COMM 121: Communication Development

UCLA, Fall 2019
Instructor: Anne S. Warlaumont, Ph.D.
Teaching Assistant (TA): Rifa Akanda, B.S.

Meeting time and place

Class meets on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11am–12:15pm in KAPLAN 135.

Course description

This course covers topics in the childhood development of human interpersonal communication, including the production and perception of communicative signals at different ages, methods for studying communication development, physiological and social mechanisms, cross-cultural similarities and differences in communication development, effects of media and technology, and disorders.

Learning outcomes

My goal is that after completing this course, students will:
1. Know when various communication skills emerge during infancy and early childhood.
2. Understand some of the likely social and neural mechanisms underlying these changes.
3. Know about common disorders that affect communication development.
4. Appreciate some of the ways that culture affects communication development.
5. Understand and appreciate the risks and potential benefits of electronic media on communication development.
6. Have a basic understanding of some of the methods used by researchers to study communication development.
7. Have improved scientific reading, thinking, and writing skills.

Course website

CCLE will be used to make announcements; to post readings, lecture slides, assignment instructions, syllabus updates, and other materials; for assignment submission; and to post and submit grades.
Grades

Your grade for the course will be based on 9 homework assignments, each worth 12.5% of the final grade after dropping your lowest score.

The assignments will ask you to understand, integrate, and extend the concepts, methods, and findings covered in class and in the assigned readings. They will be graded on correctness, depth, and clarity of presentation.

Late assignments will marked down by 5% of the total possible for each day past the deadline (rounding up, so 1 minute late = 23 hours 59 minutes late = 5% taken off).

Points will be converted to final grades as follows:

- 97% and up: A+
- 93.00–96.99%: A
- 90.00–92.99%: A-
- 87.00–89.99%: B+
- 83.00–86.99%: B
- 80.00–82.99%: B-
- 77.00–79.99%: C+
- 73.00–76.99%: C
- 70.00–72.99%: C-
- 67.00–69.99%: D+
- 63.00–67.99%: D
- 60.00–62.99%: D-
- 0–59.99%: F

Assignments will be graded in the order submitted. Most of the grading performed by the TA under guidance of the instructor, although some assignments will be graded by the instructor as examples or to assist with the workload.

Attendance, participation, and equipment

Class attendance and participation are expected, but not officially recorded.

To promote your own and other students’ learning, electronic devices, including laptops, cell phones, and tablets are allowed only with instructor permission. Please bring paper and pen/pencil to take notes during class.

Extenuating Circumstances

If you can't make an assignment deadline due to extenuating circumstances such as illness or death in the family, you must email me as soon as you are able so that we can negotiate a fair and reasonable accommodation.
Academic Integrity

All students must abide by the UCLA student conduct code:
http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/Student-Conduct

Accommodations for students with disabilities

Students needing academic accommodations based on a disability should contact the Center for Accessible Education (CAE) at (310)825-1501 or in person at Murphy Hall A255. When possible, students should contact the CAE within the first two weeks of the term as reasonable notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. For more information visit www.cae.ucla.edu.

Instructor & TA Bios

I am an Associate Professor in the Department of Communication at UCLA and director of the Warlaumont Emergence of Communication Laboratory. I earned my BA in Psychology with a Cognitive Science Certificate in 2006 and my PhD in Communication Sciences and Disorders with a Cognitive Science Concentration in 2012 from the University of Memphis. From 2012–2017 I was Assistant Professor of Cognitive and Information Sciences at UC Merced. You can find more information about me and my research at www.annewarlaumont.org.

Teaching Assistant Bio

I am doing my Master's at UCLA for Public Health with a concentration in epidemiology. I graduated from UC Davis in 2019 with a B.S. in Human Development. I have experience with communication development from my major, and I find the different influences of communication development throughout the lifespan, especially in childhood, to be fascinating. I am very excited to be a part of this course!

Office Hours

Rifa will hold office hours in Rolfe Hall (either 2326 or 2324) from 12:30–2:30pm on Wednesdays.

Anne will hold open office hours in 2319 Rolfe Hall from 12:30–1:30pm on Mondays. You may also approach us at the beginning or end of class to make an appointment or with other questions.
Schedule

Please note that I may update the schedule below, particularly the topics and reading assignments as the quarter progresses. Assignment instructions will be posted at least 1 week in advance of the due date.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class activity</th>
<th>Homework</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Mon. 9/30</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Wed. 10/2</td>
<td>Infant vocal production</td>
<td>Read Warlaumont (in press)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Mon. 10/7</td>
<td>Infant speech perception</td>
<td>Assignment 1</td>
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<td>5 Mon. 10/14</td>
<td>Word learning</td>
<td>Assignment 2</td>
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<td>6 Wed. 10/16</td>
<td>Word learning</td>
<td>Suanda et al. (2019)</td>
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<td>7 Mon. 10/21</td>
<td>Language learning</td>
<td>Assignment 3</td>
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<td>8 Wed. 10/23</td>
<td>Language learning</td>
<td>Read Goldstein et al. (2010)</td>
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<td>9 Mon. 10/28</td>
<td>Linguistic differences</td>
<td>Assignment 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Wed. 10/30</td>
<td>Sign language acquisition: Guest lecture by Dr. Kyle MacDonald</td>
<td>Read Meier (2016)</td>
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<td>11 Mon. 11/4</td>
<td>Developmental communication disorders</td>
<td>Assignment 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Wed. 11/6</td>
<td>Developmental communication disorders</td>
<td>Read Wozniak et al. (2017)</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Wed. 11/13</td>
<td>Cultural differences</td>
<td>Assignment 6 &amp; read Tamis-LeMonda &amp; Song (2012)</td>
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<td>14 Mon. 11/18</td>
<td>Media &amp; electronic devices</td>
<td>Assignment 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 Wed. 11/20</td>
<td>Media &amp; electronic devices</td>
<td>Reed et al. (2017)</td>
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<td>16 Mon. 11/25</td>
<td>Resources and strategies for your individual project</td>
<td>Assignment 8</td>
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<td>17 Wed. 11/27</td>
<td>Project workshop (attendance is optional)</td>
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<td>18 Mon. 12/2</td>
<td>Student presentations</td>
<td>Assignment 9</td>
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<td>19 Wed. 12/4</td>
<td>Reflection</td>
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Reading List


