Title and Code of Course: First Language Acquisition

Instructor's Name: Dr. Tamás Csontos

Instructor's Email Address: csontos.tamas@kre.hu

Credit Point Value: **6**	Number of Lessons per Week: 2	Type of Course: **Seminar** ☒ **Lecture** ☐	Method of Evaluation: **Oral Examination** ☐ **In-Class Group Presentation** ☐ **Other** ☒

Course Description:

The course focuses on language development in early childhood with special emphasis on phonology, syntax and vocabulary. The topics include the following:

1. Linguistic Theories: Generative and Constructionist Approach
2. Social and Communicative Bases of Early Language and Speech
   - Development of Communication
   - Maternal Communication Behaviours
   - Interaction between Infant and Caregiver
3. Language-Learning and Teaching Processes and Young Children
   - Toddler Language-Learning Strategies
   - Preschool Language-Learning Strategies
   - Adult Conversational Teaching Techniques
4. Getting started: perception and early words, sounds in words: production
5. Single-Word Utterances (Pragmatics, Initial Lexicons, Meaning of Single-Word Utterances)
6. First Combinations, First Constructions, Multiword Combinations
7. Conversational Skills
8. Preschool Development
9. Two languages at a time
10. Issues in the Study of Child Language
    - Method of Data Collection
    - Sample Size and Variability
    - Naturalness and Representativeness of the Data

Bibliography:

Clark, Eve V. 2009. First Language Acquisition (2nd edition). Cambridge University Press. Cambridge

Owens, Robert E. Jr. 2012. Language Development – An Introduction. Pearson. Boston