

Fall 2019

**INSTRUCTOR: CHRIS GENOVESI**

Office Hours: By appointment

Office: 3A 41 Paterson Hall (\*Eros Corazza's office)

Email: [chrisgenovesi@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:chrisgenovesi@cunet.carleton.ca)

**TA: TBA**

**COURSE INFORMATION:**

Days: Wed & Fri

Time: 1:05 – 2:25 pm

Room: Paterson Hall 133

Department: Institute of Cognitive Science

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**DESCRIPTION**

Issues related to language and cognitive science are examined through a detailed consideration of selected topics. Prerequisite(s): third-year standing, and CGSC 2001.

Specifically, this course provides a survey of issues such as:

- Linguistic 'nativism'
- Language evolution
- Semantics/pragmatics interface

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**OTHER INFO**

The course is a seminar. Students are expected to actively participate in class. This assumes that students will have completed the readings for that day. The slides will serve as a springboard for discussion and a way of keeping us focused on the issues presented in the lecture. The course is designed to engage and refine students' abilities to research and write an academic paper, as well as introduce them to speaking and lecturing in front of an audience.

You are expected to complete your essays on time (barring exceptional circumstances). Late assignments will receive 5% deduction per calendar day. If you are having any difficulties with coursework and content, I strongly encourage you to setup an appointment with me.

CULearn will be used for access to the course syllabus, slides, grades, announcements, and discussions boards. You are given the opportunity to discuss course material with your peers using the discussion board.

During our lectures, I kindly ask that you are not disruptive. Please ensure that cellphones are turned to 'vibrate' or 'silent'.

I reserve the right to make any changes to accommodate class progress. Changes do not add additional workload.

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**TEXTS**

1. Hurford, James R. 2014. *The Origins of Language: A Slim Guide*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. ISBN: 9780198701668.

Above is made available at Haven Bookstore: 43 rue Seneca, Ottawa, ON, K1S 4X2

2. Additional readings (e.g., journal articles, book chapters) will be required. These will be made available on CULearn. Asterisk in calendar in readings.

\*I may also post "articles of interest" which will not be required readings. Rather, these showcase issues relevant to the course.

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**COURSE EVALUATION**

The course grade will be based on the following elements:

Essay 1	35%
Essay 2	35%
Presentation	30%

**ESSAYS:** I will give you a prompt plus some further readings to begin your research. Essays are expected to be longer than 2000 words, and not exceeding 4000 words, double-spaced APA format, Times New Roman font. Submitted to CULearn. Late assignments receive 5% deduction per calendar day (barring exceptional circumstances). You are expected to submit essays online by 11:55 p.m. on their respective due dates. See Purdue Online Writing Lab ([https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue\\_owl.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html)) for questions related to formatting.

**PRESENTATION:** Group presentations composed of ~5 members. Presentations will be on the readings due for that class; the topics are up for negotiation. Presentations should be ~45 minutes followed by discussion (and questions) for the class (10-15 min). Please submit presentations to me electronically at the end of the day that your group presents. Please include the first and last names of all group members on the first slide. Marks for participation will be given to those actively engaged in and facilitating discussion.

**EMAIL POLICY:** E-mail is not a substitute for meeting with me during office hours. E-mail should be used to schedule an appointment to meet with me or for short questions clarifying class assignments or specific items from the lecture. In-depth questions about course readings or an entire day's lecture, etc. are not appropriate for e-mail.

W K	DAT E	TOPIC	READING	ASSIGNMENT	DUE
1	Sept 4	<b>Part I: Introduction: Language and the Question of Innateness</b>	*Cowie (2017) Innateness and Language: SEP online; *Plato's Meno	Essay 1 is handed out	
	Sept 6		*Aitchison 1	Grouping for presentations	
2	Sept 11		*Aitchison 2		<b>*Topics for presentations are given</b>
	Sept 13		*Aitchison 4		
3	Sept 18		*Aitchison 5		
	Sept 20		*Hauser et al (2002) *; (2005)		
4	Sept 25	<b>Part II: Language, Human Prehistory, and Evolution</b>	Hurford 7; *Jackendoff & Pinker (2005)		
	Sept 27		Hurfrod 1		
5	Oct 2		Hurford 2		
	Oct 4		Hurford 3		
6	Oct 9		Hurford 4		
	Oct 11		Hurford 5	Essay 2 prompt is handed out	<b>*Essay 1 is due</b>
7	Oct 16	<b>Documentary</b>			
	Oct 18	<b>Part III: Semantics/Pragmatics Interface - Semantics</b>	*Bach: <a href="http://userwww.sfsu.edu/kbach/spd.htm">http://userwww.sfsu.edu/kbach/spd.htm</a>		
8	Oct 23	<b>Reading week</b>			
	Oct 25	<b>Reading week</b>			
9	Oct 30	<b>Part III: cont'd</b>			
	Nov 1		*Grandy: <a href="https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/grice/">https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/grice/</a> ; *Stephen Neale. 1992. "Paul Grice and the Philosophy of Language". <i>Linguistics &amp; Philosophy</i> 15: 509-559.		
10	Nov 6		*Sperber & Wilson (2002)		
	Nov 8				
11	Nov 13	<b>Part IV: Group Presentations</b>	TBA on CuLearn	<b>Group Presentations</b>	<b>*Submitted via email after class</b>
	Nov 15	<b>Group Presentations</b>		<b>Group Presentations</b>	
12	Nov 20	<b>Group Presentations</b>		<b>Group Presentations</b>	<b>*Essay 2 is due</b>
	Nov 22	<b>Group Presentations</b>		<b>Group Presentations</b>	
13	Nov 27	<b>Group Presentations</b>		<b>Group Presentations</b>	
	Nov 29	<b>Group Presentations</b>		<b>Group Presentations</b>	
14	Dec 4	<b>Documentary</b>			

## **Additional Information**

In accordance with the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar (p 34), the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D+ = 57-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	D = 53-56
A - = 80-84	B - = 70-72	C - = 60-62	D - = 50-52
F = Below 50			

Grades entered by Registrar:

WDN = Withdrawn from the course

DEF = Deferred

## **Academic Regulations, Accommodations, Etc.**

University rules regarding registration, withdrawal, appealing marks, and most anything else you might need to know can be found on the university's website, here:

### *Pregnancy obligation*

Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the Student Guide Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the Student Guide

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613 - 520 - 6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in - class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting an accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodations arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadlines to request accommodations for the formally - scheduled exam (if applicable).

## **Plagiarism**

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include: ☐ reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source; ☐ submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else; using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas

without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment; ② using another's data or research findings; ② failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks; ② handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

### **Important Information**

- Students must always retain a hard copy of all work that is submitted.
  - All final grades are subject to the Dean's approval.
  - For us to respond to your emails, we need to see your full name, CU ID, and the email must be written from your valid CARLETON address. Therefore, in order to respond to your inquiries, please send all email from your Carleton cmail account. If you do not have or have yet to activate this account, you may wish to do so by visiting <http://carleton.ca/ccs/students/>
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**For a list of dates and deadlines, including holidays and exam dates, please visit:**

<https://carleton.ca/registrar/registration/dates-and-deadlines/>