an individual basis. If a student misses class, it is their personal responsibility to obtain the material missed.
- All students are expected to exhibit consistent professional conduct in the classroom. Disruptive classroom behaviors include, but are not limited to: tardiness, leaving early, offensive remarks, or chattering. Points may be deducted from their grades if a student exhibits unprofessional conduct in class.

**Tentative general plans:** Specific dates (assignment due dates, exam dates) will be announced in class and on Canvas.

|                                                                    | <b>Topic</b>                                 | <b>Reading</b> | <b>Exams and assignments</b>          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Week 1</b>                                                      | Introduction                                 |                |                                       |
| <b>Week 2</b>                                                      | The territory                                | Chapter 1      |                                       |
| <b>Week 3</b>                                                      | The territory                                | Chapter 1      | HW 1                                  |
| <b>Week 4</b>                                                      | Birth to 12 months                           | Appendix C     |                                       |
| <b>Week 5</b>                                                      | First language                               | Chapter 7      | HW 2                                  |
| <b>Week 6</b>                                                      | Describing language                          | Chapter 2      |                                       |
| <b>Week 7</b>                                                      | Preschool pragmatic and semantic development | Chapter 8      | Exam I                                |
| <b>Week 8</b>                                                      | Preschool pragmatic and semantic development | Chapter 8      | HW3                                   |
| <b>Week 9</b>                                                      | Preschool development of language form       | Chapter 9      | Project Part 1<br>(language sample)   |
| <b>Week 10</b>                                                     | Preschool development of language form       | Chapter 9      |                                       |
| <b>Week 11</b>                                                     | Preschool development of language form       | Chapter 9      | HW 4                                  |
| <b>Week 12</b>                                                     | Preschool development of language form       | Chapter 9      |                                       |
| <b>Week 13</b>                                                     | School-age language development              | Chapter 10     | HW 5                                  |
| <b>Week 14</b>                                                     | School-age literacy development              | Chapter 10     | Exam II                               |
| <b>Week 15</b>                                                     | Summary and review                           | All chapters   | Project Part 2<br>(language analysis) |
| <b>Final exam: Monday, December 7, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.</b> |                                              |                |                                       |